



[Introduction to Watling Academy](#)

Welcome to Watling Academy and thank you for your interest in joining our team. The following will provide you with some information and a flavour of the context and vision for the Academy. I do hope that this will prompt you to want to find out more about us and apply for one of our available roles.

The Academy is part of the Denbigh Alliance Multi-Academy Trust, which currently contains two other schools – Denbigh School, approximately 1.5 miles away from Watling and our brand new 630 place Watling Primary school, situated just behind our site.

I took up my role as Headteacher for Watling Academy in July 2019 but have had a much longer association the Trust, serving as Deputy Head at Denbigh School from 2009 to 2019.

We were delighted that OFSTED recognised our strengths as a school during our first OFSTED Inspection in May 2023, when we were graded Outstanding in every area and Outstanding for our overall effectiveness. Our challenge now is to build on that validation and continue to deliver exceptional care, education and opportunities for our students.

[Core values and vision](#)

The Trust's mission – to provide the highest standards of Education, Care and Opportunity for all its students is underpinned at Watling by our core values of [Respect](#), [Responsibility](#) and [Kindness](#), which is an integral part of our language within lessons, extra-curricular activities and around the school.

[Location/catchment area](#)

Watling Academy is a new, purpose built 11-18 secondary school on the rapidly expanding western flank of Milton Keynes, comprising the Whitehouse and Fairfields developments. The Academy opened in September 2020 but due to a delay in the completion of the main build we initially opened on the top floor of Fairfields Primary school, approximately 1 mile away from the Academy building. We moved our first cohort of Year 7s into the main build in June 2021.

Watling Academy will serve the communities of Whitehouse and Fairfields, which are currently expanding rapidly – there are currently 3 Primary schools operating in the area, each planned to have cohorts of 90 children per year. In the first few years of operation, Watling has taken students from further afield in Milton Keynes, but this radius will reduce year on year as the communities continue to expand.

[Student numbers](#)

Watling Academy currently has 4 year groups, varying slightly in size with 180 students in Year 10, 300 in Year 9 and 360 in Years 7 and 8. The increase above our published PAN of 300 was at the request of the Local Authority following parental demand for places at Watling.

At capacity Watling Academy will have between 1800 and 2000 students, dependent on the size of our sixth form provision.

Sixth Form Provision

Watling Academy was commissioned by the Local Authority as an 11-16 school and as such opened on that basis. The philosophy of the Trust, however, is that a community school should offer an education through from 11-18. We have successfully submitted a bid to the DfE to expand our provision to 11-18 and are currently undergoing the exciting project of planning and designing our sixth form ready for our first cohort of students in September 2025.

The curriculum

Whilst the curriculum is broad and balanced and offers the complete range of subjects the three themes that provide the foundations for everything we do are based on STEM, Global challenges and the development of Milton Keynes. As the fastest growing city in the UK, we believe it is important that our students understand how Milton Keynes has developed over time, where it sits now as a centre for innovation and the latest technology and prepare them to have the skills and knowledge to be successful as the city continues to expand. We have a responsibility to work with our students to help them understand and contribute to tackling challenges around the environment and sustainability and this manifests itself not just within the formal curriculum but through the way we operate as an Academy.

What can we offer you...

As we plan ahead for our fifth year we are looking to recruit colleagues to join our current team, who have done such a great job in establishing learning at the heart of the Academy and doing everything possible to put students first. With a growing team there will be the need for flexibility within roles but the opportunity to play a part in creating the culture and success of what will be the biggest single site Academy in Milton Keynes will provide huge rewards for everyone, not least our students!

We believe in providing professional development and support for all colleagues, both teaching and associate staff, enabling them to grow their expertise and be ready for the next steps in their career.

Alongside the support you will get from experienced colleagues at Watling Academy, there will also be wider support from staff within the Denbigh Alliance Multi-Academy Trust. With access to the Teaching School, Tommy Flowers SCITT, Enigma Maths Hub and Computing Hub, there are direct opportunities for colleagues to take part in and lead quality professional development.

I do hope that the information above will encourage you to apply.

Ian Bacon
Headteacher
November 2023