



Corby Business Academy



A valued member of the

Brooke Weston Trust





Dear parents, carers and prospective students,

Thank you for your interest in Corby Business Academy. We are delighted that you are considering an application for our academy; a place where each student and staff member is valued as a part of our community and encouraged to always aim high.

We have a dedicated and skilled team of staff who are committed to giving all students a high quality educational experience, as well as nurturing individual skills and aspirations. We work hard to ensure that our students have the best teaching and learning, excellent facilities and a full range of enrichment activities that run alongside academic studies.

Our curriculum provides a wealth of opportunities to make academic progress and gain confidence. Holistic development is a significant part of our strategic planning; we are determined to ensure that students leave us as well rounded individuals. During their time with us, students will be challenged with work that is tailored to their ability levels and encouraged to meet and exceed expectations.

Students will access high quality information and guidance about subject options at GCSE and A-Level, as well as possible career pathways that can be pursued. Classroom experiences are supplemented by educational trips and visits that broaden knowledge of their subject areas and equip them for life beyond the Academy.

Our role as educators is to ensure that students have the best possible learning and life experiences that nurture both their academic qualities and enable the development of their unique personalities.

We are proud of the exceptional facilities on offer at Corby Business Academy and we are valued members of the Brooke Weston Trust. This means we have the support of a well-established organisation that educates thousands of students in Northamptonshire and Cambridgeshire. Our students attend inter-Trust activities, such as educational visits, careers based learning, sports competitions and the Combined Cadet Force. These additional components mean they can access many developmental opportunities and forge friendships at other schools.

The Academy is led by Heads of School Simon Underwood and Nicola Treacy, who work with the Trust's secondary Executive Principal Anne Hill. They are a knowledgeable and experienced team who continue to drive Corby Business Academy onto the next phase of its development. To read more about their individual professional expertise and collective ambitions for the school, please visit our website www.corbybusinessacademy.org.

We look forward to welcoming your child to our Academy.



Simon Underwood
Head of School



Nicola Treacy
Head of School



Anne Hill
BWT Secondary
Executive Principal



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Our vision

Our vision is to instil the Academy's values into each of our students and give them the skills and opportunities to succeed. Student voice and staff philosophy has recent seen us pledge to following:

Commit Believe Achieve

As an organisation, the question 'is it good enough?' is always asked. We then challenge ourselves with this thought whenever there is consideration in the areas of planning, delivery, strategy and aspirations for our students.

At Corby Business Academy:

- Students and staff strive to become the best they can
- Students develop the confidence to be active citizens in the wider world
- The qualities of enterprise and initiative are encouraged among students and staff alike
- Students and staff work in a safe and comfortable environment
- Every student will achieve the best academic outcomes possible

These aims will be achieved through:

- Developing a full range of learning, thinking and problem solving skills
- Connecting the Academy to the real world of work wherever possible
- Offering a wide range of subjects and enrichment activities
- Having the highest expectations of students and staff
- Delivering a rich and balanced curriculum




The Academy building

We are very proud of the Academy building and our facilities. The site has an impressive sports provision and the building is arranged with separate faculties radiating from a central mall. It has been designed to ensure maximum visibility and cohesiveness, so that we are all part of one learning community. Each of the main faculties has a central seating area and glass-fronted classrooms.

Facilities:


Art, Music and Industrial Design (AMID)

 The AMID faculty is home to the disciplines of Art, Music, Textiles, Photography and Design Technology. It boasts the latest equipment that you would expect to find in any modern creative or technical business, such as Media and Photography software, 3D printers, Design and Technology machines, plus a large workshop and Art rooms.

Communication (COMMS)

The COMMS faculty houses English, Media and Drama. It includes a drama suite and a media editing suite complete with Apple iMacs.


Business, Humanities and Enterprise (BHE)

 The BHE faculty is the centre of the Academy's Business and Enterprise learning, alongside Humanities and Modern Foreign Languages. It includes two dedicated ICT suites and nine teaching rooms.


Mathematics and Information Technology (MAIT)

Mathematics, ICT and Computer Science are taught within this faculty, which includes three ICT suites and dedicated Mathematics rooms.


Sixth Form Study

 Our Sixth Form study area is a much-used, well-resourced and equipped space.


Physical and Natural Sciences (PNS)

 The PNS faculty is home to Science, Active, Dance, Psychology, and Health and Social Care. It includes science laboratories and a mirrored dance studio.


Library

 The Library is a real feature of the Academy. It is well-stocked and resourced, with dedicated library staff who support all aspects of learning. They organise literacy trips, author visits and quizzes throughout the year so that our students are encouraged to develop a love of reading and literature.

Restaurant

 Our restaurant seats 240 people and serves high quality, nutritional food at both breakfast and lunch.

Theatre


 Our professional theatre is the venue for presentations, assemblies, concerts and special events. It is an integral and widely used resource in the Academy.






The school day


Timings

 The Academy opens to students at 8.00 a.m. We recommend that students arrive no later than 8.25 a.m. to ensure they are ready to start their first lesson which commences at 8.40 a.m. The Academy day finishes at 3.00 p.m. with an extensive range of after school enrichment sessions, which run to 4.15 p.m. on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Each day is divided into five teaching lessons, an academic mentoring session, as well as a breakfast and lunchtime. Movement between faculties is kept to a minimum to maximise learning time.


Uniform

 Like the most successful businesses and organisations, the Academy has high expectations and these standards carry through to uniform requirements. Students wear a professional-looking black and green uniform from Years 7 to 11, while there is a formal office dress code for Sixth Formers. Details of the school dress code required for study and sport can be found on our website. This is an important element to us, we ask that parents and carers support the Academy expectations and ethos.


Smartcards

 Every student has their own smart card which acts as an automatic register when used through the swipe system in the main reception. It also means that only students, staff and authorised visitors can enter the building.

Restaurant

 All students have the option of having a breakfast each morning and hot or cold meals at lunchtime. Our in-house catering company provides healthy, freshly-cooked food. We have a trained nutritional advisor who works on site to ensure government guidelines on nutritional standards are always met. We also source food from local suppliers, including the Academy's own allotment. Students use their smart cards to pay for meals and the balance can either be topped up in school or via an online payment system.

Transport

 Currently the local authority supplies free transport to students in Years 7 to 11 who live within the Academy's designated villages or in Corby itself. Northamptonshire County Council, which supplies the free transport, reviews this policy on an annual basis. Separate consideration is given to students with Special Educational Needs and is determined on an individual basis. Post-16 students using local authority transport will have to pay for the cost of their travel. There is also a public bus service to the Academy. The Academy currently operates a late bus service to Weldon and Corby on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Students need to book places on these late buses on the day of travel.

Curriculum Years 7–11

Our broad and balanced curriculum is designed to support academic and personal development. All our subjects play an important role in helping to prepare students for further education or the world of work. Business, Careers and Enterprise learning skills are implemented across the curriculum and are visible throughout the entire academy. These promote independence, teamwork, creative thinking, reflection and self-management. The personalised curriculum caters for the needs of all students and is tailored to their levels of ability.



KS3 At Corby Business Academy we recognise the importance of developing high level literacy and numeracy skills, therefore, subjects delivered at Key Stage 3 (Years 7, 8 and 9) have a focus on the development of these core areas of the curriculum. At Key Stage 3, all students study English, Mathematics, Science, Active (physical education), Design Technology, Modern Foreign Languages, Careers, Belief Philosophy and Ethics, History, Geography, Computer Science and Music. Personal, Social and Health Education are also taught through weekly lessons, a tutor time programme, assemblies and devoted days of learning.

At Key Stage 3 the Academy's aim is to give all students the opportunity to work to their full potential at a speed that matches their ability. Success by the end of this key stage gives students the greatest opportunity to excel during Key Stage 4 (Years 10 and 11) and Key Stage 5 (Sixth Form). Our provision at Key Stage 3 has resulted in an accelerated and efficient curriculum.

KS4 Key Stage 4 students continue to follow a core curriculum with a choice of three optional subjects. All are given the opportunity to undertake GCSEs and other non-GCSE Level 2 courses, such as BTECs. There are various routes that students can opt for at Key Stage 4, depending on their Key Stage 3 outcomes. However, most students will complete a core suite of qualifications comprising of Mathematics, English, Science, Geography or History and a Modern Foreign Language. Further option blocks allow students to select other subjects from a broad range of academic and creative subjects.



Sixth Form

Our mission is to develop a thriving Sixth Form where students are equipped with the appropriate skills to ensure success in their next stage of life, whether that is higher education, apprenticeship or employment.

Our Sixth Form is committed to:

- High levels of achievement for all students
- Courses which reflect our students' ambitions and that are appropriate to their needs
- Rigorous standards of learning, teaching and assessment
- Structured support to enable all students to achieve their maximum potential
- Careers education and guidance so that students are encouraged to aim high
- Rich opportunities for personal, spiritual and cultural development.

We offer a range of A-Level and Vocational Level 3 courses. All prospective students are interviewed to identify the best possible combination of courses to meet their individual needs.


As with Key Stage 4, our range of courses changes each year to respond to the needs of the students. This allows young people to specialise in areas of interest and enables pathways for higher education or the world of work. We aim to ensure that all students progress to university, further training or employment.

Each student is expected to be involved with enrichment activities we offer. This is to support the development of transferable skills and enable strong university, apprenticeship or job applications. These opportunities include the Young Enterprise scheme, the Extended Project Qualification, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, volunteering and mentoring younger students.


Our Sixth Formers act as role models and take an active role hosting various school events. Students who have been in Year 11 in the Unit Provision can continue their education in the Sixth Form, following life skills-related courses with continued help and support.

Enrichment & learning outside the classroom – Session 6


Sports

 Leading a healthy lifestyle is encouraged at the Academy and our sports teams regularly take part in fixtures. Sporting opportunities include traditional sports that operate alongside newer or alternative sports. We also encourage individual sports to ensure that passion or talent is developed.


Music

 More than 120 of our students now play an instrument and there are a wealth of opportunities for our musicians to perform in school shows as well as at community events and further afield. Groups include the award-winning Senior Concert Band.

Trips and residential experiences


 Enrichment trips give students an opportunity to apply skills learnt in the classroom. There is a Year 7 team building residential early in the year, which we want all students to attend; this proves to be an excellent chance to cement positive relationships with both students and staff. Other opportunities across all curriculum areas also happen on a regular basis.

Forum/Senate/Leadership opportunities

 Our students help to shape life at the Academy. Each year students are elected to represent tutor and year groups within the Student Senate. The Senate meets termly with a member of the SLT and Head of School to feedback students' views and implement ideas. Corby Business Academy is committed to hearing the opinion of its students and additional meetings are also held so that those outside the Forum and Senate can also voice their views. A student survey is completed at least once a year.

Other leadership roles comprise Head Boy and Head Girl, the senior student team and various committees; including those to organise fundraising, student functions or events, well-being and healthy lifestyles.

Combined Cadet Force


 Our Combined Cadet Force meets at Corby Business Academy each week and draws its recruits from all the Brooke Weston Trust secondary schools. Those who secure a place with the CCF take part in a broad range of activities that not only gives them a great foundation for entry into the uniformed services, but also helps to build their team work, problem solving, stamina, self-discipline and confidence. Each cadet will attend at least one camp in the year and there are many other courses and activities available that run after school and at weekends.



Student care, welfare & inclusion for all

Corby Business Academy is committed to supporting the needs of all learners, and providing appropriate challenges at all levels, such as those with special educational needs to the more able. Fully differentiated lessons mean that all students can challenge themselves to reach their full potential. Details of our highly skilled Student Care Team, and structure, can be found on our website.


Unit Provision

 The Unit Provision is where some students with an Education Health Care Plan and with complex additional needs are taught. There is also a place-limited ASD base to support students with an Education Health Care Plan whose needs mean they are unable to access mainstream education.

When appropriate, inclusion into mainstream is supported and students access whole school events and the tutor programme. Classes are taught by specialist teachers, who provide highly differentiated lessons and multi-sensory approaches, to address the needs of all.

Older students are able to experience off-site activities and, if appropriate, attend college for one day a week which gives them a taste of life outside school and helps to prepare them for the world beyond.


Special educational needs

 Students with special educational needs are monitored carefully by the SENCO to ensure that appropriate progress is made at all times. We work hard to agree programmes with students and work in close partnership with parents and carers.


Provision for students may involve:

- In-class support
- Individual support or intervention
- Group work
- Differentiated curriculum
- Key Stage 3 intervention
- An identified key worker
- Access to the Academy's Learning HUB


Literacy support

 Corby Business Academy is committed to raising the literacy levels of all students through a variety of tailored resources, such as Accelerated Reader and Key Stage 3 students all have allocated library time. Where a need for additional support is identified, students will be invited to attend small group intervention. Additional support is also available during our Session 6 provision.

Academic excellence


 Students that are identified as exceeding, or having the potential to exceed, age-stage expectations, are offered a wide variety of opportunities within the Academy's normal teaching. This ensures differentiation across the curriculum so they have appropriate challenge and extension. They can also access further enrichment activities to boost their performance. Regular tracking is in place to ensure that all students continue to exceed age-stage expectations.

Tutors, student care and guidance

 We pride ourselves on our student care and have dedicated staff who work with students on well-being or personal issues. Tutors and the Student Care Team are on the front line of communication with parents and carers, having an overview of student life both in the Academy and in the community. We also have a healthcare assistant who is able to administer medication to students. These staff work closely with families and liaise with outside agencies when necessary.


Tutors are expected to be 'the Academy parent' for their tutees; this element is an important part of supporting all students.

Monitoring progress

 We offer a broad range of personalised support to our students, coupled with close monitoring of their academic progress. Academic mentoring is implemented by members of Senior Staff, Tutors, Heads of Year and Sixth Formers.

Personal tutors act as students' first point of contact and will monitor, support and influence their progress, performance, student care and good behaviour. Where concerns arise Heads of Year and members of the Senior Leadership Team work with students and tutors to develop personalised intervention strategies.

A safe environment

 As members of the Safer Schools Partnership we have access to various youth organisations that enable us to keep up-to-date with issues affecting young people. Being a member of the Partnership means that the Academy has its own designated Police Community Support Officer.

We have an experienced and dedicated team of non-teaching staff who offer support to all students throughout their time at the Academy.

When behaviour is a barrier to progress, the Academy will implement its discipline process. We will not allow behaviour to impede learning. Ultimately, if a student does not meet standards set, as well as accept support, the Academy will be required to take appropriate actions.



Community links, communication & online

Corby Business Academy has forged strong links with some major international companies affording unique, real-life learning opportunities for our students.

Key partners across the county provide a mentoring service for students. Students can also access work experience and special projects and often their ideas help to develop new concepts for established companies.

Our links with local businesses and Governors have enabled us to offer mock interviews and CV clinics where students are able to have their CVs critiqued by business owners who offer advice and feedback.

Community values and considerations are at the heart of our philosophy. We are focused on giving our students opportunities within the Academy, the local community and wider world to help them become active citizens.

Our governing body

Our governing body is dedicated to the success of Corby Business Academy and works closely with staff and partner organisations to ensure we achieve our aims and objectives. Further information relating to the Governing Body can be found on our website and around the Academy.

Monitoring progress

Corby Business Academy is committed to working with families and keeping parents and carers up-to-date with their child's progress.

A parents' evening is held once a year for each year group, except Year 7 which has two parents' evenings, including a meet the tutor evening in the first term so families can get to know their child's form tutor. Parents can also communicate with a form tutor, Head of Year or member of the Student Care Team on a daily basis.

Options information evenings are held for students and their families to discuss GCSE options.

Parents and carers also receive reports three times a year that outline what level their child is working at, what they are expected to achieve and what they can do to progress in their subjects. Where students require additional support to reach their academic targets, subject teachers or the Directors of Subject will contact parents directly.



News and information

Letters from the Heads of School are sent home on a regular basis. We also operate an email system which enables easy communication between the Academy and parents. Information is also available on the Academy's website, www.corbybusinessacademy.org, including restaurant menus, letters to parents, calendar dates, policies, bus routes and times and links to the Academy's portal so that students can access their work from home.

We also urge parents and carers to download the MY Ed app. This allows us to communicate with efficiency and clarity. Further details are available on the Academy website.

Finally, please follow us on Twitter to receive the latest news from around the Academy and monitor students' achievements: [@CorbyBusinessAc](https://twitter.com/CorbyBusinessAc)

Many departments also have their own Twitter pages that you can follow to see information or receive updates on events that are happening.

Online learning and support

The Academy operates with many online learning tools to enhance the knowledge of our students; visit our website or contact us directly to acquire further information. We also send regular updates or guidance to these platforms, so please be aware and always ask questions when needed.

Parent survey

Annual parent surveys consistently show high levels of satisfaction with the standard of education provided at Corby Business Academy. These views and communications are important, as it enables us to plan and improve our provision as required.

Policies

Our policies, including those on safeguarding, behaviour, attendance, classroom practice and admissions are available to view at www.corbybusinessacademy.org

Admissions

Corby Business Academy will consider all applications for places. We take students from Corby, Priors Hall and the surrounding villages.

Where fewer than 200 applications are received, the Academy will offer places to all those who have applied. When more than 200 applications are received and after the students with Education, Health and Care Plans where Corby Business Academy is named on the plan have been admitted, all other applicants will undertake a suitable cognitive ability test. This is used to ensure that the Academy admits an intake that is representative of the national ability range and is comprehensive in intake. For more details on the admissions process visit www.corbybusinessacademy.org



The Brooke Weston Trust



Hugh de Capell Brooke



Garfield Weston

The Brooke Weston Trust is a family of primary and secondary schools in Northamptonshire and Cambridgeshire. All our schools work hard to provide the best educational opportunities and life chances for the young people in their care. As a Trust we seek to ‘make a difference’ and are proud to work with children of all backgrounds and abilities. Our staff challenge themselves with one question every day by asking ‘is the service I am providing good enough for my own child?’ When the answer is ‘yes’, we are pleased, but not complacent, when it is ‘no’ we leave no stone unturned to make rapid improvements.

The Trust is founded on five core values which are: Ambition for All, High Expectations, Excellent Teaching and Support, Working Together and Contributing to Society. The values direct every area of our work from every classroom to the board room.

Our fantastic young people are at the heart of everything we do. Life in each school is very busy and everyone can also take part in Trust-wide activities including trips, curriculum days and Trust competitions that are great opportunities for making friends from other schools and sharing learning, new experiences or sporting success.

We promote a strong culture of professional collaboration amongst our staff that ensures the most appropriate and skilled people within the Trust are involved in key decision making and supporting other colleagues. Being part of a multi-academy Trust gives all our employees greater access to a wide range of high quality training and experience of working in very different educational settings.

The Trust’s daily operation is underpinned by a small but dedicated Central Team delivering core services such as finance, IT, estates management and welfare.

Brooke Weston Academy at Great Oakley in Northamptonshire was our founding school and our sponsors, Hugh de Capell Brooke and Garfield Weston, were instrumental in bringing high quality, innovative state-funded education to the area. The Trust continues to enjoy the support of their families who retain seats on the board and are represented by Alexander de Capell Brooke and Guy and George Weston. Brooke Weston Trust was established in 2008 and is led by Dr Andrew Campbell.

Primary Schools

- ▶ Beanfield Primary School
- ▶ Compass Primary Academy
- ▶ Grettton Primary School
- ▶ Oakley Vale Primary School
- ▶ Peckover Primary School

Secondary Schools

- ▶ Brooke Weston Academy
- ▶ Corby Business Academy
- ▶ Corby Technical School
- ▶ Kettering Science Academy
- ▶ Thomas Clarkson Academy





Corby Business Academy

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