

Welcome to
Eaton Bank Academy

Believe in Success

EATON BANK

BELIEVE IN SUCCESS

ACADEMY

Our Vision

Success and
opportunity for all

★

Engaging and enriching
school experience

★

Education as a springboard
for the future

Welcome to Eaton Bank Academy

Dear Parents

Thank you for your interest in Eaton Bank Academy. With this prospectus we aim to answer your questions about life at Eaton Bank Academy and to explain how your children are given the best possible support as they enter this important new stage in their education.

Eaton Bank Academy is an exciting and dynamic school, where students make excellent academic progress and thrive in a supportive and caring environment. We pride ourselves on the excellent relationships that exist across the school and between the school and the wider community.

We have high expectations of those who join us; we expect students to work hard and insist on high standards of conduct and behaviour. For our part we offer an engaging and enriching school experience from vibrant, high quality lessons to a programme of extracurricular activities that is second to none.

We are proud of the successes and contributions of our students over many years. This school has offered a great platform for success. Whether it be leaving us at 18 to join the very best universities, moving into local politics to represent the community, establishing thriving local businesses or finding sporting success at local, regional and national level in a whole host of sports, this school has been, and will be, the springboard for success.

I very much hope that you make Eaton Bank Academy your first choice and look forward to welcoming you and your children to our community in the near future.



Mr E O'Neill, *Headteacher*


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Choosing Eaton Bank Academy

Your Questions Answered

How does Academy Status benefit our children if we choose Eaton Bank Academy?

We believe that Academy status brings considerable benefits to our students through:

- The Academy freedoms and extra funding enabling us to innovate and tailor learning to match individual students' strengths
- A flexible, personalised curriculum for every student, combining the best of both worlds: academic rigour in the core subjects English, Maths and Science, combined with a wide choice of optional GCSE and exciting vocational subjects
- Extensive links with business and local community partners, and even closer partnerships with our primary feeder schools

How can parents of Years Four, Five and Six see Eaton Bank Academy as it really is?

We hold an Open Evening for parents of children in Years 4, 5 and 6 in September every year. While Open Evenings give you a flavour of what a particular school is like, the best way to judge is to come in during the day and see it as it really is.

To provide reassurance we invite you to book an appointment to come into the school during the working day. Please call us to arrange this.

What to Expect
Finding your way

What happens at lunchtime?

We are committed to promoting healthy lifestyles and healthy eating – we do not sell 'junk food' to our students. Our cafeteria provides students with a wide choice of nutritious food at break and lunchtime. There are numerous outdoor eating areas.

During lunchtime, we are fortunate to have extensive grounds to enable our students to let off steam. Quieter areas are designated for students who simply want to meet and chat with their friends, or there are huge numbers of clubs/activities including using the computers. Some students use our excellent library to study or read.

Students are supervised by a team of teachers. Mr O'Neill and members of the Academy Leadership Team join the students in the play areas every day through lunchtime.

What is the behaviour like at Eaton Bank Academy?

Students are made aware of the high standards of behaviour and conduct required of them, and parents are expected to support us in upholding these standards. Our firm but fair Behaviour for Learning Policy helps to promote good behaviour and attendance through positive reinforcement and reward, and by having clear, universally understood sanctions which are consistently applied by staff. We are serious about our duty to recognise the potential of each child in our care and help them to realise it.

For this to happen effectively, other things need to be in place:

- Smart Academy uniform
- Exemplary behaviour and conduct in classrooms and corridors
- Excellent attendance
- Respect for staff and other students

How will my child get to school if they live a distance away?

There are a number of school buses that pick students up from the Congleton and North Staffordshire area to bring students to the school. The Local Authority supports the transport cost in certain circumstances. The most up to date information can be found on the Cheshire East website under 'school transport.'




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7Y4




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Making materials

Fulfilling Potential
Of the individual

How important is homework?

Extremely!

It has been suggested that if meaningful homework is set for the first five years of secondary education, it can be the equivalent to an extra year of schooling. The main purpose of homework is to reinforce and build on material taught in class. At examination times homework will be spent on revising and practising examination technique. It is therefore vital that good study habits are formed at the start of Year 7. Parents can help their children develop these by encouraging them to study at regular times and away from distractions.

Homework enables us to support and extend the learning that takes place during the Academy day and to train our students to be effective, independent learners.

Year 7 students can expect at least two subjects to be completed at home each weekday evening, more at weekends. This will increase in the following years. Students are provided with a homework timetable and Insight to help them to organise their work and to record the homework set. For extended pieces of homework or coursework, the hand-in date may be several days later.

Our child is bright. What will you do to stretch them to achieve their full potential?

At Eaton Bank Academy, we believe very strongly that all our students should be stretched and challenged to reach their full potential; we therefore take this aspect of our academy life very seriously. We provide a stimulating and varied curriculum, we set challenging targets to ensure that all our students maximise their progress and we offer a range of enrichment opportunities to encourage all our students to go above and beyond the syllabus. We strongly believe in developing the potential of each individual, but we also believe in hard work and high standards.

Curriculum

Something for everybody

When my child starts the school in Year 7 how will they be organised in teaching groups?

Throughout Key Stage Three subject groupings are organised in a mixture of sets and mixed ability groups. Maths is set from very early on in Year 7 whilst other subjects choose to remain in mixed ability groups. Each form of grouping has its own merits; the most important aspect is that each student progresses well throughout lessons and achieves his/her full potential.

On arrival at the school students are placed in mixed ability form groups in which they usually remain throughout their time in the school. This group is the registration group and the PSHE group for each student. In Year 7 it might also be the mixed ability teaching group for some of the curriculum subjects.

Our child finds some subjects difficult. How will you ensure that they get the help that is needed?

As students progress through the Academy, we organise them into carefully selected groups that ensure effective teaching and learning in the classroom. It is our belief that all children have talents that must be realised. Some students require extra help and support; our Special Educational Needs department is equipped to meet individual needs. Some students require support in the classroom to guide them. Others benefit from closer adult support in smaller teaching groups. We see it as our duty to provide this.

In the years leading up to GCSE examinations, we monitor student performance even more closely and work with students who are not pushing themselves or achieving their target grades.

We feel that it is vital to keep parents informed of their child's progress at regular intervals throughout the year through interim reports, annual reports and Parents' Evenings. Of course, we would encourage parents to contact the school at any point if they have any concerns.






Reading is very important. How does the Academy help support my child's reading?

The Learning Resource Centre is a fantastic learning facility for students. Open at lunchtime and breaks it is fully supervised and allows students to access a wide range of reading materials. There is a calm but vibrant atmosphere in the LRC, where students are encouraged to read for pleasure, as well as being able to use the computers in the library for research, study and coursework purposes.

Guest authors and poets are regularly invited into school to speak to students.

If you are seeking books to inspire your child to continue reading, please visit the English section of the Eaton Bank Academy website for an extensive list of suggestions.

Working Together
Everybody is involved

Who will help our child settle into their new Academy?

Any child can be worried about moving to a new school but we hope to make this transition as smooth as possible. We hold an Open Evening in September for Years 4, 5 and 6. Prior to your child joining Eaton Bank Academy, Eaton Bank staff visit each primary school to collect information and meet with your child. We have a member of staff, Miss Cuttle, whose main responsibility is your child's progress, and whose first concern is that they are settling in well. Each student is placed under the immediate care of a tutor who will meet with their students every day. In June we invite all the Year 6 students into the school for two days to meet their form tutor, get to know the school environment and have a taster session of a number of lessons. We also invite parents in on one of the evenings for a consultation meeting with the tutor. Later on in the new term we hold another 'meet the tutor' evening.

Any parent can phone or e-mail the Academy from day one and we ensure that we address concerns promptly. Many of our own staff and governors send their children to Eaton Bank Academy – a sure sign that we get things right!



How do you encourage students to make a positive contribution to the Academy and wider community?

We value our students and try to involve them as fully as possible in the life of the Academy and wider community. Students are regularly consulted about Academy improvements. We have a Student Council where students contribute to the Academy decision making process. Our students take part in a wide range of charity events both locally, nationally and internationally. To help foster a sense of team spirit and develop community cohesion, all students are placed into one of the four Houses when they join the Academy: Astbury, Dane, Bridestone, Cloud.

We have a child who does not push herself to achieve. How will you motivate her?

This is a real worry for many of us with a child who is a reluctant learner. We have no golden answer. However, the fact that we recognise the issue does help. All teachers have their lessons observed by subject specialists and senior staff. We will monitor your child's progress regularly in Key Stage Three, and help them to set meaningful targets for improvement.

Will my child be treated as an individual?

Central to our ethos is highlighting and striving to meet the individual needs of all our students. At the Academy, we are committed to providing each and every student with a personalised, varied and inspiring educational experience. The Academy is a safe and friendly environment that enables all students to grow and flourish, both in terms of their personal well-being and development as well as in their academic studies. At Eaton Bank Academy, we firmly believe in developing well rounded young people who will continue to grow beyond the classroom. In addition to our exciting curriculum, we offer a range of extra-curricular activities as well as leadership and community opportunities.

Our child is both quiet and shy. How will he cope in a big school?

We care for all our students as individuals. Shy and quiet children do flourish at Eaton Bank Academy. They do not need to change in order to thrive. We provide excellent care and support for all students, which helps them grow in confidence and their personalities to flourish.

Support
Staying on track

How does Eaton Bank Academy communicate to parents?

We aim to ensure that parents are given plenty of notice about school events and parents' meetings. The website will have the most up to date school calendar on it and this should have all the school letters on it. It is constantly being updated so that parents can be assured that all the information on the school is at a central point. We also use an email and text alerting system so that parents can be made aware of new information. There are many occasions throughout the year when we invite parents into school for parents' evenings and year-specific curriculum information evenings. We also provide annual written reports and more frequent interim reports to update parents on student progress.

Alongside this we encourage parents to contact the school via e-mail or telephone at any point should there be more pressing concerns.

What does the form tutor do at Eaton Bank Academy?

The tutor group is the basis for many lessons as well as social and sporting activities in the school. The Form Tutor meets the group every day at registration. They know the students very well and are always available to help if problems arise. The Form Tutor has the clearest picture of overall progress and academic achievement and should, in most cases, be the first point of contact for parents.



Extra Curricular
Beyond the classroom

Our children love sport. What does your Academy offer?

We believe that it is our duty to encourage our students to lead fit and healthy lifestyles. We frequently host whole school sporting events in which everyone is encouraged to participate. We regularly feature in the local press and many of our sporting achievements are reported in our social media. There is a huge programme of extra-curricular sport on offer, designed to meet the needs of our students, ranging from high level competition, to sport for fun, health or recreation.

Our students can study PE at both GCSE level and in the Sixth Form.

The Academy also works with Vale Juniors who now use our extensive sports facilities and 3G Pitch.

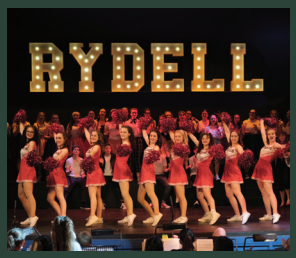
We have encouraged our child in Performing Arts. Will this be supported at Eaton Bank Academy?

We teach Music, Music Technology, Drama and Theatre Studies and Dance. Performing Arts are supported through a wide range of extra-curricular activities. All students have the opportunity to study musical instruments. Students from all year groups are encouraged to take part in our annual musical production, performed at Daneside Theatre.

Your programme of extra-curricular activities and residential trips looks really exciting but are they going to be expensive?

Many of our trips, including all those that form part of the curriculum, work on the basis of a voluntary contribution. No child will be excluded from a curriculum related trip because their parents cannot or will not pay. We also work very hard to keep the cost of trips as low as possible.







There is more to school than examinations. What goes on outside the classroom?

We want all students at the Academy to achieve the highest academic qualifications possible. However, we also want our students to become active and responsible citizens, who leave the Academy with a passion for learning and life and are able to make a positive contribution to the community they live in. All of our students are provided with good examples from teachers, whose job is to promote and develop our students' moral, spiritual, cultural and social values. In this day and age it is easy to see why some schools are reluctant to run an extensive programme of trips and visits. This is not the case at Eaton Bank! The range of educational visits, field trips and residential opportunities open to our students is extensive:

- French residential
- Team building residential in Year 7
- Careers taster days
- Theatre visits
- An annual ski trip
- Geography field trips
- Sixth Form Gambia experience
- Places of worship
- London visit
- Leeds Armouries

There are also a whole host of extra-curricular activities taking place at lunchtime and after school including:

Badminton | Netball | Football | Trampolining | Music
Music Composition | Table Tennis | Crochet Club
Drama Club | Dance | Debate Club | Wind Ensemble
Guitar Group | Science Club | Coursework Clinics
Homework Support | Lego Club | Vocal Ensemble
Computer Programming | Rotary Art Competition
STEM Club | Duke Of Edinburgh | Digital Art | Film Club
And More!



The Future
Make a difference

How does Eaton Bank Academy prepare its students for the future?

We believe that education is a springboard for the future and take very seriously our role in preparing students for a world beyond school that is forever changing. Our curriculum and enrichment programme is designed to be engaging, to build aspiration and to develop the knowledge, understanding, skills and personal qualities that lead to success and opportunities for all.

Our students benefit from independent and expert career advice. Students and parents are invited to Information Evenings that focus on the many different opportunities beyond school and how best to prepare for them. Students are also very carefully guided by their tutors and by our Learning and Progress Managers when they have subject choices to make that will affect their future opportunities.

Facilities for the Sixth Form are excellent and include a separate building with computer suite, coffee shop, study areas and staff on hand to offer support and guidance.

Many students stay on to the Sixth Form and the majority of these then take up places at university, including many of the top 10 universities.

Halliard Trust

ALL TOGETHER STRONGER SCHOOLS

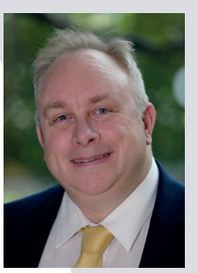
This school is a much-valued member of the Halliard Trust, a family of academy schools committed to providing an exceptional all-round education that equips young people with the character, knowledge and skills to meet the challenges of a changing world.

Established in 2014 and formerly known as The Fallibroome Trust, the Halliard Trust currently numbers eleven schools; eight primaries and three high schools and is growing carefully. We work closely together, sharing school improvement expertise and good practice on curriculum, assessment and behaviour. We want pupils to be happy, safe and inspired to learn.

Being part of the Halliard Trust means structured career pathways and opportunities for colleagues, supported by high-quality professional development. We also support our schools with staffing, finance, IT, building maintenance, data and intelligence, and management and governance, giving school staff more time to focus on the priorities of teaching and learning.

We live by the Trust's values of **Respect**, **Integrity** and **Optimism** and have a clear strong intent **to meet the level of the best**.





Jeremy Spencer
CEO of Halliard Trust









www.halliardtrust.com

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on the journey

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