



A Welcome from the Principal

Here at Macmillan Academy, where we have some 350 Post-16 students, our aim is to actively help you, in a friendly and welcoming learning and social environment, to equip yourself with everything you need to make a smooth transition from Further Education to either Higher Education at university or directly into employment.

At the end of your Post-16 time here, you will have been given every opportunity to achieve:

- sound educational qualifications
- excellent references
- self-motivation and flexibility
- a mature attitude and approach to life

- a determination to succeed
- pride in your personal appearance
- a portfolio of evidence of your involvement in a wide range of activities.

You will find that we pay close attention to every student's individual needs and that personal mentoring is one of our top priorities.

We believe that the range and variety of courses we offer are among the best in the north. Every student on a Post-16 course at Macmillan Academy is regarded as and treated as an individual young adult in caring, supportive and technologically rich surroundings. You will never be more than a question away from help which is always readily available from your personal or academic tutors. The size of our Post-16 group allows us to be large enough to offer the variety of courses we do yet small enough to give every student individual care and attention. Any

additional information you may want about the Post-16 courses at Macmillan Academy is available to you on our Internet web page at: www.macmillan-academy.org.uk

If you are applying from outside of Macmillan Academy for a place here, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Jordan, Head of Post-16 education, on 01642 352790. Similarly, if you would like to visit the Academy, please make an appointment through him for a date and time.

I look forward to meeting you and to welcoming you, personally, into our Post-16 community.

K U Fraser, Principal



What is Macmillan Academy?

Today Macmillan Academy has almost 1,500 students including a Post-16 group of 350, 80% of whom go on to Higher Education. Macmillan is one of the finest schools, with one of the best academic records, in the country.

It has been awarded Vocational School status and in 2006 93% of our students gained five or more GCSE passes at A* - C. Our academic record and determination to embrace and initiate new working practices have allowed us to create mutually-beneficial partnerships with parents, with our local community, with local and national government, with industry and commerce and a wide range of educational institutions.





A Message from Mr A Jordan, Head of Post-16 at Macmillan Academy

I make no secret of the fact that I take the most immense pride in having oversight of the Post-16 students at this Academy. Nor do I have any problem in explaining the essential qualities we seek to develop in all of our students before they leave Macmillan. These can be simply set down and just as easily understood by everyone:

- Confidence
- Smartness of appearance
- Good behaviour and manners
- An understanding of the meaning and practice of responsibility
- Hard work
- Honesty
- Creative abilities
- Enthusiasm
- Ambition
- Determination to succeed
- A caring attitude towards others
- Being a good team player
- Developing an entrepreneurial spirit.

Macmillan is an extremely well-equipped Academy with extensive research facilities, ICT equipment, pleasant, well-maintained surroundings, a cheerful atmosphere, an excellent Learning Centre and Dining Room, Post-16 Study Centre, Post-16 Coffee Shop and Careerzone. Our newest building has been created to enhance even further the quality of a Macmillan education. Our team of highly-skilled, experienced members of staff really do

care about our students. They understand well the problems which can face young people between the ages of 16 and 19 and are always ready and able to help. The difficulties of keeping up with coursework, deciding which university to choose, completing UCAS forms and investigating sources of and qualifications for employment are often areas of difficulty for Post-16 students. Being there when things go wrong or just being a ready ear in times of need are among the strengths they bring to their role as Post-16 tutors and teachers.

As the most senior members of the student body, you will be looked up to by the younger members of the Academy who aspire to be what you are and who will follow your example. That is a great responsibility and a challenge which I know you will want to meet. Your reward for doing so will be a huge boost to your own self-esteem and immense satisfaction from knowing that simply by being yourself you have helped so many others.

If all of this sounds like the sort of Post-16 education you want and you like the courses listed on these pages, then I look forward very much to working with you over the next two years.

Remember that if you are an external applicant you can contact me by telephone between 8am and 5pm any weekday on **01642 352790**.

Just ask to speak to me. If you are already a Macmillan student just come along and talk things over.

A Jordan
Head of Post-16 Education

Annual Coast to Coast Cycle Ride

Setting off from the Academy around mid day, having packed the minibus and trailer with bikes and belongings, we made our way to Whitehaven in Cumbria. Shortly after arriving and having put on an extra couple of layers of clothing due to the change in temperature, we dipped the front tyres of our bikes in the sea. Then we set off through the outskirts of Whitehaven.

Keswick was next on our map, and a pleasant but wet few hours of cycling brought us to it. Staying overnight in a hostel provided us with a warm, dry place to sleep with an evening meal and breakfast too. The second day had us facing a steep climb as we left the Lakes and headed for our next night stop at Alston. The day-long challenge of one climb after another had everyone looking forward to a hot shower and an early night, only to be put up against the hardest challenge yet, Mr Hargreaves' legendary quiz. Food and washing aside, sleep was next on the agenda, ready for an early start and another long day.

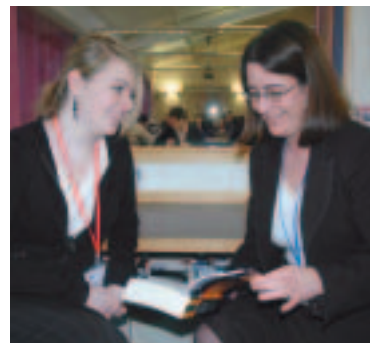
On day three, although having the added benefit of at some point coming down from the Pennines, we still had a few climbs ahead of us in order to first reach the top. The day also involved a detour due to the increasing level of bad weather which hadn't stopped since we set off in Whitehaven. Rain, hail and snow were all experienced constantly throughout the third day. Climbing a steep hill on a bike, in the hail and snow was an experience in itself.

The trip down was by far the easiest and fastest part of the ride with then only flat ground to cover on the way to Sunderland. One dash for the beach at Sunderland and it was finished. The bus was there to pick us up and we all had a pleasant sleep on the way back to the Academy, doubly satisfied because we had completed the challenge and raised more than £1,000 for charity.



University Support

Reading a university prospectus, either on paper or on a website, is one way of trying to find out what a place is like.



You also have the option of watching one of the videos now sent out so readily by most universities. You could even get your hands on one of those student-produced guides which 'tell it like it is' from a student's viewpoint.

But there is no doubt that the best way to gain your own impression of a university where you will spend at least three or four years of your life is to visit the place yourself and research it thoroughly and we like to help you to do that.

How good an academic record does the university have? Is there a busy social life? What are the possibilities of part-time employment in the local area in order to swell your student funds? How much does it cost to live there?

These are all questions you need to consider carefully. Only you can make that final decision about where you feel you will be happy, but the staff in our excellent Careerzone possess a wealth of information about universities and are always happy to help. We will play our full part by helping you to find the answers you need and by organising visits to a number of universities so that you can sample them personally. These visits are subsidised by the Academy so that you can make the best decisions without worrying about the costs involved.

The Post-16 Study Centre

This is the perfect venue for you to make that vital transition from GCSE/GNVQ level to Further Education.

Specifically designed for research and extended private study, the Post-16 Study Centre is a quiet, businesslike area which combines the best elements of a traditional library with the latest ICT study aids, offering a large range of books and a fully equipped computer suite. Being a Post-16 only resource, work can be completed among peers who respect the needs of people with a lot of work to do and, as such, work can be completed peacefully and without disruption.

Specialist help is always available to you from the Study Centre staff.



Dress for Success

We never apologise for the fact that there has always been a dress code for all Macmillan students, even those in Years 12 and 13.

The simple reasons for its existence are that it helps to enhance our corporate image, makes our students readily recognisable and eliminates the unwanted competition as to who can afford the latest fashion clothing and footwear. Everyone agrees that a 'uniform', once bought, is a much less expensive dress option than trying to keep up with the ever-changing fads and trends.

Both business and industrial visitors to the Academy almost invariably comment on the smart appearance of our students, especially those in Years 12 and 13.

The Post-16 uniform is smart business dress; a suit, shirt and tie for the boys, and dark trousers/skirt with blouse for the girls.

Trust us

- a word from a student

In two years time, you will be where I am now. If you come to Macmillan Academy, we can guarantee that those two years will be ones you look back on fondly. Yes it will be challenging; yes it will be hard work, but more importantly, it will be enjoyable.

As you are no doubt well aware, there are two main features of a Post-16 Education which determine how satisfying it is for a student - the standard of teaching and the social freedoms and independence it offers.

I am now in my 7th year at the Academy, and I have experienced extremely pleasant working relationships with my teachers and tutors throughout but only now have I truly come to appreciate the fantastic facilities and the dedicated teaching available to me whenever I need them. Given the results they produce, and the work they put in, you could be forgiven for thinking the teachers here are nothing more than robots, churning out results. However, as much as I like that mental image, it sadly isn't the case.

The teachers here are invaluable not only as educators, but as personal friends and guides upon whom you can always rely. This makes the results they generate even more astounding. Working hard to provide all students with the best education possible, the standard of teaching is such that your two years here will not only be spent in the best facilities, but with the best teachers, and in the best environment possible. If Macmillan Academy is your next step, then it will be a wholly satisfying and fruitful one.

Don't worry about settling in

Because of the Academy's modest size there is an intimate feel to Post-16 life here.

As everybody in the group is treated as a mature adult, they act as such and create an extremely friendly community. There's a terrific 'feel good' factor where new students find friends easily in teaching and tutor groups. As existing students from the school are very ready to accept new faces.

Post-16 Courses at Macmillan Academy

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A wide and varied range of Post-16 courses are available at Macmillan Academy. Help in making course choices is always readily available.

In Year 12 you can mix Advanced Subsidiary (AS) Levels and BTEC National courses, provided that you meet the entry requirement of at least 5 A*-C grade passes in your GCSEs.

If you do not have the necessary GCSE passes at Grade C or above to qualify for AS/BTEC courses, you may well want to spend Year 12 gaining a BTEC First Qualification, which is the equivalent of 4 GCSE passes at Grade C or above and will provide you with a route to A Levels or BTEC Nationals or directly into worthwhile Employment the following year.

In Year 13 your choices are from Advanced (A2) Levels and BTEC Nationals. AS Levels are also still an option.

BTEC First Course

- Business

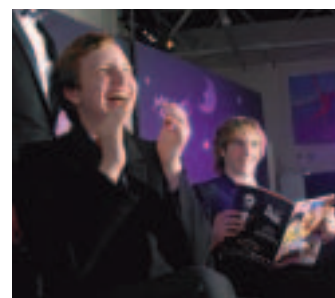
This is a one-year course. The BTEC approach to Post-16 is very different from what you will have experienced during your GCSE studies. In BTEC, the emphasis is very much on you, with guidance as necessary from members of staff, taking responsibility for your own learning. You will become a more confident and independent learner by studying and practising your Key Skills.

If you have a good track record of handing in quality coursework on time but are not yet qualified to study at AS Level or BTEC National, then a BTEC First course would suit you perfectly.

AS, A2 and A Level Courses

Applied ICT
Art & Design Fine Art
Art & Design Textiles
Biology
Chemistry
Computing
Critical Thinking
Design & Technology

Drama
Electronics
English Language
English Language & Literature
English Literature
French
Further Maths
Geography
Government & Politics
History
Law
Mathematics
Media Studies
Music
Physics
Psychology
Religious Education
Sociology
Sport & PE



Both AS and A2 in all subjects are modular. This means that throughout these courses you will be assessed via a series of exams. Three modules will be studied at AS Level and a further three modules at A2 Level. An A Level consists of an AS and an A2 in the same subject.



There are six grades which you can gain at AS and A2 Level. Grades A to E are all passes while Grade U is not and is an abbreviation for 'Unclassified'. The higher the grades you achieve, the more UCAS points you will gain and the better will be your chance of finding a place at the university of your choice or with the organisation or company for which you would like to work.

BTECs

- Business
- Engineering
- Health and Social Care
- Science
- Sport

Success in a BTEC, for which you will need to study two years, is a recognised and accepted route into university. It is also an excellent qualification for direct employment when you are 18 because a BTEC can prepare you well for a specific job. As well as following a BTEC course, you can, at the same time, study for an AS or A2 subject.

There are several ways in which a BTEC course is different from AS and A2 Levels:

- All of the assessment is done by through continual assessment with an emphasis on coursework assignments.
- The entire course is based on one vocational area or line of work.
- There may be opportunities for extended periods of Work Experience.
- There is an added emphasis on practical and team work.

Which subjects can you study?

All Post-16 subjects, but not the BTEC First Course, are placed in one of four subject choice pools.

- Each pool contains a mixture of AS and BTEC National and 'other' subjects. You are allowed to choose only one subject from each pool.
- As you have already seen, a BTEC First is a one-year courses with which you would not usually study any other academic subjects but it is possible to make special arrangements for you to resit, for example, GCSE Maths or to join the Rugby Academy.
- AS Levels occupy one subject choice pool.
- You obtain a full 'A' Level by studying the same subject at AS Level during Year 12 and at A2 Level in Year 13.
- Since the Government is now encouraging suitably qualified students to study four AS subjects in Year 12, we at Macmillan

Academy are suggesting that some suitably qualified students should do so but then continue with only three of them at A2 Level.

- If you take four AS Level subjects, three will be directly relevant to the career you hope to follow while the fourth will be used to broaden your horizons.
- All Year 12 students will also study the Key Skill of - Communication as part of the tutorial programme.
- BTEC Nationals come in different 'sizes'.
- A 12 unit BTEC occupies two subject pools while 6 unit BTECs occupy just one pool.
- BTEC National courses can be made up of 18 units (Diploma), 12 units (Certificate) or 6 units (Award), equivalent to three, two and one full A Level respectively. At Macmillan Academy, we currently offer only 12 and 6 unit BTEC Nationals.

If you need any more information or clarification about the Post-16 options open to you, please do not hesitate to telephone Mr Jordan on 01642 352790 or look at the Academy website www.macmillan-academy.org.uk



Jonathan Loughran

I am currently in my seventh year at Macmillan Academy and I am studying Government and Politics, Physics, Sociology and Critical Thinking. After completing my time at Macmillan I am hoping to progress to university, where I want to study Politics and Sociology.

I firmly believe that Macmillan Academy has provided the right opportunities for me to accomplish this by offering great support from teachers who are always willing to help and numerous extra curricular activities to broaden my interests.

Macmillan has been a truly inspirational Academy. As well as meeting many great people and making many new friends it has also allowed me to develop my academic abilities far beyond what I believed I was capable of.

As well as studying, Macmillan Academy has provided me with many opportunities to participate in activities of which I previously had no experience. The consequence of this is that I now regularly play cricket to a high standard and I find this most enjoyable.



Ross Smith

I am currently a Year 13 student studying vocational courses in both ICT and Business Studies as well as Sociology. From these subjects I wish to go on to university to combine both business management and sociology. During my years at the Academy I have had several opportunities to develop my learning further including a number of off-site visits and extra-curricular support that it offers.



When I'm not studying at the Academy, I enjoy learning how to use and interpret sign language. This is a skill I first picked up at the Academy in a Year 7 enrichment course. This then sparked an interest which led to me wanting to develop this skill further. With luck, I should be finishing my Level 1 by the end of the year.

The Academy has also taught me to manage my time well. This links in with the part-time job I have and being able to juggle both Academy and work is an ability that I have had to learn over time. Most of my hard earned money goes on socializing.

Laura Tilley

One of the nicest things that has happened to me at Macmillan is that I was part of the winning team for this year's Post 16 Christmas Quiz - fiendishly hard!

When I am not busy with my studies I like to spend my time playing guitar (which I have been doing for just over a year), shopping, spending time with my friends and I also have a job working at ASDA.

I am studying Chemistry, Physics, Maths and Further Maths, along with Critical Thinking. I hope to go on to do a degree in Natural Sciences at Cambridge.

Over the past 7 years Macmillan has given me confidence, good support throughout my education and a desire to aim as high as I possibly can.



Emma Gill

I am currently in Year 13 studying Biology, Chemistry and Mathematics. I have been at Macmillan Academy since Year 7 and have loved the experience and opportunities that it has offered.

As well as my three subjects, I have taken the opportunity to study the extra topic of Critical Thinking. All of my subjects fit well into my career goal of becoming a dentist. At present I have sent off my application to the universities where I would like to study. After a daunting interview, I managed to secure an offer to study dentistry at Newcastle University, which was my first choice.

Outside of my studies I am part of the Millennium Volunteers Scheme where I have racked up 200 hours of voluntary work so far. I work with children who find reading and spelling very difficult and this gives me the opportunity to develop my communication skills with children which will be useful for a dentist.

When not at the Academy, I like to practise my new skill of driving. I also like to shop as every woman does. As a hobby I enjoy creating textiles. After studying Art at GCSE I haven't managed to get rid of the creative bug. I have my own sewing machine and I enjoy adding designs to my clothes.



Farah Hussain



I am currently in year 13 and am studying BTEC Applied Science and BTEC Early years. After Macmillan, I am hoping to go on to university at Teesside to study Early Childhood as a degree and then hopefully do a year's teacher training and become a fully qualified primary school teacher.

Whilst being a Sixth form student at Macmillan I have been provided with a large selection of University courses over the entire country in the Academy Career Zone.

Over the years of being a student at Macmillan I have been taught how to manage my time effectively and balance out my Academy assignments and my social life during my personal time. I have also had study periods on my timetable which allow me to access the Sixth Form library and remain up to date with assignments. The teachers I have are also very helpful when I need assistance with work and provide me with additional help.

Lauren Copeland

I am currently in Year 13 studying Law, PE and Psychology and from this I hope to go on to do a Psychology degree at Durham University. I have attended Macmillan Academy since Year 7 and in this time I have met so many great people and had some amazing experiences.

In my spare time I play indoor and outdoor bowls. This is often seen as an "old man's game", which is a very stereotypical viewpoint that I, as a young individual, am trying to change. I have been playing bowls since the age of 9 and my love for the game still remains 8 years later. When I was 14, I was selected to play for the England Under 25's team and I am still playing for them now. As well as this, I have reached the national championships in some events and have won many competitions at club and county level.

When not playing bowls or studying, I enjoy spending lots of money buying new clothes as well spending time with my best friends and boyfriend. As every young person does I also enjoy having a duvet day, where I can stuff my face with chocolates and watch DVDs all day.



Support and the Timetable

Macmillan Academy places great emphasis on the individual's needs.

As Macmillan Academy is comparatively small in relation to many other establishments, members of staff can devote a greater amount of attention to each student. This can take the form of general advice or chasing up work, so making it difficult for people to fall behind.

This, in turn, ensures better grades and an excellent working relationship. Each student in Post-16 is assigned to an individual tutor group and they meet with their personal tutor every day who has an overview of their entire programme of study.

There are two Heads of Year for students in Post-16, Miss Bell and Mrs. Maddison. They will support students with any aspect of their studies and help with any

problems that students may encounter over the two years of their courses.

The timetable is an intense one. Having to be in the Academy each morning maintains a high attendance in lessons yet there is still a degree of flexibility as to what can be done in free periods when students are responsible for using their time wisely. Students are regarded very much as adults who know how to behave and can get on with their own work.



Barista's Coffee Shop

This attractive venue, right beside the Study Centre, is open every day from 8am until 2pm and is the ideal place for you to relax with friends over a coffee and a quick bite.

Decorated and furnished in a colourful Italian style, it has a delightful and welcoming 'retro' feel about it.

The Coffee Shop has rapidly become very popular, especially as a breakfast venue, with bacon or sausage sandwiches and toasted teacakes the most frequent choices from its highly original menu. Daily papers are also to hand if you wish to catch up on the news or just flick through the back pages.

What about the social life?

Social life at Macmillan is stimulating, thrilling and truly enjoyable. The massive array of available activities at a student's disposal, coupled with the team of supportive staff and welcoming peers means you'll never be bored. Enrichment activities are a great example of the social opportunities open to students, covering all imaginable areas of interest.

Whether you are passionate about the arts or physical activity, Macmillan will provide you with a platform to express your interest. With excellent studio facilities, media production is always a possibility, while the field is always available to those who prefer a more physically-challenging activity.

The Academy provides equipment for a huge selection of sports from football to athletics, sure to quench the thirst of any sportsperson. If that doesn't cover your area of interest then the Academy will always listen to suggestions for new enrichment opportunities such as the Post-16 Newspaper which has started up this year.

Social facilities for Post-16 students are impressive. Barista's is a cosy getaway from the hustle and bustle of the Academy corridors. Non-contact periods can be spent in a number of different ways although some work done in the Study Centre will be necessary.

Social events are organised by our team of Senior Students (chosen from Year 13). This year they have run a Christmas shopping trip to the Metro Centre and there are plans for a Leavers' Ball in the summer. A social life in Post-16 is as exciting as you want to make it.

The Dining Room

If you want a more substantial meal, you can visit the new Academy Dining Room.

The variety of food on offer in this light, airy, fully-carpeted area is extensive, with something to suit everyone every day of the week.



The Ullswater Outward Bound Experience

All Year 12 students have the unmissable opportunity to spend five days on a residential Key Skills Development course at the Outward Bound Centre beside Ullswater in the Lake District.

The skills which will be sharpened for you while you are there include communication, working effectively with others, managing change, problem solving and improving your own learning and performance. You will also have a thoroughly good time during what is, quite deliberately, a steep learning curve.

Much of your time is spent pursuing such outdoor activities as rock-climbing, raft-building, expeditions and rope courses. The aim of these is to develop in you those interpersonal and key skills which are so important both now and throughout your life. Many students regard this Ullswater experience as their first Management Course. Although at first daunting, Ullswater becomes a thrilling and exciting experience. It is an opportunity to have a break from Academy life while still socializing with other students and creating strong relationships that last throughout the year.

By the end of the week it will be very obvious that not only have you overcome the challenges set for you but that you have grown considerably as a person and know yourself much better than you ever did before.

Sport and fitness

Macmillan Academy has excellent sports facilities which are well-used by Post-16 students. The Leisure Centre has a large sports hall and an extremely well-equipped fitness rooms with cardio-vascular machines, weights and everything else you could expect.

You will receive a full induction into the correct use of the equipment and are free to use the machines throughout the day. As well as the extensive playing fields, there are also all-weather pitches and hard tennis courts. Post-16 sports teams also compete regularly against other schools and Academies.





The Macmillan Academy Rugby Academy

The aim of the Macmillan Academy Rugby Academy is to encourage the playing of the game of rugby and to develop a highly competitive Under-19 team which undertakes fixtures against private rugby-playing schools as well as competing in local and national competitions. This allows those students to play a high standard of rugby on a regular basis and other players to achieve their full potential. Students are also provided with opportunities to gain valuable RFU coaching and refereeing awards.

The Academy's Director, Mr Lee Richardson of Darlington RUFC and a member of the Macmillan Academy PE Staff, leads the

training sessions four times per week, actual matches being played on Wednesday afternoons. Other coaches, including Lee Davis of Darlington RUFC and former Newcastle Falcons and England Under-21s player Mr Shaun Richardson, work with the squad, emphasising team plays and unit skills. The development of personal fitness is overseen by Macmillan Academy's Director of Sport Mr Oscar Stanton. Involvement with the Rugby Academy takes up the equivalent amount of time as studying for one AS Level. This allows players to select 2 or 3 other combinations of academic or vocational courses as required.

Representative honours from Yorkshire Under-18s, Durham Under-18s, North of England Colleges and English Colleges, have been gained by members of the Rugby Academy.

If you are interested in learning more, please contact Mr Lee Richardson on 01642 353030.

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