



# **RYE HILLS** **ACADEMY**

2024 Prospectus





# Welcome to **RYE HILLS ACADEMY**

Welcome to Rye Hills Academy where, as Headteacher, I am delighted to be leading this fantastic school to an outstanding future.

Since our sponsorship by the North East Learning Trust two years ago, Rye Hills has been on a journey of rapid improvement. The Trust echoes our ambitions for students and we work closely together to secure 'excellence for every child every day'. From new resources and facilities, including exciting upgrades to our school building, to significant improvements in results, Rye Hills is a place that the people of Redcar can really believe in.

I am a parent myself, so I understand that choosing a school for our children is one of the most important decisions we make. I'd therefore like you to know that I am personally ambitious for every child, including yours, and that each student, regardless of their abilities and individual needs,

has an equal chance to shine and reach their full potential at this school.

Our teachers and support staff work hard to ensure that students leave Rye Hills as resilient young adults ready to tackle the inevitable challenges of life. I personally place huge importance on building character, integrity and the sense of responsibility students need to play a positive role as a member of their family, their school, and as good citizens in wider society.

This brochure will give you a glimpse into school life here at Rye Hills Academy, but to see for yourself the expertise and opportunities that exist as well as our enthusiasm for teaching and learning, please visit us at our open evening.

A handwritten signature in white ink, appearing to read 'Hijab Zaheer'.

**Hijab Zaheer, Headteacher**

# The Rye Hills EXPERIENCE

**Everything we do at Rye Hills Academy is tailored to ensure students flourish, feel happy about coming into school, enjoy learning, make good friends, and build treasured memories.**

We pride ourselves on the positive relationships between staff and students and our behaviour system promotes a friendly, purposeful atmosphere. We reward students through our half-term honours, celebration breakfasts, FunTime LunchTime and Rye Hills recognition scheme.

We know success is built through a strong partnership between parents, staff and students and, by working together, we will be able to build the best foundations to ensure our students are successful.

Our broad and balanced curriculum is designed to secure academic excellence and to develop the personal skills students need to be good citizens to succeed in life.

We believe every student can succeed with dedicated teachers, and the right support and encouragement.

We'll get the basics right of course, but we'll also nurture the skills and aptitudes they have that make them different from their peers. Maybe it's their sporting prowess, a flair for art or performance, a musical talent, an interest in business or entrepreneurship, or simply that they're a committed bookworm. Whatever it is that makes your child tick, we'll bring out the best in them.

We are very proud of the high number of students who go on to study at university, college, or an apprenticeship.

We believe our success should be measured by the extent to which we support the learning and development of the young people of our community, so that they become confident and considerate adults in society. Our student leadership opportunities and extra-curricular programme achieve just that!

Rye Hills Academy is an inclusive school that responds to the needs of all of our students, regardless of their abilities or starting points. We are committed to ensuring that children with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) make excellent progress and employ a range of proven strategies to achieve this.





A large, stylized star graphic in shades of blue and teal, positioned in the upper left corner of the page.

# Our vision & VALUES

**Our vision is simple and shared by all schools in the North East Learning Trust – it is that ‘every child experiences excellence every day’.**

At Rye Hills this fundamental belief stands as the cornerstone of every decision we make. Our dedicated staff, with support from the North East Learning Trust, are determined to ensure your child thrives and flourishes.

Our vision is supported by a set of values that set the tone for learning. These start with the important job of encouraging students to aim high and make the most of their talents.

We provide students with an education that enables each of them to achieve their full potential and learn with confidence in a safe and supportive environment.

We create a healthy, happy, disciplined, environment that promotes an independent work ethic and a love of learning. Alongside this, we nurture students’ sense of social responsibility and their spiritual and personal development.

Our final value is about respect and teaching children to value individuality and difference as well as fostering integrity, resilience, creativity, good manners and sensitivity to the needs of others.

# Support & GUIDANCE

**We believe that everyone has the right to be respected and to be treated fairly and equally. We therefore create a caring and inclusive environment where diversity is valued and where everyone feels secure, listened to and taken seriously.**

Our experienced pastoral team support all aspects of our students' needs. We have a dedicated team of specialists, including a Trust nurse, access to counselling services, attendance officers and pastoral year managers.

Our staff are friendly and approachable and ensure the safety and well-being of our students.

Regardless of their starting points or individual abilities, students are given equal opportunities to excel and are encouraged to be ambitious and to aim high.

We believe that looking after the individual means that success looks after itself, so we place much emphasis on personalised support.

Your child's safety and happiness is our priority and our pastoral team work hard to ensure each child reaches their potential.

Our pastoral team is here to listen, guide and support. Our progress leaders, heads of department and careers leader are equally determined to make sure your child excels.





# Moving up from PRIMARY

**The move from primary school to secondary is a significant one so we work hard to ensure that the transition process is as smooth as possible.**

Successful adjustment from a small primary school to the hustle and bustle of 'big school' begins in Year 5 with a variety of exciting and engaging activities, delivered by Rye Hills staff, which introduce children to new types of learning.

We then invite our Year 6 students into Rye Hills for a period at the end of the summer term so that they can follow their Year 7 timetable and begin to build relationships with their form tutor and peers, breaking down many of the barriers that may worry them over their summer holidays.

These sessions give children a real understanding of how the school

looks and feels as well as the chance to meet their new teachers and fellow students.

We also offer 'Moving Up' sessions for parents and students. These informal meetings focus on the pastoral and academic aspects of the school as well as study skills.

There is also a popular induction evening where students can meet their tutors and the rest of their tutor group. Year 6 pupils are well looked after on their transition days by our older students and student leadership team who are always around to offer a helping hand.

# Getting involved

**Key to keeping students motivated is kindling a special interest beyond the curriculum that will absorb them throughout their time at Rye Hills. We are delighted to offer an extensive range of extra-curricular clubs. Here is a taste of what's on offer:**



**Dance Club**



**Fitness Club**



**Football**



**Art Club**



**Retro Games Club**



**Drama Club**



**STEM Club**



**Badminton**



**Running Club**



**Music Club**



**Guitar Club**



**Piano Club**



**Reading Clubs**



**Homework Club**



## Leadership opportunities

Students at Rye Hills Academy are given opportunities to develop leadership skills through becoming student council representatives as well as a range of other opportunities culminating in Year 10 and 11 with our student leadership team. The varied roles allow the team to support other students as school ambassadors, reading and homework supporters, sports leaders, friendship champions, charity fundraisers, and diversity advocates to name a few. These develop students' leadership skills as well as enabling them to listen to the valuable opinions and perspectives of other students, raise awareness of issues that are important to students and initiate change.



# British values

**Schools are now expected to focus on, and be able to show, how we work with students to effectively embed fundamental British values into learning. The four key areas students at Rye Hills will explore are:**

## **1. Democracy**

At Rye Hills Academy, we promote the core values of a democratic society. Through our entire school ethos, PSHE programme and individual subject curricula, students are encouraged to share their voice in shaping our school community. Students explore historical examples of different styles of government and are provided with the opportunity to partake in and run mock elections.

Students also have the opportunity to apply for the roles of head/leading students and be

active members of our student leadership team or Student Council, supporting the school with decision making - most recently with selection of the new school uniform.

## **2. Rule of law**

Students are fully immersed in the understanding of rules and the importance of such for everyday life. Through regular reinforcement across the curriculum, coupled with a strong pastoral team, students are aware of consequences and rewards.


Within our PSHE programme, students are provided with the

opportunity to explore the justice system e.g. via active role play in a mock trial. Furthermore, students explore human rights and how laws are made linking to politics and current affairs.

## **3. Individual liberty**

Our school ethos and community is built on strongly supporting our students so that they celebrate difference and their individual, unique, accolades and skills.

We invest a great deal of time in creating a positive culture in our school so that children are in a safe environment. As soon as we know about anything, we deal with it.



Achievements and efforts are highly celebrated with rewards, – all are regularly acknowledged and honoured through our varied and diverse assembly programme.

We offer a wide-range of extra-curricular clubs and activities which students have the freedom to choose from based on their talents and interests.

Finally, our curriculum allows all learners the opportunity and support to become independent, lifelong learners and inquisitive young people.

#### **4. Mutual respect and tolerance**

Mutual respect is at the core of our school community where students learn to treat each other, and staff, with tolerance and great respect.

Kindness is of the utmost importance and referred to on a daily basis allowing students to feel comfortable and confident in their own skills/abilities. This is evident when walking around the school and in the classrooms.

Visitors to the school often comment on how polite and well-mannered our students are, as well as complimenting their conduct at open evenings, parents' evenings or during extra-curricular activities.

Students are encouraged to discover topics such as conspiracy and fake news, understanding peer pressure and where to access support alongside discussion on discrimination.

Our school is a happy and safe place and our students are our greatest ambassadors.

# What our teachers think makes **RYE HILLS SPECIAL...**

**"I am and will always be proud to be part of the Rye Hills family. To work with such dedicated staff and teach such fantastic students is a blessing and I wouldn't want to be anywhere else!"**

**Mrs Haslam**

**"I am proud of how well the staff work together as a team and how inclusive we are as a school. We work hard to ensure that all students and staff feel like they belong."**

**Miss Lovell**

**"Rye Hills doesn't just prepare students for the next academic step, but for a life of learning and enjoyment."**

**"I enjoy teaching students at Rye Hills as they are open minded and keen to learn. Students are intrigued about the world around them, ask thoughtful questions, and develop reflective answers. They enjoy being challenged and can form considerate and well supported opinions. Every student has their own curious view about the world yet they are respectful and tolerant of others." Mrs Jackson**

**"Something which stuck with me was from an outgoing Year 11 who thanked us for speaking to them like adults rather than children. They appreciated our willingness to discuss not just classroom topics, but to talk to them about the wider world. It proved that we have good relationships and how important those relationships are in shaping our young people."**

**Mrs McGravey**

**"We're part of a fantastic community."**

**"Rye Hills Academy students will try anything! They love to learn and love to show us how far they've come."**

**Mrs Gell**

**"I have worked here for 18 years and I feel like it's a family. I have taught some wonderful children and the staff go the extra mile...always!"**

**"Working at Rye Hills is a pleasure as I get to spend my days surrounded by like-minded colleagues who all work hard to ensure the students we teach get the best - which is what they deserve. Our pupils are amazing and it's a pleasure to see them grow and develop into young adults."**

**"Staff take pride in the school and the progress students make."**



# Supported by the **North East Learning Trust**

**Rye Hills Academy is part of the North East Learning Trust (NELT), a successful family of 12 schools across the North East.**

NELT has a proven track record of school improvement with all schools under their wing having sustained or improved their Ofsted gradings at their first inspection following sponsorship.

NELT is widely regarded providing some of the best education in the county, and indeed the country, with children making significant progress from their starting points, achieving impressive exam results, and going on to access a range of well-respected further and higher education opportunities including courses at some of the UK's most elite universities.

The Trust is also heavily involved with teacher development. It boasts its very own teacher training arm, North East SCITT, that trains the next generation of teachers and ensures the highest standards of teaching are instilled from the outset. It is a National Teaching School Hub,

one of 87 centres of excellence across England that provide high quality training and development to teachers throughout their career. Not only that, but the Trust's founding school, The Academy at Shotton Hall, is a National Research School, one of just 23 in England, that up-skill teachers using cutting-edge research.

Joining the Trust has given Rye Hills Academy access to outstanding leaders who are involved in the regional and national development of education. The Trust CEO, Lesley Powell CBE, is a member of many regional and national education boards and advisory groups. The CEO and Deputy CEO are National Leaders of Education and the Trust also employs a wide network of specialist teachers and other experienced professionals to support schools on their paths to becoming outstanding.



# **RYE HILLS** ACADEMY

## **Rye Hills Academy**

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**[www.ryehillsacademy.co.uk](http://www.ryehillsacademy.co.uk)**

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