



North Kesteven Academy Prospectus



North
Kesteven
Academy

Think Excellence







ThiNK Excellence



Welcome to North Kesteven Academy

As the Headteacher at North Kesteven Academy, it gives me great pleasure to welcome you to our 11-18 comprehensive school.

North Kesteven Academy is a truly special and incredible place to work and learn. We are extremely proud of our remarkable school, its traditions, focus on academic rigour, extra-curricular opportunities and outstanding pastoral support. We are interested in individuals and their families, focussing on their strengths and recognising what they do well. Our students come first and are at the very heart of everything that we do.

We believe in education in its broadest sense. Our curriculum offer includes both academic and vocational qualifications that open doors for our students to be able to access their next steps in their education, to realise their ambitions.

Qualifications are vital; however, we also believe that developing the skills and attributes needed for the wider working world and to contribute as a citizen of the world is equally as important. At North Kesteven Academy we develop confident, resilient and creative students who rise to challenges and go on to contribute positively to society.



Be Excellent

I am determined that students will aspire to achieve at the highest level and that we continue to work with parents, carers and the wider community to support our young people through excellent communication.

I encourage you to visit our fantastic academy so that you can experience our ethos and high standards for yourself, through our positive, calm, purposeful atmosphere.

Ms Holly Thomas
Headteacher





ThiNK Vision

Our mission is to ensure that all of our students:

- develop a love for learning, which they carry with them throughout their lives.
- develop ambition to become experts in a broad range of subjects by challenging themselves to be excellent and creatively think about how to overcome barriers.
- are prepared for the world of work; they are equipped with the qualifications and skills they need; have choices about their future education and employment and are successful in any work environment.
- become determined, resilient, confident and kind people, who show compassion and act with integrity.





How does Dickens create a supernatural atmosphere in Stave One?

- Starter: How would you create a creepy atmosphere?
- Look at the first thing you see
- Lights
- Sounds
- Strange things that might happen
- Remember - think about why you're here

Friday September 11
How does Dickens
Create a supernatural atmosphere
in Stave One?



ThiNK Values

Our core purpose is to prepare students for the next steps in their lives and provide them with opportunities to demonstrate their knowledge and expertise by challenging themselves to be their best and finding creative ways to find solutions to problems. We recognise and reward students for demonstrating these values.



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EXPERT

- We demonstrate ambition to become experts in our subjects.
- We use *Knowledge Organisers* to develop our subject expertise.
- We communicate with peers and staff using expert language.
- We utilise independent learning opportunities to enhance our expertise.
- We always ask for help (staff expertise) if we do not understand.



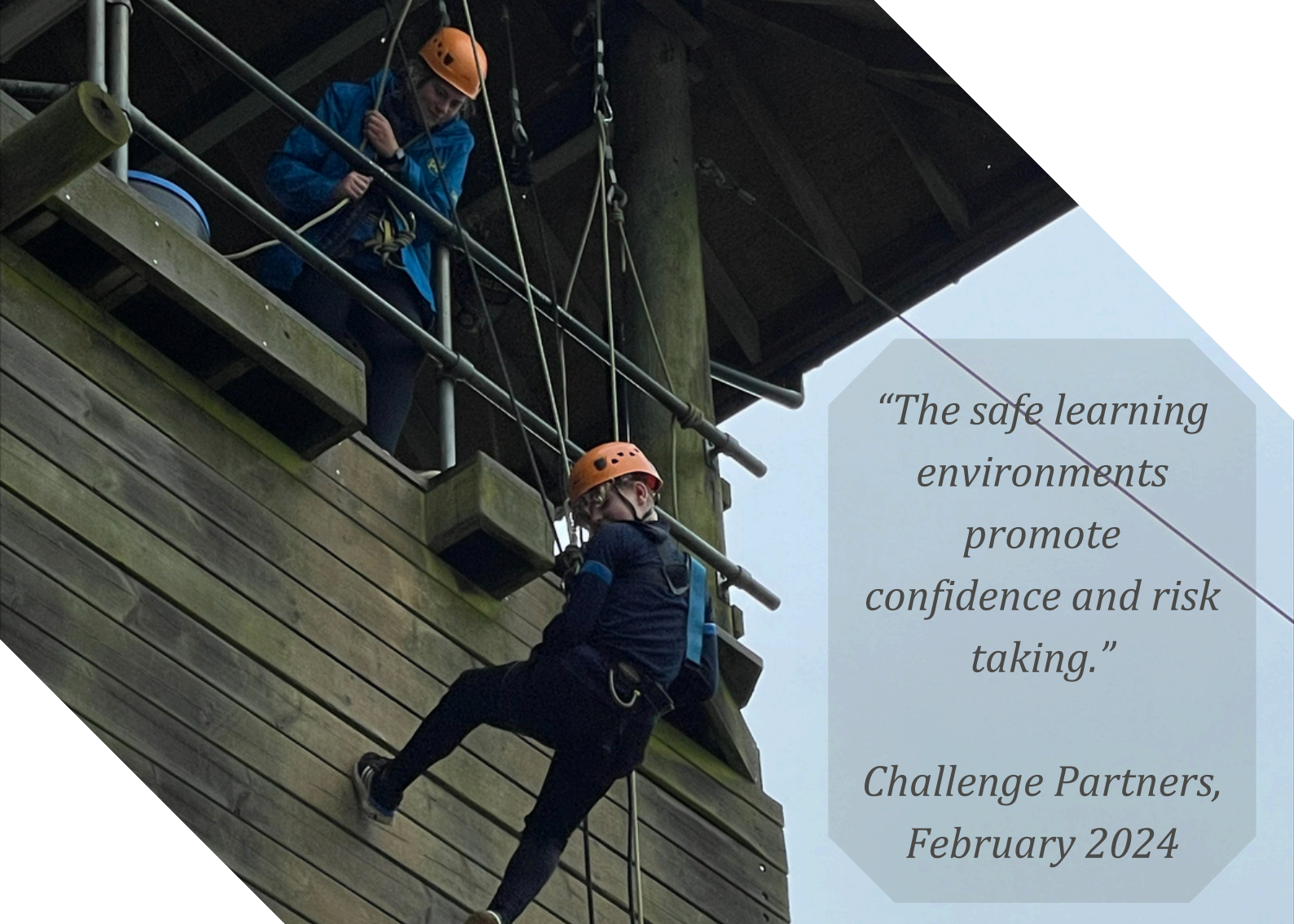
CHALLENGE

- We always challenge ourselves to be our best.
- We are aspirational in our career choices and our next steps.
- We show resilience to overcome challenges.
- We challenge our peers appropriately and respectfully.
- We celebrate our overcoming of challenges.



CREATIVE

- We act proactively find solutions to problems.
- We think creatively to overcome barriers.
- We can communicate our ideas effectively.
- We can develop and share ideas independently or in groups.
- We always embrace new ideas with an open mind.



*“The safe learning
environments
promote
confidence and risk
taking.”*

*Challenge Partners,
February 2024*



ThiNK Ready, Respectful, Safe

At North Kesteven Academy we believe a secure understanding by all of our key behaviour principles is important. Ready, Respectful, Safe are the cornerstones of our philosophy on this at North Kesteven Academy. We expect students to arrive to their lessons ready to learn by arriving on time, with their learning materials and starting their learning straightaway. We expect students to have respect for others, to be respectful of the beliefs and differences of others and to respect their learning environment. We expect our students to be responsible for their own actions, to conduct themselves in a way that keeps themselves and others safe.





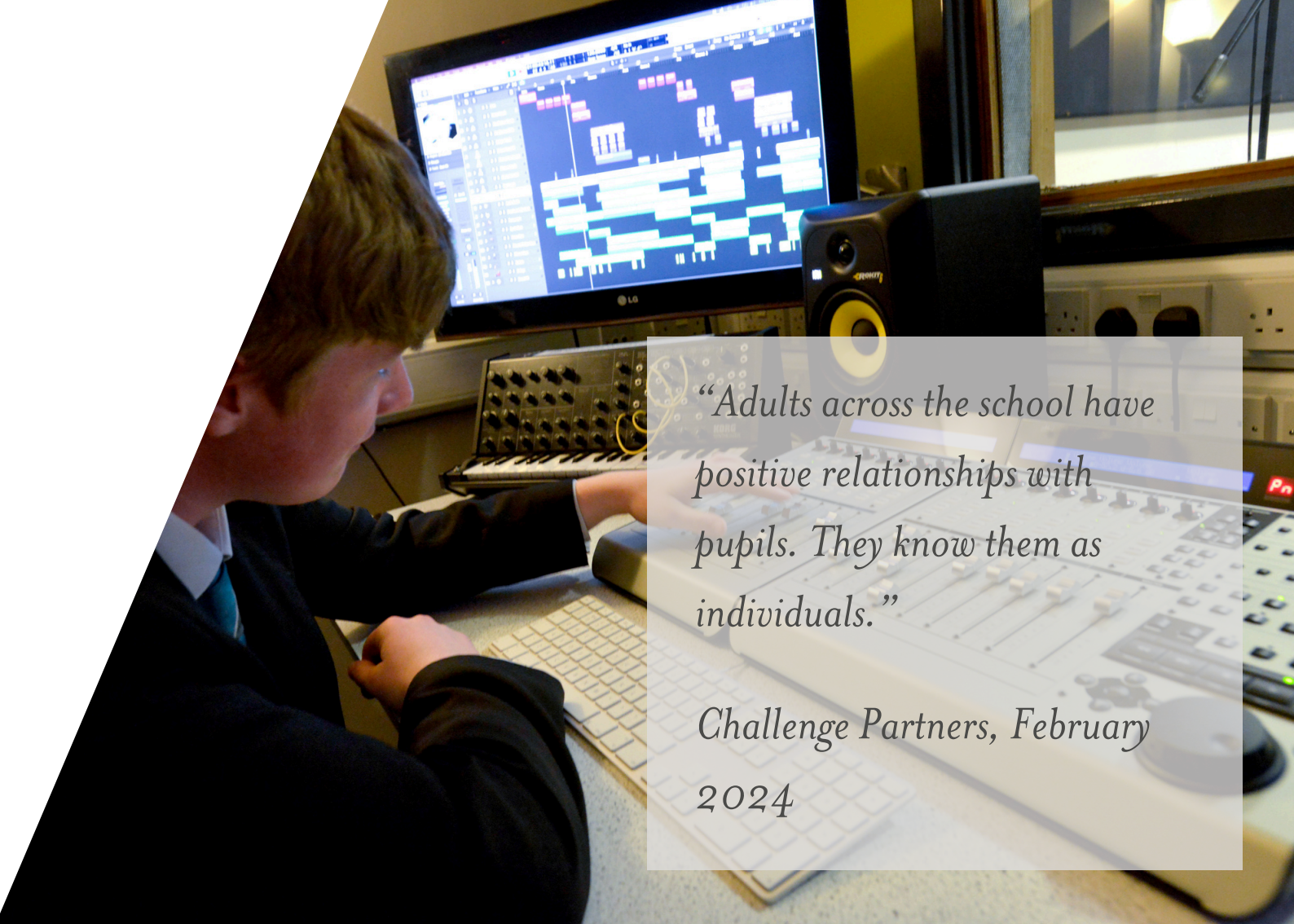
North Kesteven Academy is a comprehensive school for students aged 11-18. Students are in tutor groups with a tutor who is the first point of contact for parents and carers. Each year group in Years 7 to 13 has a Head of Year. These teams are supported by our pastoral team to ensure that our pastoral care is exceptional.

ThiNK Community

We are committed to safeguarding the health and well-being of all our students and we recognise the importance of promoting positive emotional and mental health. We have qualified mental health first aiders who are available for students to talk to, offer support and signpost to any further help.



ThiNK Community

A young man with curly brown hair, wearing a dark school sweater over a white shirt and a blue tie, is seated at a desk in a music production studio. He is looking at a large computer monitor displaying a digital audio workstation (DAW) interface with various tracks and waveforms. To his right is a black studio monitor with a yellow tweeter. In front of him is a white mixing console with numerous sliders and knobs. A white keyboard is partially visible on the desk. The background shows a window with a view of the outdoors.

“Adults across the school have positive relationships with pupils. They know them as individuals.”

*Challenge Partners, February
2024*



ThiNK Expert

At North Kesteven Academy, our curriculum encourages high ambition in a supportive and stimulating environment. By celebrating individuals' achievements, we enable everyone to be happy, responsible, respectful, creative and confident. Our curriculum encompasses the entire experience that our students encounter including assemblies, Personal Development Time, lessons and extra-curricular time.

Principles

To ensure that every learner has a deeply rewarding educational experience, our curriculum is governed by six overriding principles; these are:

- Balanced
- Vertically-integrated
- Focused
- Coherent
- Rigorous
- Authentic

Our Curriculum is ...

Balanced:

We develop student knowledge across a generous breadth of academic, practical and creative subjects to develop students' curiosity, spark and broaden their interests.

Vertically-integrated:

We ensure that every student has the requisite knowledge for the next step. Topics have been very carefully sequenced to ensure your child is ready to advance their understanding. We also structure the learning around carefully considered 'big questions' that are a part of a clear overriding 'story' and will challenge students to develop expert subject knowledge.

Focused:

Opportunities for 'deep learning' make a real difference. We have thought carefully about the key questions that need to be explored and answered in depth to develop subject expertise.

Coherent:


We find the opportunities when different subjects come together to shed new light upon each other.

Rigorous:

We give students a vault of subject-specific knowledge and vocabulary and our curriculum explicitly values and develops vocabulary and places it at the heart of learning.

Authentic:

Students will experience educational opportunities that feel relevant and authentic and help them to make connections, making it clear why what they are doing is relevant; it exposes them to a world beyond their world and makes it clear why it matters.

A photograph of three male students in school uniforms (white shirts, blue and grey ties, black blazers) and safety goggles, working in a chemistry lab. They are gathered around a table with various glassware and equipment. One student is using a Bunsen burner to heat a test tube held by another student. A third student is observing. The background is a blurred classroom setting.

"I find all the teachers really passionate about the school and learning. I feel that they know my daughter and I'm so grateful that she is really happy at school."

Parent of Year 8



ThiNK Extra-Curricular

Learning beyond the classroom is highly valuable and, for this reason, we expect our students to play a full role in the wider life of the school and community. Our extensive range of opportunities provides something for everyone with which to get involved. This enables students to develop friendships, to nurture talents or to learn a new skill.

Extra-curricular activities are on offer at lunchtimes and after school, with lots of variety available. The academy has an annual musical performance, involving all aspects of performing and creative arts. Other examples of clubs and activities include a choir, various dance groups, lots of sports teams, Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, Dungeons and Dragons club.

Trips and visits are integrated into our curriculum provision for each subject area. There is a plethora of opportunities to go on trips and visits. Examples of recent opportunities include a Maths visit to Market Rasen Racecourse, a Drama trip to London to watch West End shows, a Politics visit to the Houses of Parliament, Geography visits to the coast and an expedition to Borneo.





ThiNK Facilities

At North Kesteven Academy we believe education is about balance. We encourage our young people to strive to be healthy in body and mind, so we try to place just as much emphasis on enjoying the arts and participating in sports as we do on academic attainment.

Our academy boasts superb sporting and arts facilities and our long association with OneNK gives students access to a 25m swimming pool with slide and separate splash pool. Our dance and fitness studios, gymnasium, all-weather sports pitches, and impressive playing fields all provide the perfect opportunity for students to get active and stay healthy.

For students who are inspired to tread the boards, the academy's collaboration with the well regarded Terry O'Toole Theatre offers access to a professional performance space, qualified technical staff and an exciting venue for academy events.

The theatre complements other performance facilities within the school, including a fully equipped drama studio and state of the art sound recording facilities. Perfect for budding musicians and actors to develop their skills.





Breaking the mould

We believe that every student deserves the same opportunities and will work with each student and their family to ensure that we work together to enable all young people to access as many opportunities as possible.

Our careers and PSHE programmes are integral aspects of our curriculum and we believe that it is important for students to understand and demonstrate in all subjects the skills and qualities needed, not just to achieve in their examinations at the end of Year 11 and 13, but also to progress successfully to university and into employment.



ThiNK Creative





ThiNK Ambition

Making it happen

Empowering and supporting self improvement is at the heart of our approach to learning.

All of our students get feedback on their progress during lessons and following assessments in each subject area. This enables them to be fully involved in their own progress and therefore motivated to strive for further success.

Partnership with parents/carers

It is so important for teachers, support staff, students, parents and carers to all work together as we support the young people who come to learn and grow in our academy.

Parents and carers are invited in regularly for parental engagement events and student progress meetings. Parents and carers receive written information from all subjects at least once per year to report on progress.

We encourage regular communication with teachers through telephone and email to keep everyone updated on any achievements and successes as well as any concerns you might have.

Parents, carers and students have been extremely positive about their experience at North Kesteven Academy, and they have high praise for the excellent communication they receive.



ThiNK the warmest of welcomes ...



How to apply for a place at North Kesteven Academy

All admissions for places into Year 7 in September are processed by the Local Authority.

Applications are usually open from 1st September and close on 31st October.

Throughout the academic year we would be delighted to make arrangements for parents/carers and prospective students to visit us and experience at first hand the vibrant and engaging atmosphere.

We hold official open events in July, September, December and May including evening events and community occasions.


Years 4, 5 and 6 are often invited in with their primary schools to experience our academy and take part in specific subject activities. We have a full education programme for Year 6 students to support their transition from their primary school into our academy.

We're always happy, however, to welcome visitors for a tour of our academy at any time to suit your busy schedules.

Increasing numbers of parents are applying to us mid-year, either because they are moving into the local area or because they are dissatisfied with their current school.

Applications for mid-year admissions are also processed by the Local Authority.

All admissions for places into our Sixth Form are processed directly by North Kesteven Academy. Applications are open on our website. Any queries for sixth form applications should be sent via sixthform@nkacademy.co.uk

A photograph of four students in school uniforms sitting at a wooden table outdoors. They are all smiling and appear to be in conversation. The background shows a green metal fence and some foliage. The text is overlaid on a semi-transparent oval in the lower half of the image.

"I just wanted to say a big 'thank you' to all the staff at NK. They meet all of his needs and more and he got three awards at the end of year assembly. I cannot tell you how much this means to us as a family."

Parent of Year 11 student with SEND

Our Houses...

Our four houses drive the community spirit here at North Kesteven Academy

The house system enables ways for students and staff to feel more connected to, and involved with, the academy. It facilitates discussions between all of our pupils in a vertical way and fosters a friendly competitive spirit along the way.

The house system at North Kesteven Academy is based upon four houses: Boole, Ruston, Swift and Tennyson, named after famous and influential people who originated from Lincolnshire. Every student and every member of staff belong to a house. Each house is run by two sixth form students, as Heads of House, who are appointed at the start of the summer term in Year 12 and are in post for one academic year. Within the houses each year group elects captains and vice captains who organise teams for events and monitor the participation of members of their house.

The programme of events is discussed and determined by the Heads of House who try to ensure balance and variety within the competition.

Houses gain points through our rewards system, with students having an opportunity to receive points in every lesson and also out of lesson.

A variety of exciting house events are planned to take place throughout the academic year and will include sporting events, performing arts events and charity work. Previous activities have included litter picking in the local community and working with the local Rotary club with their shoebox appeal.

Each year the academy will nominate a different local charity which is selected by the students.





Tennyson House



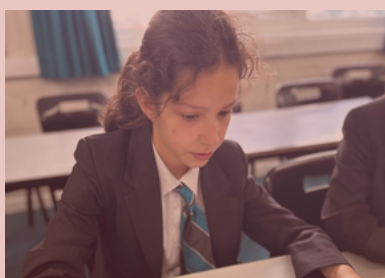
Boole House

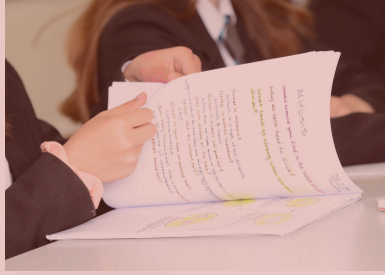


Ruston House



Swift House





Be
Excellent

North Kesteven Academy

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