



Kettering Buccleuch Academy

The best in everyone™

Part of United Learning



Prospectus 2025



Principal's welcome

I am delighted to welcome you to Kettering Buccleuch Academy. I would like to take this opportunity to tell you more about life at KBA and the unique journey we aim to share with all our learners.

Here at KBA, we provide a first-class education for the children and young people in Kettering and the wider area. Our culture is focused on our core values of respect, determination and ambition and we improve the life chances of all our students and make it our mission to bring out the best in everyone. We offer a broad curriculum; all students receive the core curriculum of Maths, English and Science, delivered in state-of-the-art classrooms. Our curriculum experience for students is further enhanced by a range of EBacc, PE and Arts subjects across Key Stage 3, 4 and 5. We make sure we have a clearly sequenced curriculum that expertly dovetails with the learning stage at the end of primary. The curriculum provides challenge and rigour for a full three-year KS3, which lays the foundations for a successful KS4 and KS5, culminating in positive next steps at University, at college or completing a Degree-level Apprenticeship. The time we have with our students is precious and we are highly ambitious for them. Our culture is one of hard work, continuous engagement and care. Every student has the support they require to give of their best every day and every student knows that we share in their aspirations. We have a relentless focus on high standards because we know that high expectations lead to high performance, giving our students the very best start in life. Every student has the right to a positive and rewarding experience and creating a love of learning is our priority. Students enjoy their time at school and engage with quality learning, in every lesson, every day. We believe that continual development of our dedicated staff and a focused and consistent Teaching and Learning approach will bring about the necessary rewards for our students.

The 'community' we serve is at the heart of the school's decision making. Our community is diverse and our culture is inclusive in every way. Our House system is central to our school experience, and we believe in creating as many opportunities for students to be successful beyond the classroom. We teachers are lucky people. We are privileged in fact. We know that our teaching will positively impact the lives of our students forever. We believe that excellence is a habit, and we know that we play a significant part in ensuring our students lead successful, fulfilled and happy lives.

We are proud of our school. We are proud of our strong links with parents and the community, of our supportive staff and of our students' many accomplishments.

**Mr Shaw
Principal**





The KBA Vision

We strive to be exceptional in all that we do at Kettering Buccleuch Academy and firmly believe that excellence is a habit. Every one of us has untapped potential. We encourage and support each other to unleash this potential to bring out the best in everyone.

To realise our vision of being exceptional, we define ourselves by our three core values of respect, ambition and determination.

We recognise that as individuals we are strong but understand that together we are stronger. We celebrate the diverse nature of our community and work in harmony to achieve our vision. We will not accept anything but our best in all aspects of academy life and we firmly believe that there should be **no shortcuts, no excuses and no limits.**

Curriculum

We offer a broad-based academic curriculum which is delivered through a combination of mixed ability groups and ability sets. A strong emphasis on differentiated teaching and resources ensures that each student is fully included and challenged.

Regular and consistent assessment determines future teaching and learning and any movement between groups. Our curriculum is underpinned by our core values, providing a wide range of subjects and opportunities which meet the needs of all of our students. We expect Kettering Buccleuch Academy students to be enthusiastic about their learning and **develop a thirst to learn** more.

The curriculum at KBA has been designed to allow students to have high aspirations for their future whilst having a range of academic subjects to support this.

Flexibility exists within our curriculum to enable us to respond creatively to the needs of our learners and the demands of the National Curriculum framework in Key Stage 3 and exam specifications in Key Stage 4. These reflect our commitment to personalisation and include clear progression onto post sixteen opportunities.

As part of that commitment we regularly schedule homework. Student homework tasks can be viewed directly via the Satchel:One website through the parent app.

Social, moral, spiritual and cultural aspects of learning are embedded into our programmes of study as well as through a wide range of other activities including cultural trips and residential opportunities that contribute to preparing our pupils for life in modern Britain.



'Pupils achieve well at this popular and thriving school. Students perform exceptionally well in the sixth form. Pupils, including children in the early years, benefit from a vibrant learning environment. The school is inclusive. Most pupils say they are happy to be here.'

Ofsted 2021





We are proud to announce that KBA was selected as a Pearson Silver Award Winner in the category of Secondary School Of The Year. We were delighted to achieve this recognition for our students, parents and staff. The nomination for the Pearson Silver Award was as follows:

This inclusivity-focused academy aims to create a positive learning environment where the street stops at the gate and where every student is helped to succeed.

Once under-subscribed and in the last decade significantly improved, the academy now boasts an 2021 Ofsted 'Good' grading for the first time in its history, with three of six areas (Leadership and Management, Personal Development and Sixth Form) rated as 'Outstanding'. Pupils are encouraged to become independent and inquisitive, joining debates about topical issues and guided by tutors who promote pupils' understanding of British values, including democracy and individual liberty.





Personal Development

Our students are enthusiastic, motivated and ambitious to succeed and as a result they maintain high standards of behaviour and engagement in their studies. We insist that students display learning habits every day with high expectations and high aspirations. KBA students are encouraged to be reflective and creative in their thinking and to become increasingly independent learners as they progress through the academy. We are passionate in our mission to ensure that every student unlocks their potential.

Students in Year 7 are led by a Head of Year and a team of dedicated tutors who help to ensure that students are well looked after during their first year at the academy. We aim to inspire and challenge students to achieve their best as well as to support them through any concerns or worries they may face during their time at the academy.



Relationships both between students and between staff and students are key and form the basis of the strong ethos for learning in our academy. These relationships are forged from the moment students arrive through our doors, whether in Year 7, Sixth Form or anywhere else in between.

We praise and reward those students who meet our expectations and tackle those who do not. Our standards are high and we make no apology for this.

Behaviour, attendance and punctuality are all monitored closely in order to ensure that each student is able to make the best possible progress, both academically and personally.



We firmly believe that the sense of identity and belonging created through the House System allows all students and staff to play their part in making us **an exceptional and unique learning environment**. Throughout the year our House Championship provides opportunities for healthy competition and fun through a wide range of competitions. House Points are added to our House Championship Totaliser with the winning House being awarded the Buccleuch Cup at the end of the academic year.



The House System at Kettering Buccleuch Academy is at the heart of all we do. Our four Houses are Braveheart, Griffin, Phoenix and Viking and they draw their identities from the four quadrants of the coat of arms of the Duke of Buccleuch. Each student is allocated to a House on entry to the academy with siblings being in the same House.



We are proud of our students' achievements and seek every opportunity to celebrate their success. Every year students from the academy who have shown excellence in curriculum and extracurricular activities are nominated for United Learning's Best In Everyone Awards.

Each year, these awards recognise the remarkable achievements of students from across the United Learning group of schools and provide us with an opportunity to celebrate their talents, subject excellence and determination to succeed. We also hold our own Best In Everyone Awards Ceremony at the end of the summer term which recognises the hard work and excellence of our students.



The Best in Everyone

A safe and supportive environment



House Championship

Throughout the academic year there are a range of competitions which are designed to promote healthy competition and help to establish a sense of **belonging and community**. These competitions range from traditional sporting activities to our very own versions of game shows such as Countdown, Deal or No Deal and University Challenge.

Our House Champion and House Captains are responsible for the promotion of, and participation in, House Competitions. At all times during competitions our students and staff are asked to uphold our core values of respect, ambition and determination.

Students are also able to earn House Points through their daily efforts in lessons and during other activities. Each member of staff has a limited number of House Points to award each term and students receive a certificate to recognise this achievement.

Tutor groups also compete against each other in the academy's House Formopoly competition where rewards are available for attendance, punctuality and excellent behaviour. Parents and carers are also invited to contribute to the House Championship through competitions such as House Photography, Fantasy Football and The Great KBA Bake off.

At the end of each academic year the winners of the House Championship are presented with The Buccleuch Cup as recognition for their achievements.

“I've only been at KBA for a few months, but this has been by far the BEST end of year celebration I've ever had!”

Year 7 Student



Home to the hardest

working students





Extra-curricular enrichment

At Kettering Buccleuch Academy we pride ourselves not just on the number and quality of musical, sporting, dramatic and other activities available to our students but also on the fact that every child participates beyond the curriculum and is challenged, coached and supported to produce their best in these areas.

We recognise that a strong and creative curriculum extends beyond the classroom and all of our students benefit from **a wide and varied array of enrichment** activities and trips both locally and abroad. These range from homework clubs, catch-up sessions and revision workshops to opportunities to develop skills in areas such as art, drama, sport, dance, and music.

The social highlight of the year is the Year 11 Prom which is held in the grounds of the Duke of Buccleuch's Northamptonshire home, Boughton House.



Sixth Form

Some Sixth Forms are too much like school. Some colleges are too impersonal. Here at KBA we offer **the best of both worlds.**

Students have the freedom to express themselves as young adults, whilst still receiving all the support and guidance they were used to up to the age of 16.

We have fantastic facilities at KBA which give Sixth form students their own area but still allow them to access the support of the whole school community. Our House system is the foundation of all of school life ranging from; the pastoral care, support, extra-curricular activities and leadership experience and a range of Sixth Form and whole school inter-house competitions.

We realise that moving in to the Sixth Form can be a daunting experience for students and their parents but here at KBA we have well-established procedures that make the process of moving onto Sixth Form courses as smooth as possible, whether you are joining us from another school, college or our own Year 11.

We are very proud of our Sixth Form students and invest significantly to give them the very best experience possible at KBA. Our dedicated teachers support our Sixth Form students both academically and pastorally.

We know the aspirations of every student are different, and so our tutoring and pastoral systems will ensure that your individual needs are fully met. Our highly experienced team also ensures that each and every student has a wealth of opportunities available to them beyond the taught curriculum with numerous extra-curricular activities and leadership opportunities on offer. This ensures that students are fully prepared to apply for aspirational universities or jobs once they complete their studies here at KBA.



We are very proud of the fact that an increasing number of our students have gone on to study at top universities both in the United Kingdom and abroad. In the last academic year, a quarter of all Year 13 students secured a place at a Russell Group University.



Admissions

Kettering Buccleuch Academy has 180 places available for external applicants in Year 7 for the academy for September 2025 admission. Students who are on roll in Year 6 of Kettering Buccleuch Academy will automatically be allocated a place in Year 7.

This number applies only to those being admitted from outside the academy. The total year group size will be 240 including children who transfer automatically from the academy's Year 6 cohort.

Application arrangements for places at the academy will be made in accordance with the Local Authority's co-ordinated admission arrangements and will be made on the Common Application Form provided and administered by the Local Authority. Details of the Local Authority's scheme are available on its website.

The closing date for applications is available from Northamptonshire Local Authority's website.

Where fewer than 180 external applications are received, the academy will offer places to all those who have applied. We have been heavily oversubscribed for the last four years and expect this to be the case again this year.





Admissions Test

When more than 180 applications are received, and after the students with statements of special educational needs/EHC Plan where Kettering Buccleuch Academy is named as the appropriate provision have been admitted, all external applicants will undertake a suitable cognitive ability test.

Test Takers will be divided into 9 equal bands based on the results of this test and places will be allocated to each band in proportion to national averages. In the event of an individual band not being oversubscribed, places will be allocated to students from the nearest bands, taking equally from the band above and the band below (where relevant).

Children who take the test will be given priority over children who do not. Applicants will be invited to sit the admissions test for approximately two hours on **Saturday 7th December 2024**. Details of the arrangements for this will be shared with applicants once the academy has been provided with these details by the Local Authority. If you have any questions relating to our admissions process, please email admissions@kba.uk

Proud to be part of **United Learning**

United Learning is a group of schools which aims to provide **excellent education to children and young people** across the country. We seek to improve the life chances of all the children and

young people we serve and make it our mission to bring out the best in everyone – students, staff, parents and the wider community. We are uniquely united across both the state and the independent sectors; we make learning and improvement our focus. Together, we are one of the country's largest education providers, currently educating over 30,000 students and employing over 5,500 members of staff including over 2,500 teachers.

We provide a broad education, which prepares young people to progress in learning and to make a success of their lives. We focus sharply on the evidence of what makes it more likely that young people will progress and succeed, apply that to our practice and continue to learn and develop our schools. We make it a priority to provide teachers with excellent professional support and development, so that every child receives an excellent experience.

Through being a group, we can offer more to both staff and young people than any single school could offer alone. The growing range of outstanding group-wide activities that we can provide will mean that more young people will have truly exceptional and inspiring experiences. Already, we believe that our group contains the most developed relationships and practical interaction between independent and state schools in the country, creating benefits for all the schools involved.

Our approach is underpinned by a sense of moral purpose and commitment to doing what is right for children and young people, supporting colleagues to achieve excellence and acting with integrity in all our dealings within and beyond the organisation, in the interests of young people everywhere.

As a single organisation, we seek to bring together the best of independent and state sectors, respecting both traditions and learning from each. We believe that each of our schools is and should be distinctive – each is committed to developing its own distinctive strengths and identity while sharing our core values as institutions which promote service, compassion and generosity. This ethos is our expression of our Christian roots, in schools which are fully inclusive and both welcome and respect students and staff of all faiths and none.

**By joining Kettering Buccleuch Academy,
you are becoming part of the United
Learning family.**



United Teaching

United Teaching is the Initial Teacher Training Scheme for United Learning.

With us, you can train while you teach to earn your PGCE and Qualified Teacher Status. We will support you with subject specialists and dedicated mentors from across 60 schools nationwide. Our support and training extends beyond the classroom, ensuring you are fully equipped to become the best teacher you can be. Become part of a forward-thinking, collaborative network of 3,500 teachers across the country, sharing resources and expertise throughout your career with us.

United Teaching offers real teaching exposure in a choice of schools, a mentor system, a support network, professional qualifications, as well as continuous professional development throughout the duration of your career with United Learning. Course graduates who gain a substantive role in United Learning are paid up to 5% more than in a maintained school and have access to a range of lifestyle and retail perks. The course is designed to bring out the best in your teaching skills quickly, professionally and comprehensively. It's a scheme aimed at **creating the teachers of tomorrow** and the education leaders of the future.

To find out more about United Teaching, go to unitedteaching.org.uk



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