Inspiring students to achieve excellence

Holyrood Academy is an aspirational place where the achievement of our students is our main focus. We encourage each individual and celebrate their talents and success in a safe and supportive environment where everybody matters.

We are committed to supporting every student throughout their journey, motivating and challenging them to achieve their true potential and ensuring they are best-equipped for a successful future.

Welcome to Holyrood Academy
Encouraging success inside and outside the classroom

Holyrood Academy is a truly inspirational place where students are celebrated for who they are, encouraged to reach their personal best and achieve their full potential.

We aim to develop happy, balanced and open individuals who, by the time they leave us, are confident in their abilities and possess lifelong skills and ambition. Our vision is based on the four pillars of respect, aspiration, honesty and hard work.

We deliver a broad and balanced curriculum which aims to provide every student with the opportunity to succeed. Our students benefit from the full range of academic subjects taught within well-equipped specialised departments.

Staff are highly skilled at engaging our students in lessons as well as educating them in the importance of possessing the drive and determination to ensure personal success.
THE HOLYROOD WAY

Growing resilience... ...Building knowledge

We recognise that high achievement and success are underpinned by a motivated, focused, happy and confident child.

In Years 7 and 8, students are introduced to ‘The Holyrood Way’. We establish clear routines and set high expectations of behaviour, uniform and equipment, all of which are proven to settle children successfully into secondary school life.

Each student is provided with a unique Knowledge Organiser which will then be their primary resource for both homework and lessons.

This independent study is followed by low-stakes quizzes in class and tutor time, something that is essential for building student confidence in their own academic success.

To complement the curriculum, tutor groups read three novels per year together. These books are carefully selected to enhance students’ education, cultural knowledge and understanding.

“Fantastic teachers who inspire and motivate learning every day.”

Parent

GCSE YEARS

Achieving academic success is our number one priority

Our young people need to develop a breadth of knowledge and understanding required in this ever-changing world. Holyrood prides itself on preparing our students for a successful life beyond the Academy.

At the start of Year 9, we introduce a three year personalised GCSE learning pathway. This early focus on examination subjects enables students to achieve highly at the end of Year 11 and unlock doors for themselves and their futures.

Throughout Years 9-11 we aim to stretch our students academically without overwhelming them, in order to develop them to the best of their ability.

We value the progress of each individual and all students are provided with careful guidance and support in selecting their Options subjects. These are in addition to the core subjects of Maths, English Language, English Literature and Science.

“Expectations, aspirations and standards are set as high as they possibly can be.”

Staff
Teachers and Year Leaders drive academic achievement. We also have a team of tutors and pastoral leaders, whose focus is to support students’ health and wellbeing. Within The Hub, specialist staff provide additional support, targeted intervention and guidance for students with SEND. Individual Learning Passports provide an excellent reference for all teaching staff to ensure individual needs are met in every classroom.

High ability students are invited to register for the Academy’s specialist programme where they participate in activities and experiences designed to challenge their understanding and test skills beyond the curriculum. Especially gifted students from Years 8-10 are invited to become involved in Challenge+, an educational programme for gifted and talented students from other schools in Somerset and the South West.

PASTORAL CARE
Providing dedicated guidance and personal support

We understand our students
FACILITIES

Inspiring achievement through fantastic resources

Holyrood is a spacious, safe and secure site, situated in the heart of the town. The general environment is very attractive as we are lucky enough to be set in over 40 acres. In addition to our newly-refurbished sports hall and gym, we have impressive outdoor facilities - including extensive fields, a floodlit artificial turf pitch (ATP) and hard courts.

All curriculum areas have their own well-equipped suite of rooms as well as specialist areas such as science, Design & Technology and creative arts.

There are 4 IT suites and over 500 computers and laptops for student use. Drama lessons benefit from an exclusive drama studio, affectionately known as the ‘Ribena Room’. The Music department boasts a recording studio, technical suite and practice rooms.

Our Learning Centre supports the reading and learning needs of everyone at the Academy. Students have access to IT facilities and over 14,000 books and learning resources to enhance their learning experience.
Exciting times with many new opportunities

We know that students will settle best in a new school if they have a clear idea about what to expect when they arrive.

Our transition programme is extended over the entire year to help Holyrood Academy and to ensure a happy beginning.

We work with our feeder schools to establish each student’s strengths and potential areas of each individual’s personal development.

Holyrood Academy considers the building of personal resilience, belonging and pride as crucial elements in the development of our students’ education.

We celebrate success and reward effort both in and outside the classroom. Students are introduced to the house system from day one, which ensures that they feel part of the wider school community. Participation in a range of sports, music and drama events are encouraged as part of our inclusive curriculum offer.

Holyrood Sixth Form provides challenging and inspiring progression routes for all young people as they enter post-16 education.

Support and guidance are of paramount importance and combined with our range of courses ensures that we prepare our students well for entry to university, apprenticeships and employment.

By providing rigorous monitoring of performance, along with regular tutorials, students are supported on their individual journey to achieve their goals. In addition to academic study, students complete a ‘Living Life Programme’ which helps to prepare them for independent life after their time at Holyrood.

Wide-ranging enrichment activities are on offer to all students, including the Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award, the National Citizen Service scheme, work experience, sports fixtures, international trips and unique leadership experience within the student senior team.

“Holyrood helped me to achieve my dreams.”

Year 13 Student
Life beyond the classroom

Academic excellence is central to life at Holyrood – but the education we provide is not limited to the classroom. Keeping students active and stimulating young minds is an essential part of Academy life.

Our students are encouraged to participate in a wide range of extracurricular opportunities, including sport, art, drama, music and much more. During the year everyone can take part in a variety of activities which contribute to charity fundraising as well as earning points for their house. Staff arrange day and residential trips, ranging from theatre visits to city excursions, ski trips and music tours as well as further afield to Iceland, New York or the Battlefields of France.

Holyrood is a Duke of Edinburgh centre for Bronze, Silver and Gold awards. From Year 9, our students are encouraged to participate in this nationally recognised and respected scheme.

"I couldn't have wished for more extra-curricular opportunities for my children."

Parent