



A valued member of the

**Brooke Weston Trust**



# Welcome



*Shaun Strydom*

**Shaun Strydom**  
Principal

The education of your child is one of the most important decisions you will make as a parent and I am delighted that you are considering Brooke Weston Academy.

The vision of our founders was to create a school that relentlessly focused on helping every student meet their potential in order to open up a lifetime of opportunities.

For over 30 years Brooke Weston Academy's staff and students have risen to this challenge and turned our founders' vision into reality.

Today Brooke Weston Academy is one of the most successful comprehensive schools in the country. Our focus on outstanding teaching, deep pastoral care and a creative curriculum means that every student thrives.

We work hard to develop curiosity, a love of learning, resilience and kindness in our

students. Brooke Weston Academy's success has been recognised with an outstanding judgement from Ofsted and we are helping lead the education system through our work as the lead school of the Brooke Weston Teaching School Alliance.

We are proud of our academic record and our results in both Year 11 and the Sixth Form are outstanding. However, we are about so much more than just academic success. Day to day the academy is filled with students participating in vibrant music, arts and drama, as well as engaging lessons in science, maths and the humanities among others. The academy offers an extensive range of sports, charity events, trips and expeditions, all of which combine to create a caring and highly successful academy.

This prospectus will provide you with an insight into Brooke Weston Academy but, to really learn about us, you must experience it for yourself.

# Our vision

Brooke Weston Academy opened in 1991 with the aim of providing 'a stimulating learning environment which maximises individual potential.' This aim has not changed and at Brooke Weston Academy, we believe that we provide a unique educational experience.

Brooke Weston Academy is different because of its ethos, which centres on mutual respect and hard work and results in a calm and productive atmosphere.

Everyone is expected to respect each other and the school equipment. Teachers and students work towards a common aim. Teachers do not have a staff room that separates them from the students, but work in the study areas and classrooms.

Classrooms are not locked and facilities, such as computers, are available for students to use, before, during and after the formal school day. Students are expected to treat the facilities with care, and the trust that is placed in them is well founded.

Our vision is of an academy that provides a stimulating learning experience. One that places learning and teaching at the heart of everything we do; where the focus is on securing the very best academic progress and personal development for every student... an academy where we all care enough to challenge and where we are driven to securing the best outcomes for all.



**"Teachers make me feel that I'm special and that I can do anything and be anything"**



## Why choose us?\*

**GCSE:**  
More than 30% of all grades awarded 9 to 7 grades

**A Level:**  
60% of all entries graded A\*/A/B

**Future:**  
90% of students progress to university – 40% Russell Group

- 1 Tennis Courts   2 Sports Hall   3 Lecture Theatre
- 4 Ground floor: DT / Top floor: Art   5 Principal's office, Operations, Finance and Admin
- 6 Top floor: Citizenship and RE   7 Science block
- 8 Ground floor: Sixth Form, IT, Library / Top floor: Humanities
- 9 Top floor: English / Ground floor: Maths   10 Weston Theatre
- 11 Ground floor: Restaurant / Top floor: Modern Foreign Languages
- 12 Ground floor: Music, dance, drama / Top floor: IT and Business

\*Last published results

# We are determined that a handful of years spent at Brooke Weston Academy will open the door to a lifetime of achievement and opportunity.

## **This is through:**

- A relentless pursuit of excellence; being ambassadors of aspiration, excellence and resilience;
- Ensuring everyone shares the highest expectations and absolute belief that, given the right conditions to flourish, all can and will go on to do so;
- Providing a broad, balanced and relevant curriculum which inspires, challenges, engages and develops a full range of skills and abilities;
- Encouraging students to take ownership, pride and responsibility for their own learning;
- Devising flexible, differentiated and responsive routes through the curriculum;
- An Elective Programme that offers a range of varied and meaningful opportunities for all of our students;
- Equipping students with the skills, knowledge, attitudes and resilience necessary to succeed as individuals and as responsible and valued members of society, in a world coping with increasing change;
- Ensuring that students and staff are safe and secure and operate within a mutually supportive and respectful environment;
- Allowing students to discover that they are capable of more than even they themselves thought possible and believing that success can be for everyone;
- Developing close links with the community, particularly parents and local employers.



# Our building

We are very proud of our building and facilities, which are modern and kept in pristine condition. Visitors are usually surprised that the building is 30 years old and everyone benefits from working in a clean and cared-for environment.

Brooke Weston Academy sits within acres of well-maintained grounds that are invaluable for sports, science and nature studies. The building is also exceptional, forming a pentagon around a central courtyard. Each two-storey section is connected by a glass link block. Each department is located along its own designated corridor and most contain a study area with computers and soft seating.

## **Specialist facilities**

We have state-of-the-art science laboratories, an electronics studio, wood and metal workshops, dedicated textile and cookery rooms, drama and dance studios and music practice rooms.

## **Sports facilities**

Sports facilities are also excellent. As well as the indoor sports hall there are also all weather sports pitches outside, plus cricket nets and other grass pitches which are used by students during the day, and by the community at evenings and weekends.

## **Restaurant**

Our restaurant provides a wide choice of food for both breakfast and lunch. Students may eat the restaurant food, which is very good and competitively priced, or bring their own food to eat in the restaurant.

## **The Newman Library**

This is a well-stocked resource, with the latest books, magazines, DVDs and audio recordings. It is equipped with banks of fixed computers used for lessons and self-study and laptops that may be loaned out for a lesson. We also have a 300 seater theatre, a smaller lecture theatre and a boardroom.

**'I think that this is an excellent place, and my children have really developed well in their years at Brooke Weston.'**

**PARENT**



**SSAT**

Six awards including being in top 10% nationally for attainment



# Our Academy day

The school day starts at 8.35am and ends at 3.30pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday and at 4.30pm on a Wednesday. There are five lessons, a 15 minute break for breakfast and a 30 minute break for lunch, plus assembly and tutor time. Our students do not have 'playtimes' as the emphasis is on creating a professional atmosphere. This also means an uninterrupted

school day, greater concentration and fewer opportunities for behavioural opportunities to arise.

The building will be open for students from 8 am as they arrive on buses. The school transport for students on a Wednesday will be moved to allow for a 4.30pm pick up. Students will be able to remain at school to use the library

and study areas until 5pm on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday with a late bus running on Tuesday and Thursday. Our school day means that over the course of five years, our students have the equivalent of almost an extra year of tuition compared with the timetables of most schools. This has a tremendous impact on their educational outcomes.

SCHOOL DAY TIMINGS	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
ASSEMBLY / TUTOR TIME	8:35 – 8:55	8:35 – 8:55	8:35 – 8:55	8:35 – 8:55	8:35 – 8:55
PERIOD 1 (15 min break)	8:55 – 10:20	8:55 – 10:20	8:55 – 10:20	8:55 – 10:20	8:55 – 10:20
PERIOD 2	10:20 – 11:30	10:20 – 11:30	10:20 – 11:30	10:20 – 11:30	10:20 – 11:30
PERIOD 3 (30 min lunch)	11:30 – 1:10	11:30 – 1:10	11:30 – 1:10	11:30 – 1:10	11:30 – 1:10
PERIOD 4	1:10 – 2:20	1:10 – 2:20	1:10 – 2:20	1:10 – 2:20	1:10 – 2:20
PERIOD 5	2:20 – 3:30	2:20 – 3:30	2:20 – 3:30	2:20 – 3:30	2:20 – 3:30
ELECTIVE			3:30 – 4:30		

“Teaching and learning overall are outstanding.”

OFSTED

“Students make outstanding progress because of consistently high-quality teaching, teachers' exemplary use of assessment, rigorous tracking, sharply focused interventions and excellent support and guidance.”

OFSTED



## Transport



Students can arrive at school on foot, by bicycle, car or on the school buses which pick up at stops throughout the catchment area. Parents will need to pay if they wish their child to use the buses.

Details on routes and prices will be in the information pack supplied to our new intake students.

## Equipment



Every student is allocated their own locker and they will need to supply their own padlock for security.

Students are expected to leave possessions in their locker except for the equipment they need for their immediate lessons.

They will need to supply their own stationery, including pens, pencils and a calculator. No valuables should be brought to Brooke Weston Academy as we cannot take responsibility if they are mislaid or damaged.

Mobile phones must not be used in the school, and, if brought, should be switched off and placed in lockers until the end of the school day.

All students are issued with a multi-functional 'smart card' that includes an information chip and their photograph. This is required to register attendance and it also acts as a bus pass, a library card and a payment card for the restaurant. Payment can be loaded onto the card either via standing order, through the on-line 'Wise Pay' facility or by using automated terminals in the building.

Students cannot use each other's cards. If the card is lost, any balance can be reloaded onto a replacement.

## Tutor Group



The role of the form tutor is key at Brooke Weston Academy – they deal with many of the pastoral issues in order to support their tutees. They are supported by their Head of Department and, if necessary, the Senior Leadership Team.

The tutor takes the role of 'parent in school' for the tutees in their care. Every student is placed in a tutor group of approximately 26 students. The tutor meets with the tutor group on a daily basis and acts as their advocate providing advice, guidance and discipline if necessary.

Tutors track student attendance and their progress across all subjects. They are also the link between home and school. Communication with parents is very important and we value the support we receive from the parent body. Where possible, students stay with the same tutor as they move up the school, so they get to know each other really well. We also have a student care team if students need any extra support.

## Uniform



There are clear dress standards at Brooke Weston Academy and everyone is expected to dress in a professional way. The uniform for Years 7 to 11 consists of basic black trousers/skirt and shoes, teamed with a plain white shirt and a Brooke Weston Academy tie and jumper. For sports lessons each student should wear Brooke Weston Academy sports kit and provide their own trainers. In Years 12 and 13, students do not have a set uniform but are required to dress in formal business attire. All students are expected to maintain a neat and tidy appearance with no extreme piercings, tattoos or hair styles. Hair dye, if used, should be of a natural tone.

# Enrichment and learning outside the classroom



At Brooke Weston Academy we enrich students' learning by providing a range of opportunities including lectures from visiting professionals, educational challenges, projects and residential.

Brooke Weston Academy students are encouraged to take an active part in community life. They perform at dance and musical events, visit residential homes, assist at animal shelters and help local primary children with sports activities. We also encourage them to consider those less fortunate than themselves. This is reinforced in assemblies and by multi-day collections that raise money for local and national charities and good causes.

There are weekly clubs in subjects including dance, maths, chess, art and debating that take place after school and details of these are posted daily on the screens around the building.

Participation in the arts is also an important part of the Brooke Weston Academy experience. Each year, talented students have many opportunities to perform in concerts and dance shows organised by our excellent Performing Arts department. Our most recent production of 'High School Musical' was a huge success and involved more than 100 students and staff.

Older students may opt to join the very successful Brooke Weston Trust Combined Cadet Force (CCF) which teaches military skills and disciplines and allows students to join up with those from other schools across the Trust to take part in drills, firing exercises and training camps.

## Electives

At Brooke Weston Academy, we strive to always provide the best possible education for every young person within our Academy. Our Electives programme forms a critical part of our curriculum and life at our Academy. All students participate in enrichment activities and courses that take place on Wednesday afternoons. The Elective lessons are led by our own teachers, our support staff and by visiting specialists who are experts in their field.

Our Elective Programme enables us to offer our students wider and deeper opportunities for personal development and cultural capital, broadening their experiences – critical for any young person's growth. The Elective Programme aims to promote the development of essential life skills and personal confidence that are key to success in adult life.

## Trips, residentials and expeditions



Trips and visits underpin the curriculum and provide our students with a broad experience of the world around them. These trips may include visits to museums, art galleries, historic venues and places of worship, as well as universities, sporting arenas, the Houses of Parliament and language schools.

The curriculum is also enhanced by trips to theatre and dance performances. Students are also supported with work related learning opportunities and experiences.

In Year 7 students are encouraged to attend a four day residential trip. Students have a chance to participate in adventurous activities such as kayaking, abseiling, raft building and camping. This plays a vital part in bonding the tutor group and helping them to get to know their tutor at the start of their time at Brooke Weston Academy.

Year 8 students are usually offered a trip to France and other year groups are offered an option of going on other cultural, educational or sporting trips and recent ones have visited Milan, Costa Brava and Italy.

For several years we have run month-long expeditions for our older students to destinations across the globe. Recent ones have been to Peru, the Galapagos Islands, Borneo, Tanzania and, most recently Cambodia. Part of this experience is that the students have to raise money for, and organise the trip themselves, with guidance from an expedition leader and Brooke Weston Academy staff.

## Care, welfare and inclusion for all



Students who need more support in numeracy and literacy are provided with one to one tuition to build up their confidence. We have a dedicated team of staff for this, plus some sixth form students who support with reading. These sessions are invaluable and are a non-threatening way of boosting younger students' understanding.

Students who have an exceptional ability are supported and challenged in lessons with enhanced tasks. We also encourage their aspirations by organising trips to university campuses to give them a chance to see higher education in action. Other activities aimed at our high ability students include the UKMT Maths Challenge, workshops and lectures.

## Attendance



Outstanding attendance at Brooke Weston Academy is an important focus and part of our day-to-day approach. Students are given the knowledge to understand correlations between attendance and achievement; this is done through a range of Academy forums and strategies. Our ethos towards attendance is reinforced by a thorough system, with an emphasis on home-school communication. All students are expected to work towards a minimum target of over 97% for each academic year.

## Careers guidance



Careers education and guidance is provided as part of the curriculum and we have our own on-site advisor who offers information on opportunities, university courses and apprenticeships, along with one-to-one support for students seeking employment. All services are delivered impartially in line with Government requirements.

## Safeguarding



Safeguarding is paramount at Brooke Weston Academy. We are committed to promoting the welfare of all students and the Academy has robust safeguarding systems. All Academy staff recognise the importance of students being

offered the correct support and we place our duty of care at the heart of everything we do.

Students are guided towards appropriate avenues of support and are provided with the knowledge to keep themselves safe in a range of situations.

Further information regarding safeguarding at Brooke Weston Academy can be found on the school's website. Alternatively please contact the school to speak to one of our Designated Safeguarding Leads.



**“They do much to support community cohesion at local, national and international level to achieve the outstanding outcomes for their students.”**

OFSTED



# Curriculum

**YEARS  
7 to 11**

At Brooke Weston we provide an exceptional academic pathway for all our students, regardless of background, which is built on high expectations and aspiration. Our ambitious curriculum is knowledge rich and rigorous; time is carefully considered ensuring all learners engage with subjects across the Sciences, Arts, Humanities and Languages.

The breadth in our curriculum opens doors for the future, fostering a passion for creativity. It develops critical and analytical thinkers, confident communicators and respectful, successful 21st Century individuals with a lifetime of opportunities. Sequenced coherently to truly take into consideration the connectivity of knowledge, students are empowered to develop a deep and rich

understanding of their subjects and the world around them. Underpinned by our values of Excellence, Resilience and Ambition, together our staff and students strive to exceed the limits of their potential, building the foundation for their future.

The curriculum is truly built around the question "is this good enough for my child?"



**“Students make outstanding progress. This is achieved because there is consistently outstanding teaching from experienced post-16 teachers. Leadership and management of the Sixth Form are outstanding.”**

**OFSTED**



# Sixth Form at BWA

At Brooke Weston Academy we work hard to ensure that the transition from Year 11 into the Sixth Form enables students to develop the specific skills needed to achieve their target grades and broaden their experiences.

Sixth Form students will enjoy more independence in their choice of learning. We recognise that they have many demands on their time and we will work with them to ensure that they are able to experience a range of activities alongside their academic studies. Students joining us in Year 12 visit the school individually with their parents as part of the application process.

Following the publication of GCSE results, they will be invited to a special familiarisation day prior to the main Sixth Form induction day. Here they will meet other new students and have the opportunity to get used to the building, choose their options and adjust to the expectations at Brooke Weston Academy.

## IEC Programme

Inspiration, Endeavour and Community is an enrichment programme to broaden the educational qualifications of Sixth Form students at Brooke Weston Academy.

Inspiration can be considered as any activity that allows a student to display creativity, including projects around the arts, music and performance. Endeavour can include participation in individual and team sports, taking part in expeditions and involvement in local or international projects. Community is involvement in helping others and includes voluntary work.

The IEC was developed in response to an increasing demand by universities and employers for students with 'employability' skills such as leadership, organisation and management skills to support their academic qualifications. This means being able to demonstrate skills that are useful in a wide range of work and learning scenarios.

Inspiration, Endeavour and Community activities on offer in the Sixth Form at Brooke Weston Academy include professional and primary school placements; lower school mentoring; community and voluntary work; the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme; sports teams; charity fundraising team; debating; Arts Award and Library internship.

Activities offered are subject to student and teacher commitment and may be subject to change.



**Personalised  
study pathway**



# Our history

## Our founders

Brooke Weston Academy was founded in 1991 with the support of Hugh de Capell Brooke and Garfield Weston, and the school owes a great deal to their foresight and generosity.

Hugh de Capell Brooke was a local land owner who donated the site and substantial cash underwriting to ensure the building began. He and his family committed more land to

complete the environmental developments around the site including the Newman Library. A strong supporter of Brooke Weston Academy, Hugh de Capell Brooke died in 2014, but his family continues to take a very active interest in the achievements of all our students.

Garfield Weston was chairman of Associated British Foods. He died in February 2002 and

is remembered for his unfailing support for Brooke Weston Academy, of which he was always very proud. His generosity extended beyond the initial sponsorship; he supported the construction of the astro-turf, the humanities and ICT block and the Newman Library. The Weston family continues to be strong supporters of all that we do.

High  
expectations  
for students  
and staff

## Northamptonshire Teaching School Hub

Brooke Weston Academy was one of the UK's first Teaching Schools, originally designated in 2011 to offer training and professional support for teachers from across the region.

In 2020, Brooke Weston Academy was designated as the Teaching School Hub for Northamptonshire. The Hub works in collaboration and partnership with schools in the region to invest in their workforce to grow, recruit, develop and retain the very best teachers, support staff and leaders, and ultimately achieve the best educational provision for students.

Northamptonshire  
Teaching School Hub



# The Brooke Weston Trust

## Brooke Weston Academy is a valued member of the Brooke Weston Trust

Brooke Weston Trust is a family of primary and secondary schools in Northamptonshire and Cambridgeshire. The Trust has a simple aim: to provide high-quality education and learning opportunities across its schools

and to ensure that every child, no matter their background or starting point, leaves with the necessary qualifications, skills and self-belief to fulfil their potential.

To achieve this, all schools in the Trust commit to the 'BWT Way' – a set of shared expectations of how the schools should be and 'feel'. These are best defined by two key questions:

- Is this good enough for my own child?
- Am I caring enough to challenge enough?

The experience each student receives at a Brooke Weston Trust school extends far beyond the classroom, and aims to provide each student with 'tickets for life' – a phrase used to explain how students will leave

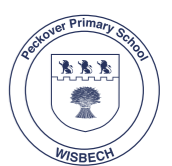
education with the qualifications, skills and self belief to fulfil their potential.

Five core values underpin all the Trust's work:

- Ambition for all**
- High expectations
  - Excellent teaching and support
  - Working together
  - Contributing to society

Brooke Weston Trust schools regularly collaborate with each other to drive towards this ambition. This means that staff and pupils from across the Trust work together to support each other, share best practice and try new ideas. Over each academic year there are many opportunities for pupils from all our schools to meet, compete and celebrate success together.

**Proven track record:**  
30 years of making a difference








**“a caring and highly successful academy”**

Shaun Strydom Principal

### **Applications Process**

To apply for a place at Brooke Weston Academy, please apply through the North Northamptonshire Council school admissions team [www.northnorthants.gov.uk](http://www.northnorthants.gov.uk).

Our admissions policy can be found on our website.

 [@BWAcademy2016](https://twitter.com/BWAcademy2016)  
[www.brookeweston.org](http://www.brookeweston.org)

