

The City of London Academy Islington

1. Background

Together with the City of London, City University London is a co-sponsor of the City of London Academy, Islington. The Academy is situated in the St Peters Ward, Islington. The Academy was previously known as Islington Green School and became an Academy in 2008. It is now housed in a new build completed in 2010. The Sixth Form was launched in 2011. The Richard Cloudesley School - a local authority special school - is co-located on the site.

The Academy is an 11-19 school with 120 students in each year group in years 7 – 11 and 85 students in the Sixth Form. 58% of Academy students are boys. 57% of Academy students receive free school meals. 69% of students are ethnic minority students, and 20% of students are “statemented” or on School Action Plus. The highest proportion of special needs students are those with emotional and behavioural difficulties. The levels of deprivation experienced by students are approximately 2.5 times the national average. Typically students enter the Academy with prior attainment levels significantly below national averages. The percentage of low attainers in each year cohort is approximately twice the national average and consistently around 36%.

Notwithstanding the above, the Academy’s vision is to be an outstanding Academy; with a total commitment to improving the lives of the young people of Islington - by serving the local community as a vibrant centre of learning, known for our academic excellence and an unrelenting determination for everyone to succeed. Given the social context of our students, and levels of prior attainment, nothing less than the highest expectations of conduct, effort and attainment can be accepted if students are to achieve outcomes in advance of their peers. The approach of the Academy is to embody high expectations in every aspect of Academy life, so all students make at least expected levels of progress. Our aim is to try to ensure that exceptional behaviour, teaching, learning, quality of work, as well as staff and student professionalism, are embedded in the culture and ethos of the school.

2. Recent performance in GCSE and Sixth Form examinations (August 2013)

The Academy, Islington posted its best ever GCSE and ‘A’ level exam results in August 2013 - bucking a national trend - with grades increasing dramatically from the previous year. In the Sixth Form, 97% of students achieved a pass at ‘A’ level. 85% were awarded A* - C, a substantial increase from 65% last year. The Academy also attained a 100% pass rate in its vocational courses, with the majority of students securing university places. Two students became the first pupils to make the transition from the Academy to City University London, to study Civil Engineering and Mechanical Engineering respectively.

GCSE results at the Academy showed significant improvement. The number of students achieving 5 A* - C grades, inclusive of English and Maths, almost doubled, rising from 33% last year to 61%. This result is the key indicator of a school’s success and this level of attainment has led to the Academy being recognised as one of the most improved schools in the country.

3. OFSTED Inspections (November 2012 and March 2014)

In November 2012, the Academy received an outcome of ‘Good’ in an Ofsted inspection with a number of ‘Outstanding’ features. This was a very pleasing result at the Academy’s stage of development. The report recognised the Academy as ‘rapidly improving’ with ‘inspirational leadership’ from the Principal. A further Ofsted inspection took place in March 2014 confirming the overall outcome of Good and recognising leadership and management (including governance) as ‘Outstanding’.

**Chair of Governing Body
City of London Academy Islington. July 2014.**