



I S C A A C A D E M Y

INSPIRATION FOR LIFE



Headteacher's Welcome

First and foremost, I would like to say that I feel privileged to be the Headteacher of Isca Academy. It is an exciting, welcoming place where student learning, creativity, academic achievement and personal development are at the heart of everything we do.

I am passionate about providing high quality education for the children and young people of this community that is tailored to meet the needs of each and every child. Isca Academy prides itself on being a diverse and vibrant community of students, and we are committed to inclusive education and equality of opportunity for all. I have the highest expectations for the Academy and it is my intention, by working together with parents and stakeholders, to continue to raise standards with the ultimate aim of making sure that every child has a clear progression route and is able to succeed both at the Academy and beyond.

Our students achieve above national results and we are committed to academic excellence and equipping our students for further education. High numbers of Isca Academy students go on to join the Reach Academy at Exeter College with many being offered Oxbridge places. We are equally proud that students of all abilities made greater progress during their five years with us than other students nationally. Isca Academy has also recently been recognised for excellence in outdoor education. Through a rich academic curriculum and an extensive programme of extra-curricular activities, we aim to develop each child's talents and potential throughout their time at the Academy.

I recognise that choosing a secondary school for your child is a very important decision and I very much hope that you will consider Isca Academy as the right choice for you and your child. We have attempted to give you a sense of life at our school through this prospectus. If you would like further information or would like to arrange a visit, please do not hesitate to get in touch. We will be delighted to welcome you to Isca Academy.

Miss Aimee Mitchell
Headteacher



Isca Academy - Inspiration for Life

A Student's View

When I left primary school, I chose to come to Isca, as it was my local secondary school. I'd heard good things from my friends' older siblings who went there, and I was impressed that they had trampolines in the sports hall!

Now, as I am about to go on to university, I look back on my time at Isca as having given me the foundation to follow my academic aspirations and having supported me in developing as a person.

The stand out memory for me from my time at Isca, and my favourite thing about the school, is the teachers who work there. They challenged me academically, supporting me with my learning when I needed support, and encouraging me to explore and stretch myself in all of my subjects.

Aside from this, the experience that was most important to me in my time at Isca was the opportunity to take part in the Ten Tors challenge, which I completed twice: 35 and 45 miles walking over Dartmoor. As someone who has never been particularly sporty, this was an opportunity that I could easily have missed out on if it hadn't been for the support and hard work of the teachers.

Any student is allowed to train for the challenge, and from the start of the first training walk the teachers are encouraging; their constant belief in our ability to complete the challenge was infectious, and the confidence I gained through the experience enabled me to go on to do things I might not have had the guts to do otherwise, such as applying for and completing an interview at Cambridge university.

I applied to Cambridge, Durham, Newcastle and Liverpool universities, and was fortunate to receive offers from all of them to study social sciences, including archaeology: an interest that I developed when doing work experience in year 10. In the meantime, I am going on an archaeological excavation this summer in order to gain more experience in preparation for university.

During my time at Isca, I was given a variety of different opportunities, both academic and extra-curricular. For me, aside from the dedication and passion of the teachers, the best aspect of the school is its ethos: every student is given equal opportunity to get involved with the things they love, whether this is sport, music, drama, art or any other subject or interest.



Our Curriculum

We keep our curriculum under constant review and endeavour to construct one which meets the needs of our diverse student body. In Years 7 and 8 there is a broad and rich curriculum in terms of the subjects taught, maintaining the creative as well as core subjects. The curriculum offer builds a strong foundation for both skills and knowledge in preparation for GCSEs in Year 9 to 11.

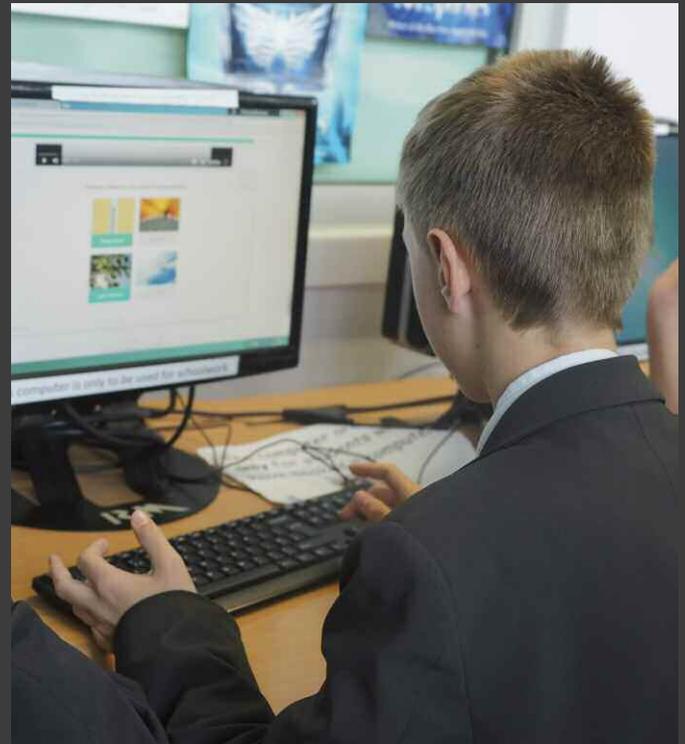
Students take their options at the end of Year 8 and then embark on a three year KS4 programme of GCSEs and other Level 2 qualifications.

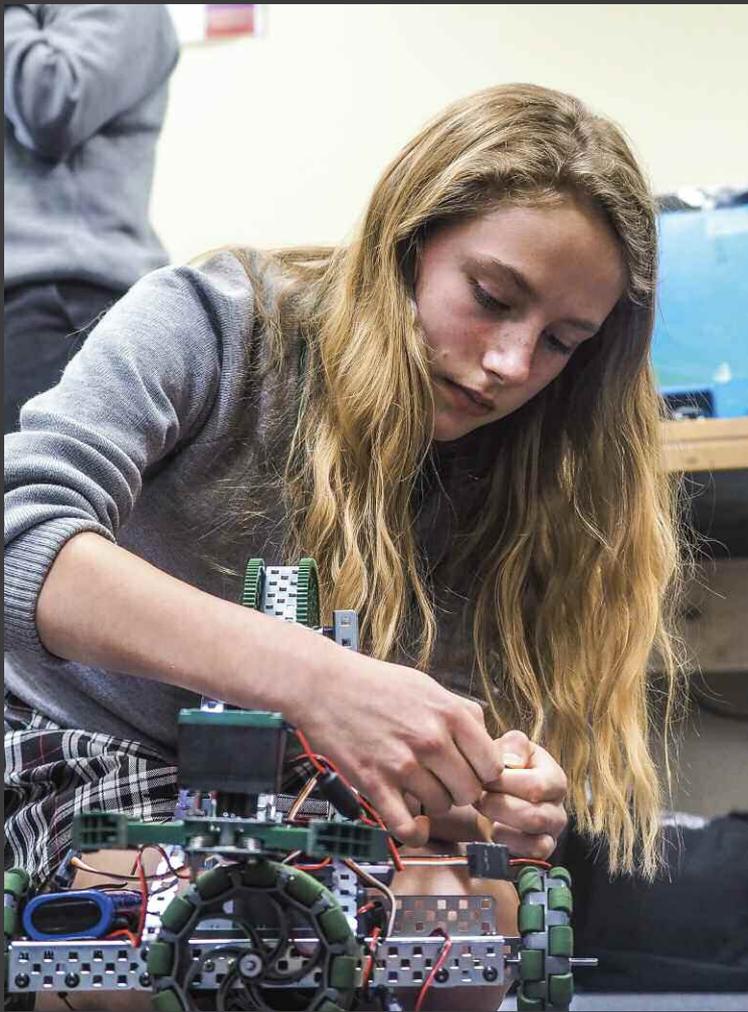
Whilst the KS4 national curriculum has narrowed the choices at GCSE, we as an Academy are committed to maintaining a broad and balanced curriculum that meets the needs of all of our students through continuing to offer subjects within the field of technology as well as the performing and visual arts.

In addition to this, one of the strengths of being part of a multi academy trust is that we can share subject expertise across the schools to facilitate greater choice for our students.

Why do we give your child homework?

Homework is an essential part of a student's development as it extends on the work done in the classroom, encourages independence and builds skills for the future. We see this an essential life skill.





“Learning without Limits”

We believe that no child has a fixed or limited level of intelligence or ability.

We believe that brainpower increases with:

- Challenge
- Hard work
- Help from others
- A positive mindset
- Set backs
 - these are important as they build resilience
- Practice and more practice

We believe.....

Parents can make a huge difference by showing an interest, asking a few questions and offering positive praise, focusing on the effort and strategies used by your child to learn. By strategy we mean how your child plans and works out how to go about the task/solve the problem and then how they carry it out to the desired outcome or conclusion.





Care and Support for your child

At Isca Academy we pride ourselves on the quality of the relationships between staff, students and their families.

Through these relationships we create an environment which is safe, secure, enjoyable and above all a place where young people can achieve more than they ever thought possible.

When you visit the school you will feel a strong sense of positivity where everyone is friendly and willing to support each other. Students feel supported as well as challenged in their learning, achieving fantastic outcomes together.

To help our new younger students settle in, we provide regular opportunities for older students to help and support them and answer any questions that they may have.

Each child will be allocated to a tutor group within their year group and will have a Head of Year as the person who is responsible for monitoring their progress both academically and personally. They understand the needs and anxieties of the children and their families in their year group and can therefore provide appropriate support when needed.

Each child is also placed in one of our 'Houses'. This enables all of the students to feel a sense of belonging to a smaller 'family type' unit where we have regular inter-house competitions and opportunities.

Your child's tutor will be your first point of contact if you have any concerns about your son or daughter's wellbeing or welfare at the school.



Wider Opportunities

Enriching students' learning experience beyond the classroom is integral to life at Isca Academy. We have a rich tradition of providing outdoor education opportunities, after school activities, educational trips, visits and events.

In every aspect of learning we provide wider opportunities for personal and social development, designed to improve student confidence, resilience, ability to work as a team, as well as to enthuse and inspire our students.

Our students are encouraged through the House structure, their tutors and by their teachers and other support staff to become active participants in the life of the Academy and all that it has to offer.

These opportunities coupled with an inspirational and relevant curriculum, build the skills and attributes necessary to become resilient, successful learners and highly effective citizens.

Student leadership is encouraged at Isca Academy as we believe it is important for students to play a part in the day-to-day running of their school. We have a thriving student leadership team and welcome applications from our Year 11 students to become a Head Student, or a Deputy Head Student. These students oversee our Student Executive Leadership Team, a group of volunteers who lead a whole-school themed project, covering themes such as student well-being and anti-bullying. They also represent Isca Academy at events and report to governors as required, and to the Headteacher. Students in years 8 to 11 also have the opportunity to become Prefects, helping other students within the school community.

Significant examples of our offer include:

- Ten Tors
- The Duke of Edinburgh For All Scheme
- Exe Valley Challenge
- Exe Valley Extreme
- Isca Underground
- Writing workshops
- Book club – reading with drama
- The Combined Cadet Force – Royal Marines Unit
- Variety of activities within each subject area
- Enrichment Week - including residential opportunities, some of which are overseas

All Year 7 students are also invited to attend a residential activity week in the Autumn term of their first year.



Primary

to **Secondary** Transfer

Together with our partner primary schools we do everything to ensure students arrive at Isca Academy feeling happy and confident and looking forward to becoming members of our school community. During their time in primary school there are many opportunities to work with Isca Academy staff and students and to visit the school. Year 5's visit the Academy for Experience days in the Arts, PE, Science and Maths. We also have a combined choir, Young Voices, for students in Years 5 to 8 with opportunities to join Isca Academy students in community performances. These opportunities enable students to experience areas of the school's curriculum and familiarise themselves with the layout of the building, which eases the transition between primary and secondary education.

In the late spring and summer, members of Isca Academy staff visit each primary school to liaise with both students and teachers. Primary school assessment records are used to construct the Year 7 classes with an accurate academic profile, whilst discussions with primary teachers inform the tutor groups and other social groupings within the school.

Early in July the Year 7 intake participate in an induction day, meeting their tutor and Head of Year, as well as experiencing learning in a variety of subjects.

At Isca Academy we also have a 'static' Head of Year 7 who is responsible for Year 7 each year, and is an expert in their transition, experience and development needs and is able to build up strong links with our primary schools prior to the students arriving.



Governance

and the **Ted Wragg**

Multi-Academy Trust

Isca Academy is proud to be a member of the Ted Wragg Multi Academy Trust. The Ted Wragg Multi Academy Trust, a charitable foundation trust, works with schools in Exeter and the local community to raise the aspirations of young people and enables them to become fulfilled, confident and motivated citizens, able to contribute actively to a democratic society. All students within the Trust, regardless of social or cultural background, are motivated to succeed and make outstanding progress because their needs are met through creative, relevant and innovative provision.

The Local Governing Body operates with full delegated authority from the Trust. Their commitment to Isca Academy is absolute, believing in social justice they bring a rich background of experience enabling them to work together with the school leadership team to raise standards and continue to improve the school for the benefit of our students.



Keeping in Touch

To ensure our communication is as immediate as possible, we utilise all modern technologies, with parents being asked to provide an email address and mobile telephone number. School Twitter and Facebook accounts and Groupcall are used to signpost information that is available on the school website.

Further information and a digital copy of this prospectus are available on the school website
www.iscaexeter.co.uk

Further information about the Ted Wragg Multi Academy Trust can be found at
www.tedwraggtrust.co.uk

www.iscaexeter.co.uk

T 01392 204082

E adminoffice@iscaexeter.co.uk

 [@iscaexeter](https://twitter.com/iscaexeter)

 [Isca Academy](https://www.facebook.com/IscaAcademy)

Isca Academy,
Earl Richards Road South, Exeter EX2 6AP





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