



Aspire · Explore · Succeed

Welcome to Rushden Academy



*"It is my duty to ensure that all students at Rushden Academy receive an excellent education. We aim for all in Team Rushden to *Aspire, Explore and Succeed.*"*

Mrs J Burton
Principal

What a privilege it is to lead Rushden Academy and be part of a very special team. Our school is going from strength to strength, and this summer Team Rushden achieved record GCSE examination results. Boys outperformed girls and the English results soared above the national average, 79% of our pupils gained a standard 4 in English compared to 69% nationally. I am thrilled that pupils studying science, humanities and French subjects significantly improved on last year's GCSE examination results, and many of our year 11 pupils have returned to study here within the TENC College.

In May 2018 we joined a highly successful trust, Tove Learning Trust and together we will ensure that all pupils are provided with outstanding educational experiences that lead to outstanding outcomes. We are a stable school with hard working staff who are determined to do their best for the team.

As the Principal of Rushden Academy, I am resolute that we will deliver our pledge of outstanding leadership, excellent teaching, exemplary behaviour and great learning. Leaders are highly visible around the academy and extremely proactive in supporting staff and pupils and they are completely involved

in all aspects of the school's work. Our pupils fully understand the rules, routines and values and the anti-bullying charter is well understood. Pupils at Rushden Academy believe that bullying is rare and they know that staff will deal with incidents swiftly and effectively. Feedback from parents is exceptionally positive and we always act on suggestions to make our school even better.

We are proud of the curriculum we have on offer, not only does it deliver the content pupils need to excel in today's society it also develops their imaginations. Team Rushden produce weekly bulletins and reading through these you soon get a strong sense of our values and purpose, you will also have the opportunity to see many fantastic photos of our pupils in action in their extra-curricular activities we already offer.

Performing Arts, Art and PE continue to be strengths of our school, here pupils achieve excellent examination grades and regularly showcase performances or coach youngsters in local schools. An Ofsted inspector observed a performing arts rehearsal and wrote that 'pupils of all ages and abilities were engaged with enormous enthusiasm and enjoyment. The high standard of their performance

reflected dedication, hard work and a collaborative team spirit'.

On site you will find an outstanding 'First Friends' day nursery, a wonderful, vibrant environment where some of our pupils gain work experience. We also have our own Hair and Beauty Salon that is open to the public, our trainees gain first-hand experience and the results they gain are top class. We collaborate with local secondary schools to create a one post 16 learning community, offering a wide range and breadth of courses. This is a unique offer with an excellent tradition of examination success in AS, A2 and BTEC courses.

Our website aims to give you further insight into our values and purpose. However, to fully appreciate everything Rushden Academy can offer, I warmly invite you to come and see for yourself. I very much look forward to welcoming you and your family into our school and speaking to you personally whilst touring the school.

Mrs J Burton
Principal

Aspire, Explore and Succeed



We have a highly supportive pastoral system, which is focused on ensuring our pupils succeed and leave us as confident, articulate and aspirational young adults.

We make sure that our pupils are safe and well cared for so that they can thrive and make excellent progress here. As soon as we know that your son/daughter will be joining us we meet with their Year 6 teacher so that we can meet their needs and ensure we have a smooth transition from their primary school into Team Rushden.

All of our pupils sign up to the Team Rushden values and our Anti-bullying Charter when they arrive. We start with an assembly to introduce our pupils to our high expectations, we show them how we work together as a team with the same common goal. We want them to be, and to do, their very best whilst being fully supported. We firmly believe that it is our duty to meet the needs of our pupils. We are fortunate to have a fully trained counsellor at school and a special wellbeing centre to really support our pupils. We also have a SEND area and provide extra numeracy and literacy support to accelerate their learning skills so that they have every chance to be highly successful here.

Tutor groups are kept relatively small, pupils meet with their tutor groups twice each day, every week there is a year assembly and a year group briefing. We also value close relationships with parents and have direct email contact should you need to discuss anything with us. We use an electronic system called Go4Schools so that you can track

attendance and progress throughout the year and see exactly what homework is being set and completed. We never underestimate the power of our parents, we have a successful PTFA groups so if you are interested in joining this parent group please contact Ms Holmes in the first instance. By working together we can provide the best outcome and opportunities for your son/daughter.

From the day that your son/daughter joins the team, we work hard to make them feel valued and welcome and throughout Year 7 we closely monitor their progress and provide bespoke interventions so that they can be the best that they can possibly be.

Our pupils drive change within our school, there is a powerful pupil leadership team that regularly meet and map out improvements across the school and together Team Rushden ensures it is the school we want it to be with many opportunities for all! We have a head boy, head girl and their deputies, our pupil leader's work together with their prefects and the pupil forum to make crucial decisions to drive up standards. Everyone in Team Rushden has a role and responsibility because we have built a culture where together, students and staff are united in transforming our school. In Team Rushden we expect each member to be smart, respectful, hard-working and resilient. We are unwavering in our goal to be the best we can be. As the Principal I believe that it is our duty to ensure that every team member leaves Rushden Academy wiser, more fulfilled and ready to embrace new opportunities and take charge of their lives.



“Behaviour in lessons is good, students want to learn, and the commitment of the staff is impressive, providing the best opportunities for our students.”
Head of Sixth Form

Educating Students

Rigour and breadth characterise academic life at Rushden where students value being taught by qualified subject specialists. The academy also provides opportunities for students to develop their academic interests through lectures, workshops and field trips. The curriculum is planned to meet the needs of all students offering rich academic, creative, practical and vocational learning. We offer as wide a range of subjects possible at GCSE and beyond. All teachers are challenged to be consistently outstanding and lessons are rigorously reviewed. We believe that the modern classroom should be a stimulating blend of contemporary technology and the enduring art of good teaching. We set stretching targets for all students which are reviewed regularly, with parents kept well informed.

Years 7-8

These years are devoted to the development of key skills and immersion in all that the curriculum offers. Students are guided through an options programme in preparation for their GCSEs. We offer a wide range of subjects which are taught in all-ability groups except for core subjects which are taught in sets. Foreign languages offered are French and Spanish. As a minimum, teaching in all subjects follows the National Curriculum.

Years 9-11

Students spend three years studying for their GCSEs. The majority of students follow a core curriculum of English, Mathematics and Science, Humanities and languages (English Baccalaureate) plus a number of options. Throughout Year 11 pupils are mentored for success and post-16 choices.

Sixth Form

Our Sixth Form is highly successful. It offers a rich mix of A level and BTEC Level 2 and 3 qualifications - supported by stimulating enrichment courses - in preparation for university and quality careers. The majority of Rushden students stay here for Sixth Form, joined by a significant number of new students from other secondary schools in the area.

Further details of the curriculum can be found on the academy website www.rushden-academy.net



Team Rushden

Outstanding leadership, excellent teaching, exemplary behaviour, great learning.

Be the best you can be



Extra-curricular and enrichment

We aim to provide many and varied opportunities so that every boy and girl at Rushden Academy aspires and is able to realise new interests and achieve great things! We have an extensive lunchtime and after school extra-curricular programme ranging from debates to lively sporting activities. Every day the library is buzzing with pupils, there are opportunities to play board games, join in with quizzes and if preferred to have quiet time in the book club. Every subject offers something to do, there is absolutely no way you can be bored at Rushden Academy as there is something for everyone, and if you think of something that we may have missed we will endeavour to get that going too.

Competitive team sport is popular with regular fixtures against local schools. We

have athletics, badminton, football, netball, rounders and rugby school teams. Whilst we are very proud of individuals who achieve sporting success both regionally and nationally in these and other sports, we also value the commitment of all those who give their best to an activity they enjoy.

Drama thrives in our strong performing arts department. Students have opportunities to take part in workshops and whole-school productions. Recent successes include *Our House* and *Grease*; this year we will be performing *'The Addams Family'* with our hair and beauty department providing fantastic makeovers. The academy has taken part in The National Theatre Connections 500 project and regularly has students selected for the National Youth Theatre. We have

recently performed and filmed *'Add me'* for the Police to use in their national campaign educating youngsters about stranger danger. This year we are performing at the Rushden War Memorial at the end of September. We are very keen to get involved in community projects so that our pupils gain a wealth and breadth of experience so that they can make informed choices about their futures beyond Rushden Academy.

Music is a popular after-school activity with an orchestra and jazz band, this year we are determined to set up a school choir too. Peripatetic music teachers visit to give private instrumental lessons too. Our art department fosters talent both in and out of lesson time, our most recent addition is photography and that is already proving to be a big success.

Something for everyone...



Over the last 2 years we have hosted a large careers and enterprise event in order to inform our youngsters about potential career and learn more about the world of work. We also provide opportunities to coach primary school pupils in sport and gain direct experience in the on-site nursery working with children there. We want our pupils to explore other cultures and offer a range of overseas trips including Uganda, Paris and Berlin. Pupils are also encouraged to participate in the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme, this is proving to be increasingly popular.



Sixth Form

Sixth Form Rushden Academy is very proud of its Sixth Form which achieves excellent results year on year. We aim high for all our students to ensure our preparation for their futures is first class. They form a great community who clearly enjoy the benefits of academy life at Rushden. They demonstrate strong qualities of leadership and responsibility.

On accepting your child into the academy we make a seven year commitment that he/she is provided with a superb education equipping them to continue studying at university or have a good career apprenticeship.

Through the East Northamptonshire College we are developing models of excellence for all our young people. Motivational speakers from universities, business and industry regularly address our students.

We publish a separate Sixth Form prospectus in which students may view the options available to them as they plan their next steps in Year 11. They are guided by our Sixth Form team leaders. Every student, together with their parents, is offered the opportunity to meet with the Principal to help them make the right personal choices.





Beyond Rushden

Each year an ever-growing number of students go on to higher education when they leave Rushden Academy, with more applying for university and an increase in applications to Russell Group universities. In the past few years students have gone to the Universities of Birmingham, Cambridge, Cardiff, Durham, Manchester and Nottingham.

Students are encouraged to start thinking early in their school careers about their future direction. They have timetabled periods on development and career-related matters, work experience opportunities, the UCAS process, university visits and practice interviews, and talks by many different industry specialists.

Year 12 students are expected to complete the Extended Project Qualification, a mini-dissertation researched and written on a subject of their own choice, or through the General Studies syllabus expand and develop their thinking skills as part of their preparation for further education.

All students also complete an additional enrichment programme which involves voluntary work in the community, supporting younger students in the academy as well as building essential knowledge and skill sets to make them readily employable.



Admissions

Moving from primary to secondary school is an exciting and significant event. Rushden Academy recognises this as an important milestone and aims to make the transition as smooth and problem free as possible with a mix of open days and evenings, tours, visits to primary schools, induction days and information evenings.

For parents and children in Years 5 and 6 key dates are in September/October when we hold our open evening for prospective parents and Year 5 and 6 students.

For more information on Rushden Academy visit www.rushden-academy.net, email us at info@rushden-academy.net or call 01933 350391.

Deadline for applications

The end of October is the deadline for applications for places at Rushden

Academy for Year 7 the following September. Applications are possible after this date but they will be treated as late admissions under the Local Authority's agreed procedures. Pupils are admitted without reference to ability, aptitude or culture.

Where to apply

Applications within the normal admissions round for entry into Year 7 are made through the co-ordinated admissions system of the Local Authority in which a family lives.

www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/admissions

"My children are thriving at Rushden Academy and I couldn't be happier with my choice of school for them. The support and dedication of the staff is helping them to be the best they can be."

Parent

"Rushden is a place where I enjoy learning. English lessons are my favourite - I love exploring how creative writers develop characters who produce an emotional response in the reader."

Student

Aspire, Explore, Succeed

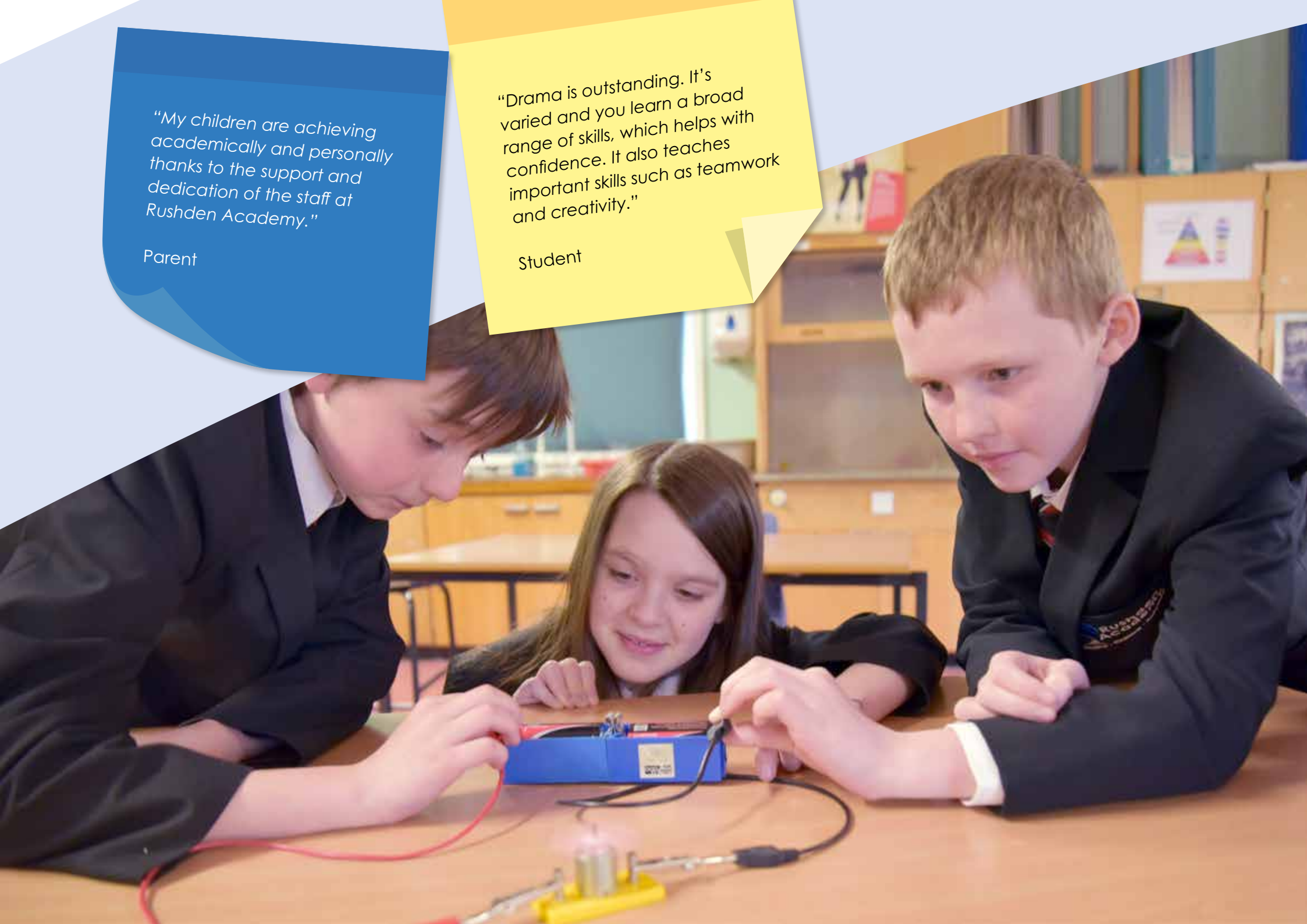


"My children are achieving academically and personally thanks to the support and dedication of the staff at Rushden Academy."

Parent

"Drama is outstanding. It's varied and you learn a broad range of skills, which helps with confidence. It also teaches important skills such as teamwork and creativity."

Student



Team Rushden

Team Rushden means:

- Outstanding Leadership
- Excellent Teaching
- Exemplary Behaviour
- Focussed Support
- Great Learning

Team Rushden demands:

- ✓ Smart
- ✓ Respectful
- ✓ Hard-working and resilient
- ✓ Team players

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