Pupils are proud to belong to The Hastings Academy and are now thriving and making good progress in the new ambitious culture."

Ofsted 2018
Welcome to The Hastings Academy

I am extremely proud to lead The Hastings Academy. We are a modern and innovative school, with state-of-the-art facilities. We have approximately 900 students and have the highest expectations of each and every child.

In January 2018, we were judged by Ofsted to be a ‘Good’ school with ‘Outstanding’ leadership and management; we are the only secondary school in Hastings with this judgement. Our students, parents and staff are really proud of this achievement and it underlines what an exciting time it is to be part of our Academy.

Choosing the right school for your child is undoubtedly one of the most important decisions you will have to make, so as well as browsing through our website, we would like to take this opportunity to invite you to visit The Hastings Academy. This will give you the opportunity to speak to our talented students as well as our highly skilled, dedicated and committed staff.

The Academy’s motto, ‘PRIDE Through Success’ stands for ‘Potential, Respect, Innovation, Determination and Excellence’ and this applies equally to all of the Academy’s staff as well as to our students.

We take great PRIDE in investing in all of our staff through a variety of professional development programmes that aim to provide a culture of lifelong learning, continuity and succession planning.

The Academy is incredibly proud of its achievements. We are unequivocally determined to build on the strengths and successes by working in close partnership with the students, parents, carers and within the wider remit of the University of Brighton Academies Trust, to provide a fully inclusive first class education for our community.

Hilary Morawska
Principal

Achieving excellence together

The Hastings Academy is part of the University of Brighton Academies Trust’s network of 15 infant, primary and secondary academies, located across Sussex.

We believe that education transforms lives. Enriched by the University of Brighton’s education expertise and our experience working with academy schools for almost 10 years, we want to ensure that our 7,500 pupils are inspired to meet their potential and develop a passion for lifelong learning.

It is important to us that our academies have a positive impact on their local communities and that parents and carers are actively engaged with their child’s learning. We look forward to welcoming your family to The Hastings Academy as we support each other – and your child – to excel.

Dr John Smith
Chief Executive
University of Brighton Academies Trust
Since being at The Hastings Academy my confidence has improved as well as my grades. It has helped me grow and develop."

Student
Underpinning all of our work within the Academy is the principle of achieving and maintaining high expectations. We strive to maximise the potential of every child and help them to take advantage of every opportunity, both within the Academy and in the community.

A champion for every child
Our Academy is renowned for its inclusivity and outstanding care of students. The sole focus of our experienced pastoral team is the well-being of every student in their care. The team will work alongside your child’s tutor, who will be their first point of contact, to guide them emotionally and academically throughout their time at school.

Stretch and challenge
We expect of all our students to aim high and aspire to achieve. Our staff are committed to challenging their students in every aspect of their behaviour for learning. In addition, there is a specific programme of extension activities for our more able students and we participate in The Villiers Park Scholars Programme which engages with them to gain entry to top universities, throughout their time with us.

Collaboration
Our Academy works closely with the Trust and our partner schools sharing ideas, expertise, resources and a wide range of experience to enhance the learning of our students.

We also work very closely with our family of primary schools to help ensure children make the smoothest possible transition when they join us.

In addition we are committed to working closely with East Sussex College Hastings to ensure that at 16, our students move on to courses that will enable them to fulfil their ambitions.

A sense of belonging
The safety and security of our students is of paramount importance. The Academy has clear policies on anti-bullying, health and safety, security and safeguarding students, alongside committed and trained staff to support students with any concerns. We ensure our student and parent voice forms part of our drive to secure safe and happy students.

Investing in each and every student

94% of parents would recommend this school to another parent.*

*Ofsted Parent View Results. Figures correct as of 08/05/19. Figure showing parents who either ‘strongly agree’ or ‘agree’.
I really enjoy being able to do the subjects that we didn’t get to focus on in primary school, such as art, food, design technology and modern languages.”

Student
Fantastic facilities

Our building, facilities and resources have been designed to ensure our students and staff benefit from working in an exceptional learning environment.

We have floodlit all-terrain outdoor pitches, two large well-resourced sports halls and a wonderfully appointed dance studio. Our drama room provides a flexible space for dance, full school assemblies and concerts, and a spacious area for learning experiences. Our specialist classrooms are filled with the technology to support learning in the 21st Century. Our objective is to deliver the very latest, innovative methods of teaching and learning in an ultra-modern environment.

Academy communities within the school

All students at The Hastings Academy belong to one of four pastoral communities: West Hill, East Hill, Silverhill and Firehills. Smaller ‘Hill’ communities allow students to form close relationships with their pastoral teams, tutor and peers, build an allegiance to their ‘Hills’ and gain more specialised support and encouragement to be the best they can.
I have been offered so many opportunities and cultural experiences at The Hastings Academy.”

Student
The curriculum: building on firm foundations for lifelong learning

We believe in providing a solid foundation in a wide range of subjects, including the core subjects of English, mathematics, science and information and communication technology (ICT) which are vital to being successful in the modern world.

We design every lesson to be stimulating, engaging and innovative: debate, participation and passion for enquiry are fundamental to our way of working. We make it a priority to build the skills that underpin successful learning, helping students with thinking, independent study and collaborative problem-solving skills.

Key Stage 3 curriculum (Years 7–8)
We strive to deliver innovative and creative ways to develop the learning capacity and capabilities of our students. From September 2019 our improved Year 7 curriculum will engage students in learning how to learn, self-advocacy and skill acquisition through our Extended Programme Qualification, Personal Development Award and Study Skills Programme. This foundation to learning will create the springboard for success in Key Stage 4.

Beyond Key Stage 3
We guide students to select a range of subjects to study to exam level at Key Stage 4 (Years 9–11) to complement their core provision and to enable them to be best equipped for the next stage in their learning. This ensures engaged learners and successful outcomes.

Sport
We offer a wide range of individual and team sports to encourage every child to participate and we engage widely in local and regional competitions. The PE Department works hard to develop students’ physical capabilities and emotional resilience in both lessons and extracurricular activities. We have exceptional internal and external sports facilities at the Academy.
My son is in his fourth year at The Hastings Academy now and is nurtured and encouraged to work hard to achieve his potential.”

Parent
Inclusion and motivation

Learning for success
We strongly believe in the equal importance of every year of learning at the Academy.

We set students challenging academic targets at the beginning of every year. We then regularly monitor and review progress as they work towards graduation – an important ‘stepping stone’ in their five-year learning journey.

At the end of every academic year, graduation ceremonies celebrate continuous excellent learning habits, attendance and behaviour. In Years 7 and 8 students also celebrate successful completion of their extended programme qualification, Personal Development Award and Study Skills Programme.

Inclusion
Our Academy is committed to developing the best possible provision for students with additional learning needs in our mainstream setting. Working on the principle that every student is supported and challenged to achieve their very best, our vision is to create the opportunity for every student to excel and have a sense of achievement.

We support children with a wide range of additional needs including the provision of a specialist Speech and Language Centre to meet the needs of students with speech, language and communication needs.

The ‘Thrive’ approach
Our Academy uses the ‘Thrive’ approach to support the social and emotional development of students so that they are able to become successful learners in the classroom. This includes the provision of two designated ‘Thrive’ centres where students can receive personalised support to successfully reintegrate into their mainstream lessons.

The ‘Thrive’ approach draws on the latest research from neuroscience; attachment studies of effective learning and current models of child development. After an assessment, support strategies are disseminated to staff to help them to better understand children’s behaviour as a method of communication, and for staff to respond to a child’s emotional situation in a way that supports their emotional and social development.

‘ClassCharts’ reward shop
The ‘ClassCharts’ rewards shop is a platform for staff to award students electronic points called reward points that are redeemable on a wide selection of rewards from an online catalogue.

Students get the chance to:
• save their rewards towards items in the online shop
• donate rewards to charity
• cash in towards school trips or the prom in year 11
• choose new rewards to stock in the shop.

We use the system to ensure that students are rewarded for effort, achievement, good conduct, attendance, punctuality, attendance at clubs, revision sessions, and being good citizens. Students will have the opportunity to be awarded points through volunteering. Students manage their accounts online and parents/carers will also be able to monitor progress.
Pupils are happy and say they are safe. The school’s safeguarding procedures are highly effective.”

Ofsted 2018
Governance and our sponsor

Our governance arrangements are set by the University of Brighton Academies Trust.

Local Board
We have a Local Board that contributes to our Academy’s vision and future strategy. It is responsible for ensuring that our Academy maintains strong community links and effective communication with all stakeholders including parents and carers. It is also responsible for monitoring student wellbeing, admissions, complaints and concerns.

Local Boards include individuals from the community, including parents and carers. They are accountable to the Trust’s Board of Trustees.

Visit www.brightonacademiestrust.org.uk/locallink for information on volunteering as a Local Board member.

Board of Trustees
The Trustees are responsible for determining the Trust’s strategic direction, including overarching responsibility for the three core functions: the Trust’s vision, educational standards and financial performance.

Trustees are also responsible for ensuring the Trust complies with charity and company law, as well as its funding agreement with the Secretary of State.

The Board of Trustees includes representatives from the Trust’s sponsor and local people with a wide range of expertise.

About the University of Brighton Academies Trust
The University of Brighton Academies Trust is a network of 15 academies in Sussex all supporting each other – and their pupils – to excel. It is a multi-academy trust and a not-for-profit charitable company limited by guarantee.

The University of Brighton is the Trust’s sponsor. The University’s commitment to improving educational opportunities by supporting academies began in 2008 in Hastings and St Leonards, and has since developed to include academies in East and West Sussex.

Visit: www.brightonacademiestrust.org.uk

About the University of Brighton
The University of Brighton is a leading provider of higher education in the south east. It has 21,000 students, 2,600 staff on four campuses across Sussex and runs 500 undergraduate and postgraduate courses including teacher training, medicine, mathematics, computing, engineering and fashion.

Its School of Education has an ‘Outstanding’ rating from Ofsted for all of its early years, primary and secondary teacher training and it is ranked in the top ten universities for education courses in England in The Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide 2019 and in the top 20 in the Guardian University League Tables 2020.

Partnership working is central to the University’s mission and it has a deep commitment to helping to shape the futures and realise the potential of young people across the region.

Visit: www.brighton.ac.uk

A word from the Trust
We work collaboratively to help everyone connected to our academies achieve excellence. By working together and sharing, insights and best practice, our academies support each other to improve. We value our staff, investing in their training and development at all stages of their careers.

It is important to us that our academies have a positive impact on their communities and that pupils understand the role they can play in the wider world. We also work to ensure parents and carers are actively engaged in their child’s learning.
The next steps: broadening horizons

**Enrichment**
We offer an extensive range of enrichment opportunities both within and beyond the curriculum for all year groups. Students are introduced to new experiences to develop new skills, broaden their horizons, increase their cultural capital and support their desire to learn more about the world around them.

**Student leadership**
Students will have the opportunity to apply and be interviewed for leadership roles within the Academy; working with senior staff they will help shape the future of the Academy.

**Future employability**
All students will receive impartial and confidential careers education and guidance at key points in their learning. Our programme promotes equality of opportunity, diversity and inclusion, whilst promoting the best interests of students and inspiring them to aim high. This will take the form of timetabled lessons, one-to-one mentoring with our commissioned careers guidance service and a range of opportunities to meet with employers, local colleges and universities during enrichment activities, visits and assemblies.

We have achieved the prestigious Investors in Careers accreditation which underpins our impressive repertoire of experiences for our students.

**Admissions**
Most students join at the start of Year 7, and applications for this year group will be made in accordance with East Sussex County Council’s coordinated admissions arrangements and will be made on the Common Application Form provided and administered by East Sussex County Council’s Admissions Team. Application forms and a brochure describing the secondary admissions procedure are available from East Sussex County Council or online at: [www.eastsussex.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/admissions).

You can make your application online or by returning the completed form to the Schools Admissions Team at the county council.

**In-year admissions**
The University of Brighton Academies Trust is responsible for in-year admissions (for example an application that is made outside of the normal time of transfer between schools), in accordance with its Funding Agreement and the School Admissions Code. The administration of these applications is carried out on behalf of the Trust by East Sussex County Council’s Admissions Team. Details of these arrangements are available on the Academy’s website.

Applications for in-year admissions can be made by completing an application form which is available online at [www.thehastingsacademy.org.uk/join/admissions](http://www.thehastingsacademy.org.uk/join/admissions).

The Hastings Academy will consider all applications for places.

For further information please contact the Admissions Team at East Sussex County Council by email on admissions@eastsussex.gov.uk or phone 0300 3309472 between 10am and 3pm Monday to Friday.

Find out more about The Hastings Academy by visiting: [www.thehastingsacademy.org.uk](http://www.thehastingsacademy.org.uk)

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"Staff and senior leadership are very supportive and offer many opportunities for pupils to extend their learning and themselves."

Parent
The Hastings Academy has given me many opportunities to develop and become a more confident person.”

Student