



**Ormiston**  
**Trust**

Improving upon our best



# Welcome

At The Gateway Academy we are passionate about learning. Our highest priority is to provide an environment to our students that excites, motivates and challenges them and encourages lifelong learning and an interest in the world around them.

We want your child to be happy at the Academy and to be able to realise their full potential in all areas of endeavour. Diligence, self-discipline, good manners and a concern for others are the values that are the foundation of all our work. We have high expectations of our students and encourage our young people to also have high expectations of themselves and others.

This brochure aims to inform you about our curriculum, facilities, how we work and the philosophy of education that underpins all that we do. Entrusting your child to the care of a school is an important matter. I would therefore encourage you to come and see the Academy at work to find out more about us.

I look forward to welcoming you and your child at The Gateway Academy.

**Kevin Sadler** Principal

## Our Mission Statement

The mission of The Gateway Academy is to offer everyone opportunities to develop as: high achieving; confident; healthy; caring and fulfilled members of society through:

- Excellent teaching and learning
- Positive relationships
- Inspiring, safe, accessible and supportive learning environment
- A curriculum that challenges and fosters learning and meets the aspirations of all students
- Comprehensive information, advice and guidance



“With strong, visionary leadership, enormous commitment from staff, students and the community and a real ‘can-do’ philosophy, we have created a climate for learning that is truly unique and inspiring”

**Christine Tinkler, Director and Governor**

# Aims of The Gateway Academy

- To enable and encourage all students to realise their full potential and develop their self esteem
- To develop each individual based on their specific needs, aspirations and talents
- To provide equality of opportunity for all
- To promote a sense of fairness, integrity, tolerance and respect for others and the environment in all our students
- To develop a sense of togetherness, shared values and enthusiasm for learning
- To celebrate success
- To provide a broad, balanced and challenging education for all our students, preparing them for the demands of the 21st century
- To develop strong and mutually supportive partnerships with parents and the wider community
- To involve all staff, governors, students, parents/carers and the wider community in the continuing development of the Academy



# A Broad and Balanced Curriculum

As an Academy, we have far more freedom than many schools and colleges to provide a varied, innovative and stimulating curriculum that offers all students the chance to develop according to their talents, interests and ambitions. With a good mix of both academic and vocational based subjects, students here have the opportunity to not only gain qualifications but to develop their life skills also.

During the first two years at the Academy, your child will be assigned to one of four learning pathways according to their ability, allowing our teachers to deliver a programme of study based on the learning needs of the group. This approach ensures we can personalise learning and structure our classes so that all students are able to engage with every subject, developing problem solving, research and team working skills.

In addition, the Academy's specialism of engineering and the performing and visual arts provide fantastic opportunities for all students to develop their skills and interests through access to cutting edge facilities and expertise from organisations such as The Royal Opera House, The Ford Motor Company and RWE Npower.





“We want to make the curriculum as exciting as possible for our students – bringing subjects to life and using new techniques to widen their experiences”

**Humanities Teacher**

 The  
**Gateway**  
Academy



# Academic and Vocational Learning

In Years 9, 10 and 11, students will continue to study the core subjects of English, Maths, Science, ICT, Citizenship and PE, as well as choosing subject options specific to their learning needs and career aspirations, be they academic, vocational or a combination of both.

The Gateway Academy offers a state-of-the-art 21st century learning environment with key features that include: the very best science and computing facilities, two drama studios, a dance studio, a fully equipped fitness suite, a flood lit all weather surface for football, rugby and hockey, a hair and beauty salon, a radio broadcasting room and recording studio as well as engineering facilities more commonly found in industry rather than education.

We are also able to provide additional support and encouragement to students with special educational needs and those 'Gifted and Talented' students who show particular aptitudes in creative, sporting and academic subjects.



# Post-16 Learning Towards Your Future

For those students wishing to continue their education beyond Year 11, The Gateway Academy offers a friendly, focussed and supportive environment in which to study a wide range of courses including: engineering; media; sport; drama; music technology; art and design; retail; and much more.

What is unique about the Academy is that Post-16 students can benefit from all the advantages of a school with state-of-the-art facilities, excellent pastoral and student welfare programmes where you know the teachers and they know you, but you also have the flexibility to study additional courses at one of our partner institutions such as Palmer's College or South Essex College.





“Dance is a great way for all students to get involved and be active. It also has a really positive effect on promoting self esteem and confidence”

**Dance Teacher**



# Opening Minds Outside the Classroom

Students are encouraged to make the most of their time at the Academy by taking full advantage of the wide range of opportunities to make their lives enjoyable and fulfilling. Field trips, visits to theatres, museums and art galleries – as well as our annual ski trip and foreign visits – play a key role in broadening our students' experiences and education.

In addition, we also have many visitors to the Academy including artists, dance companies, orchestras and business and community leaders. The Academy encourages all students to stay beyond the final bell to attend extended school activities, these include: homework and study support clubs; a vast array of health and sporting activities; drama; music and arts groups; as well as information technology, engineering and science clubs. Many of these activities are open to the wider community. Please see our website at [www.thegatewayacademy.org.uk](http://www.thegatewayacademy.org.uk) for full details.

We also promote involvement with the wider community within the Academy with many of our students taking part in local community events and initiatives such as the Duke of Edinburgh Awards and the Prince's Trust.



# Looking to a Brighter Future as a Community: all Different and all Equal

Imagine The Gateway Academy... a thriving and prosperous place where people from all different backgrounds are equal, and where everyone matters whether old or young, settled or new, black or white. An environment exists where all groups feel that they are treated fairly, and that they have responsibility to others that transcends the difference between them. An environment where people are not fearful of others, and where they don't see individual differences as a barrier to the success of the whole community.

This is our vision of community cohesion and together we can achieve it.







The  
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Academy

“We can help students and their families in a whole variety of ways. The important thing is for the channels of communication to be open at all times, and that’s what I’m here for” **Support Staff Governor**

# Working Together: to Improve Upon Our Best

Pastoral care at the Academy plays a vital role in helping our students achieve their full potential. Each student is assigned to one of four colleges when they join which becomes their 'family' within the Academy. A wide range of sporting, arts and recreational activities are organised throughout the year to help develop students' social, personal and interpersonal skills.

Within each College, there are 'vertical' tutor groups (comprised of a mix of students from year groups 7 to 13), students benefit from being able to form strong friendships with children at all stages of development, creating a family feel and making students feel at home from day one.

The Academy has a well established Parent Staff Association that organises a number of social events throughout the year to which all parents are invited. We also encourage parents to keep us informed of anything in a student's life outside of school that may affect them. Our Student Council also provides our students with a forum to voice their feelings about life at the Academy and to be actively involved in shaping how the Academy evolves.



# Respecting Each Other and Our Environment

We want all our students to have the benefit of learning in an environment where they feel safe, secure and respected. Developing well-rounded individuals who look out for one another and care about the world around them is one of our fundamental goals.

To ensure our students have the very best environment in which to develop without interruption, we have established a Behaviour Charter so that all students know what is expected of them.

## **The Gateway Academy Behaviour Charter:**

- Treat everyone with respect in both what you say and do
- Be polite – never interrupt while someone is speaking
- Bring all necessary equipment and books to lessons
- Always arrive on time wearing your uniform correctly
- Aim for 100% attendance
- Do your very best in every aspect of Academy life
- Eat and drink only in the designated areas
- Follow instructions from members of the Academy staff

Bullying or racist, sexist or discriminatory behaviour will not be tolerated at the Academy.



# **Ormiston** **Trust**

Ormiston Children and Families Trust works to promote the well being of children and young people, especially those disadvantaged by their life experiences or circumstances. The Gateway Academy was the first to be sponsored by the Trust and now is one of many Ormiston Academies working together to raise standards.

The Trust has a vision of a fully extended school which involves students, parents, teachers, businesses, other schools/colleges, Thurrock Council, other voluntary agencies and members of the local community and by working together all can benefit. High academic attainment for students is of course important but beyond this we wish to have happy, motivated children who enjoy good relationships with their peers, teachers and parents. Projects and programmes before school, after school and during school holidays will present opportunities for school and community interaction which will enhance student attainment and fulfilment. These will encompass the 'Every Child Matters' principles of health, safety, enjoyment, achievement, wellbeing and positive contribution.

We welcome and will assist 'Community Champions' and those who wish to develop new initiatives whether for sports, arts, recreational, social, IT or for whatever purpose as long as they improve the lives of children, parents and local people.



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