



A valued member of the

**Brooke Weston Trust**



# Welcome

The education of your child is one of the most important decisions you will make as a parent and I am delighted that you are considering Brooke Weston Academy.

The vision of our founders was to create a school that relentlessly focused on helping every student meet their potential in order to open up a lifetime of opportunities.

For more than 25 years, Brooke Weston Academy's staff and students have risen to this challenge and turned our founders' vision into reality.

Today, Brooke Weston Academy is one of the most successful comprehensive schools in the country. Our focus on outstanding teaching, deep pastoral care and a creative curriculum means that every student thrives.

We work hard to develop curiosity, a love of learning, resilience and kindness in our students. Brooke Weston Academy's success has been recognised with an outstanding judgement from Ofsted and we are helping lead the education system

through our work as the lead school of the Brooke Weston Teaching School Alliance.

We are proud of our academic record and our results in both Year 11 and the Sixth Form are outstanding. However, we are about so much more than just academic success. Day to day the academy is filled with students participating in vibrant music, arts and drama, as well as engaging lessons in science, maths and the humanities among others. The academy offers an extensive range of sports, charity events, trips and expeditions, all of which combine to create a caring and highly successful academy.

This prospectus will provide you with an insight into Brooke Weston Academy but, to really learn about us, you must come and visit us.

**Mr Peter Kirkbride**  
Principal

**Ofsted**

*'Brooke Weston Academy provides students with an outstanding education.'*

2011



*We are determined that a handful of years spent at Brooke Weston Academy will open the door to a lifetime of achievement and opportunity.*



## Our vision

Brooke Weston Academy opened in 1991 with the aim of providing 'a stimulating learning environment which maximises individual potential'. This aim has not changed and at Brooke Weston Academy, we believe that we provide a unique educational experience.

Brooke Weston Academy is different because of its ethos, which centres on mutual respect and hard work and results in a calm and productive atmosphere. Everyone is expected to respect each other and the school equipment. Teachers and students work towards a common aim. Teachers do not have a staff room that separates them from the students, but work in the study areas and classrooms.

Sixth Form students do not have a common room. Classrooms are not locked and facilities, such as computers, are available for students to use, before, during and after the formal school day. Students are expected to treat the facilities with care, and the trust that is placed in them is well founded.

Our vision is of an academy that provides a stimulating learning experience. One that places learning and teaching at the heart of everything we do; where the focus is on securing the very best academic progress and personal development for every student... an academy where we all care enough to challenge and where we are driven to securing the best outcomes for all.

We are determined that a handful of years spent at Brooke Weston Academy will open the door to a lifetime of achievement and opportunity.

### This is through:

- a relentless pursuit of excellence;
- being ambassadors of aspiration, excellence and resilience;
- ensuring everyone shares the highest expectations and absolute belief that, given the right conditions to flourish, all can and will go on to do so;
- providing a broad, balanced and relevant curriculum which inspires, challenges, engages and develops a full range of skills and abilities;
- encouraging students to take ownership, pride and responsibility for their own learning;
- devising flexible, differentiated and responsive routes through the curriculum;
- equipping students with the skills, knowledge, attitudes and resilience necessary to succeed as individuals and as responsible and valued members of society, in a world coping with increasing change;
- ensuring that students and staff are safe and secure and operate within a mutually supportive and respectful environment;
- allowing students to discover that they are capable of more than even they themselves thought possible and believing that success can be for everyone;
- developing close links with the community, particularly parents and local employers.

## Our building

We are very proud of our building and facilities, which are modern and kept in pristine condition. Visitors are usually surprised that the building is more than 25 years old and everyone benefits from working in a clean and cared-for environment.

Brooke Weston Academy sits within acres of well-maintained grounds that are invaluable for sports, science and nature studies. The building is also exceptional, forming a pentagon around a central courtyard. Each two-storey section is connected by a glass link block. Each department is located along its own designated corridor and most contain a study area with computers and soft seating.

### Specialist facilities

We have state-of-the-art science laboratories, an electronics studio, wood and metal workshops, dedicated textile and cookery rooms, drama and dance studios, a music technology suite and music practice rooms.

### Sports facilities

Sports facilities are also excellent. As well as the indoor sports hall there are also all weather sports pitches outside, plus cricket nets and other grass pitches which are used by students during the day, and by the community at evenings and weekends. The latest addition is a modern fitness suite in its own separate building. This is used by the Sixth Form and the local community.

### Restaurant

Our restaurant provides a wide choice of food for both breakfast and lunch. Students may eat the restaurant food, which is very good and competitively priced, or bring their own food to eat in the restaurant.

### The Newman Library

This is a well-stocked resource, with the latest books, magazines, DVDs and audio recordings. It is equipped with banks of fixed computers used for lessons and self-study and laptops that may be loaned out for a lesson. We also have a 300-seater theatre, a smaller lecture theatre and a boardroom.





## Our Academy day

Brooke Weston Academy has an innovative term structure and working day. We have five terms per academic year. Each term is eight weeks long, followed by a two-week break with the exception of the summer holiday, which is usually four weeks long.

The school day starts at 8:35am and ends at 4:05pm. There are five lessons, a 15-minute break for breakfast and a 30 minute break for lunch, plus assembly and tutor time. Our students do not have 'playtimes' as the emphasis is on creating a professional atmosphere. This also means an uninterrupted school day, greater concentration and fewer opportunities for behavioural issues or bullying to arise.

Students are able to use the school facilities from 7:15am until 6pm, Monday to Thursday, and until 4:15pm on a Friday. This extra time enables them to take part in the numerous clubs and activities that operate beyond the formal taught day, or to continue with their own private study.

Our longer school day means that, over the course of five years, our students have the equivalent of an extra year of tuition compared with the timetables of most schools. This has a tremendous impact on their educational outcomes.

School Day		Times
Pre 08:30	Travel to school	- 08:30
Lesson 1	Includes 15 minute breakfast taken in rotation by different classes	08:35 - 10:05
Assembly	Lower School Assembly. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday	10:05 - 10:20
Lesson 2		10:20 - 11:35
Tutor Time	Lower School Tutor Time. Wednesday 11.20am to 11.50am	11:20 - 11:50
Lesson 3	Includes 30 minute lunch taken in rotation by different classes	11:50 - 13:35
Lesson 4		13:35 - 14:50
Lesson 5		14:50 - 16:05
16:05	End of school day	16:05
Post 16:05	Monday to Thursday only. Private study time and extra curricular activities	16:05 - 18:00
18:00	All students to vacate the premises by 18:00	- 18:00

### Transport



Students can arrive at school on foot, by bicycle, car or on the school buses which pick up at stops throughout the catchment area. Parents will need to pay if they wish their child to use the buses.

Details on routes and prices will be in the information pack supplied to our new intake students.

### Equipment



Every student is allocated their own locker and they will need to supply their own padlock for security. Students are expected to leave possessions in their locker except for the equipment they need for their immediate lessons.

They will need to supply their own stationery, including pens, pencils and a calculator. No valuables should be brought to Brooke Weston Academy as we cannot take responsibility if they are mislaid or damaged. Mobile phones must not be used in the school, and, if brought, should be switched off and placed in lockers until the end of the school day.

All students are issued with a multi-functional 'smart card' that includes an information chip and their photograph. This is required to register attendance and it also acts as a bus pass, a library card and a payment card for the restaurant.

Payment can be loaded onto the card either via standing order, through the on-line 'Wise Pay' facility or by cheque or cash presented at our finance office.

Students cannot use each other's cards. If the card is lost, any balance can be reloaded onto a replacement.

### Tutor Group



The role of the form tutor is key at Brooke Weston Academy. As there are no pastoral Heads of Year, the tutor deals with all pastoral issues. They are supported by their Head of Department and, if necessary, the Senior Management Team. The tutor takes the role of 'parent in school' for the tutees in their care. Every student is placed in a tutor group of approximately 24 students. The tutor meets with the tutor group on a daily basis and acts as their advocate providing advice, guidance and discipline if necessary.

Tutors track student attendance and their progress across all subjects. They are also the link between home and school. Communication with parents is very important and we value the support we receive from the parent body. Where possible, students stay with the same tutor as they move up the school, so they get to know each other really well. We also have an 11-16 student care team if students need any extra support.

### Uniform



There are clear dress standards at Brooke Weston Academy and everyone is expected to dress in a professional way. The uniform for Years 7 to 11 consists of basic black trousers/skirt and shoes, teamed with a plain white shirt and a Brooke Weston Academy tie and jumper. For sports lessons, each student should wear Brooke Weston Academy sports kit and provide their own trainers. In Years 12 and 13, students do not have a set uniform but are required to dress in formal business attire. All students are expected to maintain a neat and tidy appearance with no extreme piercings, tattoos or hair styles. Hair dye, if used, should be of a natural tone.

*"Without a staffroom you develop good relationships with teachers which helps with your studies."*

**Year 12 student**



## Enrichment and learning outside the classroom



At Brooke Weston Academy we enrich students' learning by providing a range of opportunities including lectures from visiting professionals, educational challenges, projects and residential.

Brooke Weston Academy students are encouraged to take an active part in community life. They perform at dance and musical events, visit residential homes, assist at animal shelters and help local primary children with sports activities. We also encourage them to consider those less fortunate than themselves. This is reinforced in assemblies and by multi-day collections that raise money for local and national charities and good causes.

There are weekly clubs in subjects including dance, maths, chess, art and debating that take place after school and details of these are posted daily on the screens around the building.

Participation in the arts is also an important part of the Brooke Weston Academy experience. Each year, talented students have many opportunities to perform in concerts and dance shows organised by our excellent Performing Arts department. Our most recent production of 'Grease' was a huge success and involved more than 100 students and staff.

Older students may opt to join the very successful Brooke Weston Trust Combined Cadet Force (CCF) which teaches military skills and disciplines and allows students to join up with those from other schools across the Trust to take part in drills, firing exercises and training camps.

## Trips, residential and expeditions



Trips and visits underpin the curriculum and provide our students with a broad experience of the world around them. These trips may include visits to museums, art galleries, historic venues and places of worship, as well as universities, sporting arenas, the Houses of Parliament and language schools.

The curriculum is also enhanced by trips to theatre and dance performances. Year 11 students are supported with work related learning opportunities and experiences.

In Year 7 students are encouraged to attend a four-day trip to Fairthorne Manor, an activity centre near Southampton. Students have a chance to participate in adventurous activities such as kayaking, abseiling, raft building and camping. This plays a vital part in bonding the tutor group and helping them to get to know their tutor at the start of their time at Brooke Weston Academy.

Year 8 students are usually offered a trip to France and other year groups are offered an option of going on other cultural, educational or sporting trips and recent ones have visited Marbella, Costa Brava and Germany.

For several years we have run month-long expeditions for our older students to destinations across the globe. Recent ones have been to Peru, the Galapagos Islands, Borneo and, most recently Tanzania. Part of this experience is that the students have to raise money for, and organise the trip themselves, with guidance from an expedition leader and Brooke Weston Academy staff.

## Care, welfare and inclusion for all



Students who need more support in numeracy and literacy are provided with one to one tuition to build up their confidence. We have a dedicated team of staff for this, plus some Sixth Form students who are trained as 'Reading Leaders'. These sessions are invaluable and are a non-threatening way of boosting younger students' understanding.

Students who have an exceptional ability are supported and challenged in lessons with enhanced tasks. We also encourage their aspirations by organising trips to university campuses to give them a chance to see higher education in action. Other activities aimed at our high ability students include the UKMT Maths Challenge, a 'Target Mars' science day, and workshops and lectures from visiting professionals.

## Attendance



Outstanding attendance at Brooke Weston Academy is an important focus and part of our day-to-day approach. Students are given the knowledge to understand correlations between attendance and achievement; this is done through a range of Academy forums and strategies. Our ethos towards attendance is reinforced by a thorough system, with an emphasis on home-school communication. All students are expected to work towards a minimum target of over 96.5% for each academic year.

## Careers guidance



Careers education and guidance is provided as part of the curriculum and we have our own on-site advisor who offers information on opportunities, university courses and apprenticeships, along with one-to-one support for students seeking employment. All services are delivered impartially in line with Government requirements.

## Safeguarding



Safeguarding is paramount at Brooke Weston Academy. We are committed to promoting the welfare of all students and the Academy has robust safeguarding systems. All Academy staff recognise the importance of students being offered the correct support and we place our duty of care at the heart of everything we do. Students are guided towards appropriate avenues of support and are provided with the knowledge to keep themselves safe in a range of situations.

Further information regarding safeguarding at Brooke Weston Academy can be found on the school's website. Alternatively please contact the school to speak to one of our Designated Safeguarding Leads.



*I love the learning techniques and positive mood from teachers.*

**Year 8 student**



## Curriculum Years 7 to 11

We aspire for every student to reach their full potential and we expect students to share this goal. To support them, we offer a full curriculum to students in Years 7 and 8, providing tuition in core subjects such as English, maths and science, PE and a modern foreign language (either French or Spanish).

At the end of Year 8, students undergo an options process to choose which subjects to focus on in Year 9 when they start their GCSE studies. This process is carried out through consultation with tutors and subject teachers to determine the best path for them. In lessons students choose to work at one of five performance levels; (foundation, standard, extended, advanced or exceptional).

They will complete differing tasks according to the level at which they are working and their results are tracked and supported. Each student also has an aspirational target that they are encouraged to meet or exceed.

*Brooke Weston Academy offers fantastic facilities and the staff offer constant support to help us learn in the best way possible.*

**Year 10 student**



## Sixth Form

At Brooke Weston Academy we work hard to ensure that the transition from Year 11 into the Sixth Form enables students to develop the specific skills needed to achieve their target grades and broaden their experiences. Sixth Form students will enjoy more independence in their choice of learning. We recognise that they have many demands on their time and we will work with them to ensure that they are able to experience a range of activities alongside their academic studies. Students joining us in Year 12 visit the school individually with their parents as part of the application process. Following the publication of GCSE results, they will be invited to a special familiarisation day prior to the main Sixth Form induction day. Here they will meet other new students and have the opportunity to get used to the building, choose their options and adjust to the expectations at Brooke Weston Academy.

### IEC Programme

Inspiration, Endeavour and Community is an enrichment programme to broaden the educational qualifications of Sixth Form students at Brooke Weston Academy. Inspiration can be considered as any activity that allows a student to display creativity, including projects around the arts, music and performance. Endeavour can include participation in individual and team sports, taking part in expeditions and involvement

in local or international projects. Community is involvement in helping others and includes voluntary work.

The IEC was developed in response to an increasing demand by universities and employers for students with 'employability' skills such as leadership, organisation and management skills to support their academic qualifications. This means being able to demonstrate skills that are useful in a wide range of work and learning scenarios.

Inspiration, Endeavour and Community activities on offer in the Sixth Form at Brooke Weston Academy include professional and primary school placements; lower school mentoring; community and voluntary work; the Young Enterprise and Duke of Edinburgh's Award schemes; sports teams; charity fundraising team; Engineering Education Scheme; Library internship and the Corby Woodland Project. Activities offered are subject to student and teacher commitment and may be subject to change.





# Our history

## Our founders

Brooke Weston Academy was founded in 1991 with the support of Hugh de Capell Brooke and Garry Weston, and the school owes a great deal to their foresight and generosity.

Hugh de Capell Brooke was a local land owner who donated the site and substantial cash underwriting to ensure the building began. He and his family committed more land to complete the environmental developments around the site including the Newman Library. A strong supporter of Brooke Weston Academy, Hugh de Capell Brooke died in 2014, but his family continues to take a very active interest in the achievements of all our students.

Garry Weston was chairman of Associated British Foods. He died in February 2002 and is remembered for his unflinching support for Brooke Weston Academy, of which he was always very proud. His generosity extended beyond the initial sponsorship; he supported the initial construction of the astro-turf, the humanities and ICT block and the Newman Library. The Weston family continues to be strong supporters of all that we do.

## BWT Teaching School Alliance

Brooke Weston Academy was one of the UK's first Teaching Schools, originally designated in 2011 to offer training and professional support for teachers from across the region. Our re-designation in 2014 was in recognition of its impact and outstanding track record in teaching and learning, leadership development, continuous professional development and school-to-school support initiatives, all of which resulted in improved outcomes for learners.

The Teaching School continues to forge strong collaborative partnerships across the region and in key priority areas both locally and regionally. Through these partnerships the Teaching School aims to further develop a strategic multi-faceted approach to provide support for schools and tackle underperformance, ensuring all children are provided with a service which represents the best educational practice.



# The Brooke Weston Trust



Hugh de Capell Brooke



Garfield Weston

The Brooke Weston Trust is a family of primary and secondary schools in Northamptonshire and Cambridgeshire. All our schools work hard to provide the best educational opportunities and life chances for the young people in their care. As a Trust we seek to 'make a difference' and are proud to work with children of all backgrounds and abilities. Our staff challenge themselves with one question every day by asking 'is the service I am providing good enough for my own child?' When the answer is 'yes', we are pleased but not complacent, when it is 'no' we leave no stone unturned to make rapid improvements.

The Trust is founded on five core values, which are: Ambition for All, High Expectations, Excellent Teaching and Support, Working Together and Contributing to Society. The values direct every area of our work from every classroom to the boardroom.

Our fantastic young people are at the heart of everything we do. Life in each school is very busy and students can also take part in Trust-wide activities including trips, curriculum days and competitions that are great opportunities for making friends from other schools and sharing learning, new experiences or sporting success.

We promote a strong culture of professional collaboration amongst our staff that ensures the most appropriate and skilled people within the Trust are involved in key decision making and supporting other colleagues. Being part of a multi-academy Trust gives all our employees greater access to a wide range of high quality training and experience of working in very different educational settings.

The Trust's daily operation is supported by a small but dedicated Central Team delivering core services such as finance, IT, estates management and welfare.

Brooke Weston Academy at Great Oakley in Northamptonshire was our founding school and our sponsors Hugh de Capell Brooke and Garfield Weston were instrumental in bringing high quality, innovative state-funded education to the area. The Trust continues to enjoy the support of their families who retain seats on the board and are represented by Alexander de Capell Brooke and Guy and George Weston. The Brooke Weston Trust was established in 2008 and is led by Dr Andrew Campbell.

*Our staff challenge themselves with one question every day by asking 'is the service I am providing good enough for my own child?'*



## Primary Schools

- ▶ Beanfield Primary School
- ▶ Compass Primary Academy
- ▶ Gretton Primary School
- ▶ Oakley Vale Primary School
- ▶ Peckover Primary School

## Secondary Schools

- ▶ Brooke Weston Academy
- ▶ Corby Business Academy
- ▶ Corby Technical School
- ▶ Kettering Science Academy
- ▶ Thomas Clarkson Academy





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