



Spires Academy - An Academy for Canterbury

Why an Academy for Students aged 11-16

The performance of the students at Montgomery School showed great improvement and the Sponsors wanted to build on this upward trend to improve the education and facilities. Converting to an Academy provided an improved environment with a new education ethos. These changes have the benefit of inspiring and motivating students to learn and therefore improve their life opportunities.

Key facts about the Academy

- _ It is for local children aged 11 to 16 living in the Sturry district of Canterbury
- _ It is free and non-selective
- _ 500 places, with some joint provision for sixth formers aged 16-19
- _ It is located on the previous Montgomery School site
- _ It is not a faith school
- _ It was set up by the sponsors, Crown Products (Kent) and Holiday Extras, and is funded by the DCSF
- _ It specialises in Business and Enterprise and Visual and Performing Arts
- _ It aims to raise achievement for all students

What is an Academy?

An Academy is a new type of publicly funded, independent secondary school. It is operated by a not-for-profit charitable trust and is for local children. It is free to everyone who goes there.

Every Academy has a sponsor to support the development of the new ethos and vision for the school.

About the Academy

Through its organisation and teaching, the Academy will support and encourage every student to achieve and fulfill their potential.

The Academy will play its part in the family of Canterbury schools. This will involve building strong working relationships with primary schools in the Sturry area, other secondary schools across the city, Kent County Council, the Learning and Skills Council and local businesses. The Academy's business sponsors, the Chief Executives of Crown Products and Holiday Extras place great importance on partnership working and collaboration at all stages in the development and life of the Academy. They are very keen to work with Kent County Council and other local partners so that the Academy will be central to the regeneration of the Sturry area of Canterbury. They are committed to involving the community at all stages in this process.



About the sponsors - Michael Head and Gerry Pack

Michael Head (Crown Products) and Gerry Pack (Holiday Extras) have both built very successful businesses in Kent. They want all children, whatever their ability and background, to have the opportunity to enhance their life chances through an excellent school education. Both these Chief Executives support the Canterbury 4 Business initiative and wish the Academy to support the development of a local knowledge-based economy.

Academy students, supported by local business, will develop the skills to succeed and contribute to the economic growth of their community. The sponsors will enable students to relate their learning to benefits both for themselves and the wider community.

The Academy vision

The Academy intends to transform the ambitions and life chances of students by:

- providing a personal learning route for every student that will motivate and engage them. Supporting all children to develop their true potential and preparing students to be global citizens, capable of creative and critical thinking.
- enabling students to respond positively to the different Academy experience. The new educational experience will be of high quality and ensure individual progress.
- having very high expectations of staff, students and parents, both in terms of their engagement with learning and their standards of behaviour and commitment.
- helping all students through the Academy specialisms of Business and Performing Arts to become well-rounded, well balanced, confident, and effective people, skilled in communicating and building and maintaining good relationships.

The Academy curriculum

Everybody at Spires Academy is committed to providing for the needs of students academically, vocationally and socially in a caring community where 'every child matters'. The curriculum will provide a sound grounding in core skills together with building blocks for future learning.

The Academy will work closely with primary schools to prepare for transition from Key Stage 2 to Key Stage 3. A Foundation Programme will be provided for Year 7 and 8 students who require additional support in improving their basic skills.

We will encourage every child to develop an understanding of important life skills that help them to become happy and successful adults. As well as a broad and exciting curriculum, there will be on-site vocational classes and strong links with local industry and commerce.

Above all, teaching will stretch children's thinking and deepen their understanding through activities such as problem solving, creative challenges and exploring different ways of working.



A wide range of enrichment activities will broaden children's knowledge beyond the normal school curriculum. We will actively encourage students to stay on at school and take advantage of the excellent joint sixth form opportunities that will be available. These opportunities will be planned with other providers in the local area.

Admissions and exclusions

The Academy is part of the Canterbury family of schools. Children with special, or different, educational needs will be welcomed at the Academy.

The Academy sets out the standards of behaviour we expect in simple, clear policies and procedures. These will be supported by students and parents and consistently applied by staff.

The Academy exclusions policy will be in line with the law on exclusions and best practice.

Governance

The sponsors set up a charitable trust to run the Academy. The trust will appoint the governors - including elected parent and staff governors - and support the governors and senior managers in the running of the school.

Uniform

The uniform is smart, comfortable, reasonably priced and easily available. Students are expected to wear the uniform as it will provide a strong community identity for the Academy which in turn will encourage high standards of behaviour and achievement.

A new building on a new site

An investment of £7.2 million will be provided by the Department for Education and Skills and the sponsors. This funding will be used to vastly improve facilities so that the learning environment will be well designed, with excellent facilities to encourage young people to attend and care for their school so that they will achieve their best.

Community involvement and wider use

We want to find effective ways to engage with parents and carers to involve them in the school and their children's education.

Programmes for adult and family learning will make use of the facilities when not in use by the Academy.