Welcome to University Academy Keighley, I am delighted to introduce this year’s prospectus which gives you a flavour of what we are all about here at UAK. As the new Principal I believe that every child has talent and potential; I am committed to ensuring that our students achieve. We value our links with partner primary schools and look forward to helping our new students to settle in quickly and happily so that they are ready to work hard and achieve their very best.

We are relentless in our ambition that all of our learners will achieve and grow into well-rounded and responsible young people ready to take their places as leaders of the future. We are passionate about doing our best for each individual and we want every one of our students to learn, be challenged, think creatively and to embrace new opportunities. As a small school we get to know our students as individuals really well; we give them the encouragement and the personalised support they need to be successful.

Examination results are improving rapidly here at UAK, we are on the up! If you want your child to join a caring and supportive school then I think you will see that we have much to offer.

Partnership with families is vital to a student’s success, it makes so much difference to the learning outcomes of a young person. I look forward to meeting you and working with you in the years to come.

Linda Wallsgrove
Principal

From our Sponsors

On behalf of the University of Bradford and our co-sponsors Bradford Metropolitan District Council, I welcome you to the University Academy Keighley. This Prospectus contains the information you need in order to help you make an informed decision about your child’s educational future. I also hope that you will take time to visit the Academy and see for yourself what it has to offer.

The University of Bradford has a long history of educational excellence and of working closely with its local schools and community partners. The initiatives that this partnership work has developed are recognised locally, nationally and internationally; practice that helps all learners of all ages recognise and reach their full potential.

The University has been involved with the Academy for many years now; we are committed to our relationship with UAK and also the Keighley area. We enjoy working with our fellow Sponsors as well as with our many other valued partners in the Keighley community. Together we have pledged to support UAK, to work with the Principal so that our young people are given the education they deserve and to raise attainment and aspiration.

Imran Khan, Chancellor
University of Bradford

Meal Times

The Academy operates its own catering which is very popular with students. There is a good, healthy, freshly produced, and as far as possible locally sourced, choice of food available for breakfast, breaktime and lunch. Students are also able to give feedback on what is served and suggest new things to add to our menus. We have two meal servings at lunch giving students and staff the opportunity to eat and meet in a calm and pleasant environment.

Students whose parents are in receipt of any benefits may have access to free school meals and we strongly encourage you to take this up if you are eligible. We are also pleased to cater for students with special dietary needs.
Our Special Relationship with the University

As our name suggests, the University Academy Keighley has a special relationship with the University of Bradford. Over the last year students have benefitted from a number of successful initiatives delivered by the University to raise the awareness, aspiration and attainment of our students, as well as working with the wider Keighley community. Students from UAK have attended the Junior University which takes place at the University of Bradford, City Campus on a Saturday morning to support them in GCSE Maths, Science and IT. University Undergraduate Student Ambassadors have also worked at UAK with GCSE Maths students prior to their exams.

The University has also developed a mentoring programme with 6th Form students training them to become UAK Student Ambassadors and students can complete other modules, such as Introduction to Aspects of the Legal Landscape, earning valuable UCAS points in doing so. Other learning links for our 6th Form have included the accredited COMPACT summer school and career planning sessions which help students to secure a place at the University of Bradford. Some students have also been invited to attend the University of Bradford Award ceremony, a taste of things to come!

Our Aims for Learners

We want our learners to be successful, both academically and personally; becoming ready to embrace life and be the citizens and leaders of the future.

We celebrate our diversity; all our learners are enabled to reach their full potential both academically and in the wider Keighley community. They will be good communicators, literate, numerate and fulfilled in their aspirations. They will be UAK Agents of Change!

At University Academy Keighley our students will:

- be great learners who can work purposefully and creatively to realise their dreams and aspirations. They will be UAK Agents of Change!
- relate well to others around them; they can contribute both independently and collaboratively, can take responsibility, knowing when to lead and when to support.
- have a thirst for success and have high expectations for themselves.
- be proud of their Academy, the parts they play in our community and prepare for their roles in society, becoming the leaders of the future.
- radiate pride, confidence and self-belief.
- will be good communicators, literate, numerate and articulate.

Our Vision

At UAK we know and value our learners as individuals; we recognise that all of our young people have different interests, talents and strengths; we nurture their personal development and enjoy the community created by each of the personalities here.

We know that each of us has our own best way of learning. At UAK, learning is a journey; it will be creative, engaging, exploratory, thought-provoking, challenging and supportive; shared in an aspirational and inspirational environment.

Our engaging teaching delivers success; we generate and promote a culture of achievement for all.

UAK is committed to being the first choice school for its learners. We are at the heart of our community; creating the very best opportunities for our young people.

We celebrate our diversity; all our learners are enabled to reach their full potential both academically and personally; becoming ready to embrace life and be the citizens and leaders of the future.
The Curriculum Experience

Year 7 students embark on their learning with our Foundation Programme. We build on their experiences at our feeder primary schools whilst embedding the skills of independent thinking, teamwork and problem solving. This is backed up by a strong emphasis on communication, reading, writing and mathematical skills; all crucial to ensuring they can achieve in all of their subjects as they move up through the Academy.

Foundation is an exciting programme and diverse curriculum. It is taught by your child’s form tutor who gets to know them really well helping them to settle quickly and gain confidence within their new environment. Teachers are committed to the progression of all learners ensuring that the programme is delivered with innovative teaching and experiential learning including curriculum trips and visits which enhance the learning experience.

In Years 8 and 9, students have a broad and balanced curriculum experience after which they are guided to make choices based on their individual needs and interests. Those with academic strengths will find a set of challenging GCSE courses including the subjects of the English Baccalaureate, and learners whose strengths are more practical will find a good choice of applied courses on offer. Currently, students begin their GCSE work and assessment in Year 9, this then leads on to full exams in Years 10 and 11.

Our Community

Students thrive and prosper when they enjoy their school experience. Sometimes this is down to what they do outside of the classroom too. Our students have the opportunity to take part in trips and visits locally, and abroad, to enhance their learning. Our Learning Resource Centre is open and ready to welcome learners from 8am every morning and again after school.

Our outstanding sporting facilities draw people and organisations from all over the area to UAK. We host the Keighley and Craven Athletics Club as well as the Bradford Disability Sport Paralympics Club and Sports Academy. We have established close links with the Rugby League Club, Keighley Cougars, by becoming community sponsors this season and the team are often on site for training.

It is not just about sport, our auditorium can seat 250 people and can host drama productions, presentations and other events. Lots of children from our primary feeders have probably been to one of our events, such as the STEM Festival, in the auditorium.

Growing numbers of parents come in to learn and use our facilities. An example comes to mind of a ‘Boys versus Mums’ cooking activity; the food was lovely!

University Academy Keighley works with the Rotary Organisation through the UAK Interact Club. Students are involved with service projects, raising funds for international charities and meeting with other Interactors. This provides excellent opportunities for students to give something back whilst developing leadership skills and international understanding.

In the community we feel the new management has a clear vision of moving the academy forward. Standards have improved since the new management has come.

Farzana Khan Parent of Rashid Basharat

Improving A Level and GCSE Results!

I'm so pleased with what I've achieved today.

Angela Jones

In the community we feel the new management has a clear vision of moving the academy forward. Standards have improved since the new management has come.

Farzana Khan Parent of Rashid Basharat
Supporting our Learners at Transition and throughout the Academy

Moving up to secondary school can be an exciting yet daunting prospect. It is important that our new students look forward to coming to UAK; we visit our feeder primaries to meet future students and run a wide range of activities here at UAK for primary pupils to encourage links and give them an experience of ‘big school’ that will give them confidence when they join in Year 7.

What makes us special is the size of our Academy. We are small enough to know our students well; there are excellent relationships between staff and students. Staff at UAK go the extra mile to help our learners achieve the best they can. All of our students belong to a tutor group. Year 7 Tutors help to settle their students into life at UAK and help them to become hard-working and aspirational learners, after this, students move into mixed-age tutor groups where the older students are encouraged to develop leadership skills by supporting the younger students in their group.

All students belong to a Community and are, therefore, also looked after by their Community Achievement Leader makes sure that students are making the academic progress we would expect. Students have helped to shape how Communities have been developed and chose the names for them. Communities run various activities including raising money for charity, inter-community challenges and sporting events.

Our young people are also supported by our great team of Pastoral Managers who monitor students’ personal progress, intervene when necessary to ensure that every learner is given the support and challenge to do well. They are also there to keep in touch with families and are ready to help with any concerns that arise during a student’s time at the Academy. Partnership between those at home and the Academy is absolutely essential in creating the foundations for success. Parents will receive regular progress reports and will have the opportunity to come in and see us on Review Days to discuss in more detail the progress and achievement being made.

The Sixth Form at University Academy Keighley, UAK6, will be the natural choice for many of our learners and curriculum provision in UAK6 is interesting and varied. In addition to our ‘Springboard’ courses, we offer a wide range of A-level subjects preparing students for University and Higher Education.

We are a very inclusive school. We invest a large amount in supporting our learners, helping them to achieve whatever their abilities or talents. We are very proud of our learners who have succeeded against the odds. Our accessible new building is well served to meet the needs of students with physical difficulties.

The Learning Support Team at UAK is a strong one; students’ needs are assessed so that they can be given the correct help through effective and timely interventions. Our ethos is that all of our learners can succeed; so we have many ways to help our young people overcome challenges and make excellent progress. Close partnership with families is critical in this respect and we build positive, effective and lasting relationships.

Students do not just benefit from what goes on in lessons; we have a wide range of extra-curricular activities. There are many clubs and activities which play an important role in student development and, with our spectacular sporting facilities, we can guarantee a wealth of PE activity and sporting fixtures. We also have Robot Wars, sewing club, homework club and all curriculum areas run revision sessions to help students prepare for exams. Student leaders run events and activities, often thinking of others before themselves and raising money for charity in doing so.
Our Learning Environment

University Academy Keighley opened in our state of the art building in April 2011. We have superb facilities. Our ICT resources are second to none, every classroom is equipped with an interactive whiteboard, all classes have access to suites of lap tops and learners can show off and present their own work with one of our visualizers. Over the years, our computing specialism has allowed us to equip students with the skill and confidence they need to take full advantage of developing technologies in the 21st century. Our other specialist teaching classrooms in Science and Technology are extremely well equipped meaning that our students can explore these practical subjects in a high quality learning environment.

Sporting facilities at the Academy are outstanding. Indoors we have a 5 court sports hall, a gymnasium and fully equipped fitness suite. Outdoors we benefit from a third generation synthetic pitch, an all-weather, world class, 8-lane running track and netball and tennis courts, with several grass pitches coming into use 2014/15.

Whilst we have these great facilities and resources, they alone are not enough, we also have a great team of teaching staff who put students at the centre of all that they do to ensure that the day to day learning experience is interesting, challenging and rewarding. Continued success comes from high quality teaching and learning complemented by a range of extra-curricular activities and other learning experiences outside of the classroom.

Beechcliffe Special School is co-located within the Academy campus. Although we are two separate schools, by working in partnership students, and staff, will benefit from the facilities and expertise both have to offer.

"The staff are very supportive and very welcoming." - Razia Saleem, Parent