



School 2026-27 Prospectus



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With our focus on life skills and career pathways, you'll get the best start in life at Studio West.

Studio West is an innovative, collaborative school dedicated to helping every student achieve their full potential.

A warm welcome



Studio West is a studio school, and very literally one-of-a-kind.

It is a forward-thinking and innovative school, entirely dedicated to ensuring students are properly prepared for work. At Studio West we work to a professional standard in collaboration with potential employers.

It is a vibrant place to learn at the heart of the community. Every student is listened to, encouraged and challenged to be the best they can be. Our leaders, teachers and pastoral support team know

our students well. Our students feel they are an important part of the whole school and consequently develop a much stronger sense of personal and communal responsibility.

We are committed to all students achieving their potential. We are inclusive and embrace collaboration over competition to help remove barriers to learning.

We also believe that everyone can be a leader and at Studio West, you will find a wide range of opportunities for students to develop their

leadership skills within – and beyond – the classroom. We are dedicated to our vision of putting students at the centre of everything we do.

Please feel free to visit us at any time to see our amazing school for yourself.

Andrew Dryden
Principal, Studio West

OUR VISION

Students are at the centre of everything we do. Through collaboration, every aspect of our work is high quality. Our academy delivers an ambitious and inclusive curriculum. This enables all our students to have high aspirations and to excel academically and socially.

OUR VALUES

- ★ Leadership
- ★ Excellence
- ★ Integrity
- ★ Kindness
- ★ Inclusivity
- ★ Humility
- ★ Together
- ★ Reflectiveness



Studio West is a unique school that combines academic and vocational learning to prepare students for life.

Reach your full potential

WHY STUDY AT STUDIO WEST?

Studio West is a studio school which combines academic and vocational-based learning, enabling our students to gain vital skills and experiences for life. Our strong teaching, excellent guidance and outstanding pastoral care provides our students with the best opportunities to succeed.

At Studio West, students learn from a specialist team of teaching staff

Students are at the centre of everything we do. We want them to have high aspirations and to excel academically and socially.

with vast experience and subject knowledge.

As a studio school, our holistic curriculum, which includes links with local business partners, provides opportunities for students to develop and apply a range of skills, including teamwork, critical thinking and broader life skills.

Curriculum is at the heart of our thinking at Studio West. Careful consideration goes into designing sequences of learning for both knowledge and skill. Our broad curriculum has been designed to best equip our young people for the next stages of their lives after leaving our school.

Students are challenged to work to a professional standard and are given the opportunity to engage in projects which have been designed in conjunction with industry and employers.

Our goals are simple: we want all our students to gain

excellent qualifications, lead happy, healthy and successful lives, and to be positive contributors to their local and global communities.

FABULOUS FACILITIES

Our exceptional facilities offer students the absolute best in cutting-edge technology and equipment supporting a vast range of subject interests.

In addition to an extensive art studio, we also have outdoor sporting facilities and a fully equipped gym, a music department with world-class instruments and recording equipment, a professional lecture theatre – used for school assemblies and student presentations – a PC suite for graphic design, a hospitality and catering facility, and construction workshops for practical experience of the built environment.

CV-BOOSTING OPPORTUNITIES

Education will not be limited to academic subjects. We also operate extra-curricular, CV-boosting programmes such as the Cadets, Duke of Edinburgh Award and Sports Leaders Award – the opportunities are endless.

MOVING ON UP

We know that students succeed when they are happy, valued and feel cared for, so we want to make the move from primary to secondary school as smooth and positive as possible.



We work closely with our feeder primary schools and invite our prospective Year 7s into school for three days ahead of the summer holidays for a packed programme of lessons, activities, and tours – a real taste of life at secondary school! This helps children settle more quickly in September, as they are familiar with the school, understand our expectations, and have already begun forming new friendships.

STAYING IN TOUCH

We believe that communication is key, so we keep in regular contact with parents and carers through letters, newsletters and our Facebook page. If problems do arise, we always want to hear from you. Our teachers, pastoral team and school leaders are always available to talk to.



Studio West offers an ambitious and well-sequenced curriculum, developing students' love for learning, skills, and knowledge.

Outstanding opportunities

CURRICULUM IS AT THE HEART OF OUR THINKING

Studio West aims to offer a broad and balanced curriculum that is ambitious, coherently planned and appropriately sequenced. Students have a broad and engaging Key Stage 3 in Years 7 to 9 which builds on the Key Stage 2 National Curriculum and the work our feeder schools have undertaken. We aim to develop cultural capital and a love for learning so that students can make informed decisions about the subjects they wish to take in Key Stage 4.

Physical Education is taught in Years 7-11 and Religious Education in Years 7 to 9 – both are complemented in all years by a comprehensive personal development (PD) and Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education programme, which includes age-appropriate relationships and sex education. We set great store by our students achieving excellent examination results, whilst also developing intrigue, independence, creativity, resilience and individual talents. In Year 9, students will choose the Level 2 subjects they want to study to exam level in Years 10-11. We offer a wide range of subjects to choose from, some of which give students the opportunity to study in specialist workshop style environments. Our goal is to ensure that all students have the knowledge

and skills required of the next stage in their education and that they are well prepared. The curriculum and an ongoing careers programme are designed to widen the aspirations of, and the options available to, our students, so he hope that for the majority of our students, the next step in their education will be to continue their studies.

UNITING OUR STUDENTS
Students wear the Studio West uniform from day one. It is designed to look and feel right, both in school and the workplace. Compulsory items of our uniform can be purchased at **Top Class Uniforms**, Blakelaw Shopping Centre, 4 Moulton Place, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE5 3RL. Full details about uniform and equipment will be sent to you once your school place

has been allocated, but for now you can have a look at our website for further information. sw.northernleadertrust.org/school-uniform/

FEEDING MINDS AND BODIES

At Studio West, we have a free Breakfast Club where you can enjoy a tasty meal before lessons start, so, if parents/ carers need to leave early on a morning for work, we'll be here to welcome students with a breakfast! At lunchtime, we offer hot and cold food options on a three-weekly cycle. All Year 7 students have lunch together which means they can enjoy food with their friends without older students around. Paying for lunch is also really

simple. There's no need to bring money – everything is paid for using our biometric system so all we need is a thumb print. Our meals are super tasty, and there's something for everyone, including pizza, sandwiches, hot paninis, chicken wraps and more. We also have halal, vegetarian, and allergy friendly options, so everyone can enjoy a delicious meal.



Our school day

The pattern of our school day is as follows:

08:00 – 08:30	Free Breakfast Club for all students
08:30 – 09:30	Lesson 1
09:30 – 10:30	Lesson 2
10:30 – 10:45	Form time: Y8, Y10, Y11 Break time: Y7, Y9
10:45 – 11:00	Form time: Y7, Y9 Break time: Y8, Y10, Y11
11:00 – 12:00	Lesson 3
12:00 – 13:30	Lesson 4/Lunch (staggered) Lunch 1 – Y9, Y11 Lunch 2 – Y7 Lunch 3 – Y8, Y10
13:30 – 14:25	Lesson 5
14:25 – 15:00	Elective Curriculum & Academic Catch up

At Studio West, we strive to equip our young people for the next stages of their lives.

Studio West offers a host of extracurricular activities and trips, from sports and arts to academic support and work experience.

Beyond the classroom

At Studio West, learning doesn't stop when lessons end! We are committed to providing a rich diet of learning opportunities that extends beyond the classroom.

We have a huge range of clubs which run before school, at lunch break and after school, where students can try new

With incredible activities from over 100 school clubs, there's something for everyone at Studio West!

activities or continue doing something they love. We offer:

- ★ Sports clubs including football, basketball, badminton, trampolining, and more.
- ★ Creative clubs such as art, drama, music, and set design for school performances.
- ★ Performing arts so you can join the school play, sing in the choir or learn a new instrument.
- ★ Fun clubs including Warhammer, Studio Bakes, Nail Salon and The Scribble Society.
- ★ And for those who may need a little extra help with a particular subject, we provide extra study clubs.

Our students also get the chance to go on amazing school trips and visits during the year which complement the curriculum, from places of local interest to destinations much further afield such as Rome, Italy.

EXPERIENCING THE WORKPLACE

From Year 9 onwards students engage in regular work experience which supports the acquisition of the skills and attributes needed for the world of work. This is enriched by work related projects completed in school to a professional standard.



Our wider learning curriculum shapes responsible citizens

The development of well-rounded, responsible citizens is as important to us as exam success. Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) aspects of life and British values run through the entire curriculum and life at school. PSHE is delivered each week and through half-termly 'personal development days', which focus on:

- ★ Careers Education, Information, Advice & Guidance (CEIAG) and aspirations
- ★ Healthy body, minds and relationships including the compulsory elements of relationships and sex education
- ★ Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) Development
- ★ Financial literacy
- ★ Democracy and the Rule of Law
- ★ Individual liberty
- ★ Mutual respect and tolerance

Personal Development Day lessons are planned to address specific local issues and often involve inviting experts into school to work with groups of students.



We prioritise student safety and happiness by providing a caring, inclusive environment with robust pastoral support for all.

Supporting our students

PASTORAL CARE

All parents want their children to be safe and happy at school. We have high standards of pastoral care here at Studio West and our staff always go the extra mile for our students to make sure they are happy and thriving.

We go far further than a basic commitment to welfare,

We have high standards of pastoral care and our staff always go the extra mile to ensure students thrive.

making sure that pastoral care extends to every aspect of school life and fosters pupils' personal development as much as their academic progress.

We place students at the heart of all decision making – this coupled with our dedication to excellent pastoral care, which considers the needs of students in every aspect of school life, from the ethos, the environment for learning, and the way personal development is fostered in the curriculum, means that our students are equipped to succeed.

Each year group has a non-teaching pastoral lead who, where possible, will stay with their students for their time at Studio West. Our highly trained and dedicated pastoral staff

are well placed to support students and where necessary connect students to external services for further support.

Staff know students as individuals and care about their progress. The excellent pupil-teacher relationships mean that issues are spotted and dealt with swiftly, and every student has several trusted members of staff they can go to if they have problems or difficulties.

HELP IS ALWAYS AT HAND

The Bridge is a quiet, friendly space where you can go if you need a break or extra support. Whether you need five minutes or five weeks, our Bridge Manager will be there for you.

Each year group has their own Year Leaders who look

after students, check in with them, and make sure they're happy at school. Students can also turn to our Family Support Workers who help students who might be finding things tricky at school or home.

ASPIRE

Some students need a different type of learning experience to help them succeed. That's where ASPIRE comes in!

ASPIRE is a mini-school on the same site as our fellow Trust school, Kenton School, for Year 9, 10, and 11 students who benefit from smaller classes and extra support. Instead of moving between lots of teachers, ASPIRE students stay with the same class and have a main teacher.

WHEN THINGS GET TOUGH

We know that adolescence is a time when some young people can face challenges, so mental health education is weaved into the curriculum. This, together with the high level of pastoral support, helps our students find strategies to cope with stress and mental health challenges and build resilience.

The impact from the personal development sessions and the strong mental health and wellbeing messages that thread through everything we do at Studio West help to protect and support our students as they develop into young adults, prepare for the stresses of examinations and take the next steps into higher education or places of work.

Supporting learners with additional needs

Studio West prides itself on being a fully inclusive school, so we know that sometimes, students need additional support. Our special educational needs provision is of the highest quality, and our expert staff work with students with a wide range of additional needs.

Teams of staff work together to provide tailored support for those who need it, including students with moderate learning difficulties; specific learning difficulties such as Dyslexia or Dyspraxia; hearing impairment; visual impairment; physical disability; Autistic Spectrum Disorder; Asperger's Syndrome; speech and language difficulties; social, emotional and mental health challenges.

We recognise that individual learners have a variety of needs, which can vary during their school career. We take account of such diversity and enable learners to broaden their learning experiences, to succeed at school, to achieve high standards of performance and realise their full potential.

★ Further information about our SEND provision and related policies can be found on our website.



From day one, we help students build their confidence and skills, providing them with a range of pathways for the future.

Bright futures await

FANTASTIC FUTURES

In addition to our wide range of enrichment and extra-curricular opportunities, our students also benefit from high quality, impartial careers education, information, advice and guidance.

Careers education is delivered in a variety of ways: through lessons, workshops, assemblies, one-to-one interviews, workplace visits, and events which take place both inside and outside school.

An essential part of personal development, Careers education starts when students first visit the school in Year 6 and continues through to Year 11. Students get to take part in Careers Week, visit universities and learn important life skills.

As a studio school we aim to provide our students with opportunities to develop

practical workplace skills alongside their academic studies. Students in Years 9 and 10 have the opportunity to undertake a two-week workplace placement.

Our Careers programme increases as students progress through the school, with personalised information, advice and guidance available for Year 10s and 11s to support them to achieve their aspirations.

POST-16

An important part of student success is the transition to post-16. Many of our students choose to join the **Northern Leaders Trust Sixth Form** at Kenton School, our fellow Trust school, but for those who choose to move to an alternative post-16 provider, we will provide the best support to ensure a smooth transition.



Northern Leaders Trust Sixth Form

Whatever your interests, career ambitions or subject choices, we are sure that you will find the Northern Leaders Trust Sixth Form both a supportive and challenging place to continue your journey after you leave Studio West. With more than 30 subjects available, you will be sure to find the right pathway for you.

If you are creative, there is a range of arts and performance-based subjects to choose from; for those who are aiming for university or apprenticeships there are both academic and vocational subjects. If you want to be an engineer or work in construction or a practical industry, you can choose subjects that will help you do that too!



All the teachers are really supportive and they always make our lessons interesting!

Heath, former student of Westerhope Primary School





Next steps

We'd love to welcome you and your child to Studio West! Full information about admissions can be found on our website at www.sw.northernleadertrust.org/admissions/ and on the Newcastle City Council website. Parents/carers with children born between 1 September 2014 – 31 August 2015, should apply for a Year 7 place for their child **by 31 October 2025**.

BOOK YOUR VISIT NOW

If you'd like to visit us, please send an email to: studiowest@northernleadertrust.org
You can also find out more online at: sw.northernleadertrust.org



As a studio school, we are proud of our holistic curriculum and links with businesses.

