



Prospectus 2021

Welcome to Trinity Academy Sowerby Bridge
The most transformational academy in England

**Register now for
Fair Banding Assessment**

Welcome from the Principal

I am delighted to welcome you to Trinity Academy Sowerby Bridge.

It is an exciting time to be joining our academy. The results we achieved in 2018 and 2019 place Trinity Academy Sowerby Bridge comfortably in the top 1% of the most improved schools in the country, making us one of the highest-performing schools for progress in the Calderdale local authority. We have also developed an excellent pastoral team to ensure that every child in our care is nurtured and supported throughout their time with us.

September 2020 will see the opening of our all-new Performing Arts faculty, which is the icing on the cake for our broad and balanced curriculum offer.

This remarkable improvement is only the start of our journey. Trinity Academy Sowerby Bridge aims to be 'the most transformational academy in England' and is committed to doing the simple things well, all of the time. We are guided by our core values of Empathy, Honesty, Respect and Responsibility, which run through every aspect of school life.

Although we are very proud to share the 'Trinity' name, we have our own unique and distinct identity. We reflect the local community that we serve, and offer a wide range of opportunities for students and parents to shape the experience that we offer.

Being part of the Trinity MAT does bring a number of benefits; we are like-minded people who share the same values. We invest heavily in our people, teaching and support staff alike, because they make the difference.

These are exciting times for Trinity Academy Sowerby Bridge. If you would like to be part of an academy that ensures that there are no barriers to what young people can achieve, this is the place to be. I look forward to welcoming you here.

Charlie Johnson
Principal



Welcome from the Trinity MAT CEO

As CEO of the Trinity Multi-Academy Trust (MAT), I have genuine pleasure in welcoming you to Trinity Academy Sowerby Bridge (TASB). The MAT family contains a variety of institutions, from primary to post-16 education, ranging in size from 180 to 1800 students. Due to the phenomenal success of Trinity Academy Halifax, the academy is also the lead school in two high profile initiatives – the Trinity Teaching School Alliance (TTSA) and the West Yorkshire Maths Hub. Both of these achievements reflect how the academy is at the forefront of the latest developments, and bring a number of benefits to students.

I am committed to continuous improvement for all schools in our MAT and whilst success is celebrated, the next step is always to look at what can be improved – both for students and staff. The trust will continue to grow, and we will strive to provide young people with the highest standard of education to ensure a solid foundation for their future aspirations.

Mr Michael Gosling
CEO



We constantly and consistently strive to improve the experience on offer.

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Christian values

Our core values of Empathy, Honesty, Respect and Responsibility are embedded in every aspect of our school life.

While we are guided by these Christian values, our students and staff come from a wide range of backgrounds. We welcome students of all faiths and none.

"We are guided by our core values of Empathy, Honesty, Respect and Responsibility, which run through every aspect of school life."



Outstanding student progress and success

At Trinity Academy Sowerby Bridge we create a culture of high aspirations where students are challenged to achieve their potential, and successes are celebrated.

We pride ourselves on our parental communications, and have robust systems in place to keep students and their carers informed about progress. These systems, along with the dedication of our teachers and students, are what ensures we are one of the highest-performing schools for progress in the Calderdale local authority and in the top 1% of the most improved schools in the country.

Parents and students can expect:

Regular reporting on progress

Regular reports and information on the My Child at School app show students and parents levels of progress, advise on focus areas and provide clear information on how students can improve.

Parental consultation evenings

Parents and carers are expected to attend regular consultation meetings to support our partnership approach. We have specialist pastoral care practitioners who will arrange support if needed.

Achieve - extra support

Where students are not achieving their full potential, they will be enrolled in individual after-school support sessions designed to meet their needs.

We want students to understand that nothing is impossible. Regardless of their ambition or current level of academic ability, we support and challenge all of our young people in equal measure.

Of the 3269 schools with progress scores published in 2017 and 2018 performance tables, Trinity Academy Sowerby Bridge was the 16th most improved school in the country.



Behaviour and standards

Our students receive a first-class education, delivered by hand-picked practitioners within an aspirational and disciplined environment.

Our behaviour standards are modelled on our sister institution, Trinity Academy Halifax, which is the founding academy of Trinity MAT and has received two Ofsted 'outstanding' judgements.

Our behaviour policy revolves around our core values of Empathy, Honesty, Respect and Responsibility. A visit from the Diocesan Education team in 2019 demonstrated how these values help to uphold our behaviour policy and encourage positive communication through the academy.

"The four values of Empathy, Honesty, Responsibility and Respect are firmly embedded and shape behaviour. As a result, longer serving staff can say that behaviour is the best it has been for many years. All students can explain what the values are and readily apply them to class room situations. They agree that the values improve behaviour."

We have high expectations and accept no excuses. Parents and students who join our academy community sign the Home Academy Agreement which signals their commitment to making the very most of the experience on offer. This agreement sets out what the academy, carers and the students agree together for the good of the whole academy and everyone within it. This agreement recognises the need for a good partnership between home and the academy and seeks to build on this, ensuring standards are met in all areas of our students' lives.

Students at Trinity Academy Sowerby Bridge can expect:

An excellent Behaviour for Learning system

Our focus is on strong discipline which allows teachers to teach and learners to learn. Clear boundaries reduce the likelihood of bullying and enable students to achieve their potential.



Taking pride in all aspects of appearance

Students wear their uniform with pride. A smart uniform supports a positive attitude to learning and reflects our students' pride in being part of our community. Students understand how they should present themselves at school and how this makes a difference to the experience and rewards that they will enjoy.

Expectation of high attendance

Students who have high attendance succeed. Students are expected to strive for 100% attendance and maintain a minimum of 96%. Where a student falls below this, we have strong support systems in place.

Good discipline ensures that students enjoy a calm, motivated and purposeful environment. At Trinity Academy Sowerby Bridge our students develop attributes and habits that not only ensure academic success but support young people as they compete for places at college, university and in the world of work.



A broad and balanced curriculum

At the heart of our curriculum is inspiring teaching and learning. We want students to enjoy their lessons because we know that when they do, they will achieve more. Our staff undergo weekly training to help them deliver lessons that are consistently vibrant and engaging.

We offer a broad and balanced curriculum. Students in Year 7, 8 and 9 study a range of subjects with a core focus on success in maths and English to secure excellent numeracy and literacy skills. From Year 10 onwards, students enter into their GCSE studies where they will access a range of options.

Our aim is to help our young people become well-rounded citizens who are empathetic, honest, responsible and respectful at all times. The academy is committed to a 'Curriculum for Life', going above and beyond the Prevent Duty set out by the Department for Education. We are a non-selective academy and are proud of the additional support that we offer students, including those with English as an additional language. The support we provide is dependent upon student needs, and parents of students with additional needs are invited to contact us.



Opportunities beyond the traditional

Students access a range of support, advice and experiences that help them to prepare for life in modern Britain. We also run a wide range of trips, clubs and other extra-curricular activities and offer leadership opportunities for students.

One of our current projects to extend our curriculum is developing our Performing Arts department. September 2020 will see the opening of our all-new Performing Arts faculty, the latest addition to our inspirational curriculum. We are excited to be extending our curriculum offer to students, providing them with new experiences and opportunities in the creative and expressive industries.

"We reflect the local community that we serve, and provide a wide range of opportunities for students and parents to shape the experience that we offer."



Developing skills beyond the classroom

At Trinity Academy Sowerby Bridge we are proud of the experiences we offer outside the classroom. Involve is a great way to try new things, make new friends and have fun. All Year 7 and Year 8 students are expected to take part in at least one after school club per week, and we have optional activities for Year 9.

We make sure there are lots of clubs to choose from, from baseball to maths, music and craft, and we ask students to sign up to at least one activity per term. They can either continue with an activity or try something else for the next term.

"The extra-curricular activities provided in Involve cover a good range of activities including sports, drama, debating and science. The programme is well thought through and well delivered. It serves to extend education but crucially also to provide enjoyment and engagement."

- Diocesan Education Team



Pastoral System

Trinity Academy Sowerby Bridge understands that when students feel settled and secure they will achieve more. The network of support our pastoral system provides to students and their families is a real strength. Parents can be reassured that their children are well looked after throughout their time at the academy.

You will often hear about the 'community feel' at the academy. We are committed to helping our young people to resolve any issue, whether it stems from within the academy or not, which has an adverse effect on their education.

Our Heads of Year are responsible for leading activities to celebrate the success of students, including rewards weeks and trips. We have a strong focus on safeguarding, and our outstanding levels of pastoral care.

"There has been significant investment in training and capacity building for mental health, including a strong and well-trained pastoral team"
(Safeguarding Review Feb 2020)

"The staff know their students well and have clear systems in place to support their needs. These systems are consistently delivered and are having impact across all areas."

Pupil Premium Review
[By the Abbey MAT]
March 2019



Preparing for life at our academy

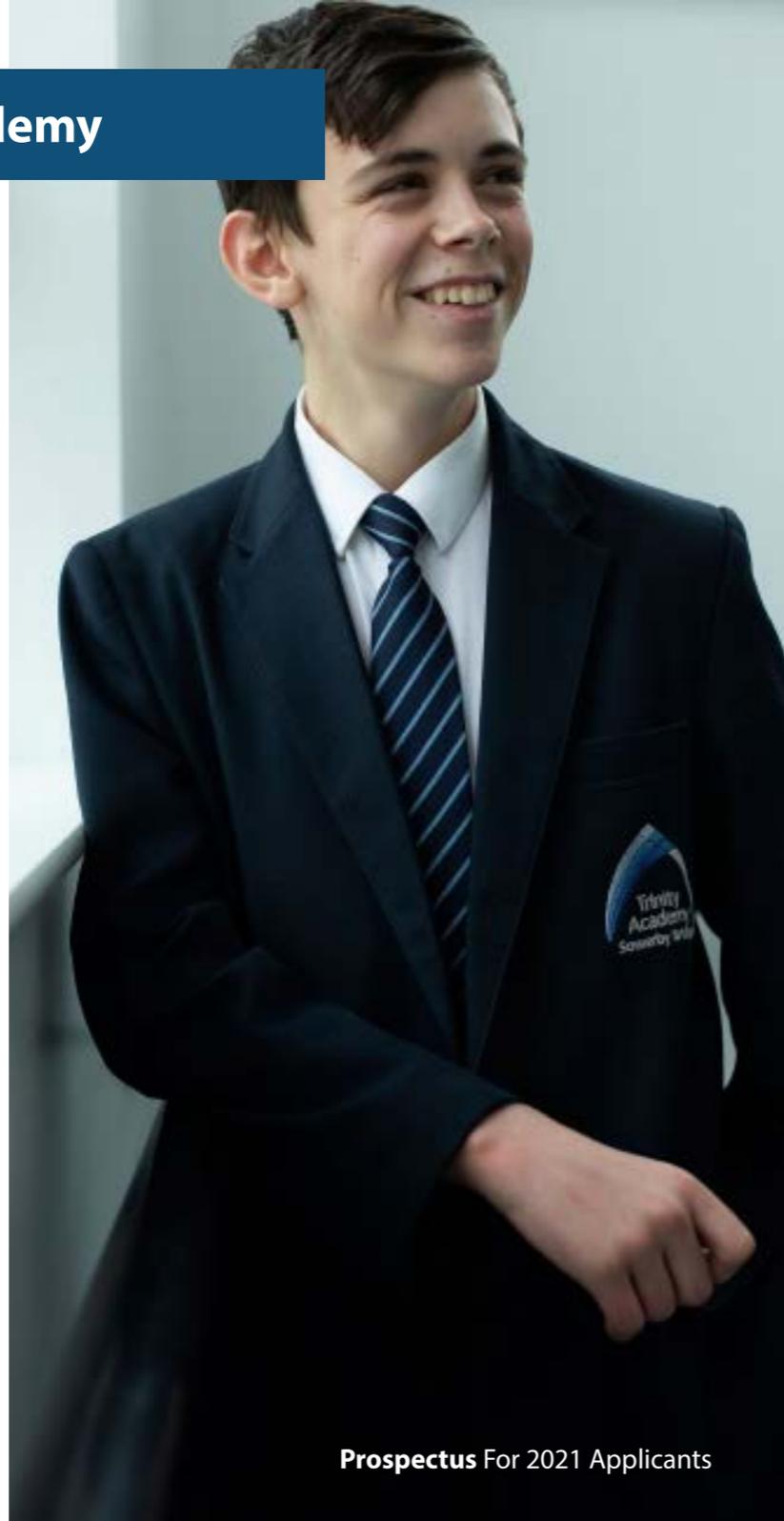
We understand that making the move from primary to secondary school involves a lot of change – often for parents and carers as well as students! From making new friends to addressing any worries and questions about attending a new school, we want to ensure students feel supported and excited to join us in September.

Before starting here at Trinity Academy Sowerby Bridge, students will have the chance to ask questions, visit our academy and understand key information they need to know before they start.

Our Transition programme is designed to make this move a positive and exciting experience for our new students. We have a team of teachers who visit primary schools during Year 6, so students can meet the friendly staff who will play a prominent role through their time in Year 7.

Transition Evening gives students the opportunity to walk around the school, looking at different departments, helping to give a feel for life here at Trinity Academy Sowerby Bridge. They will also experience a full transition day in school during their final term in Year 6.

We are very proud of the excellent pastoral care that we have developed, ensuring students entering Year 7 settle in quickly and with ease.



Specialists within our MAT

We are modelled on the outstanding providers within our trust and tailor their world-class systems to ensure we provide the best education for our students.

Our relationship with the Trinity Multi-Academy Trust supports our recruitment and retention of quality teachers. The Trinity Teaching School Alliance (TTSA) is a MAT initiative which brings enormous benefit to the academy. By recruiting and training teachers, we can build effective relationships with them from the very start of their careers. The career path we can offer within the MAT is challenging and rewarding, and teachers are able to develop and thrive here.

Trinity MAT also incorporates the West Yorkshire Maths Hub, a national centre for excellence in the teaching of mathematics. Additionally, White Rose Maths, whose maths teaching resources are widely used in schools across the UK and worldwide, all developed by a passionate team of maths specialists and teachers working within Trinity MAT.

We are privileged to have access to preferential support from a huge range of maths, science, English and literacy experts. In close partnership with our full-time staff, this support ensures that our young people have firm foundations for academic success and beyond.



“I wouldn’t want my children at any other school, and couldn’t be more grateful for how you are supporting the children and the whole family.”

- Parent of current student



Opportunities for post-16

We pride ourselves on helping our students make the choices that are important for them now, and for the future.

With this in mind, we aim to provide our students with opportunities that extend beyond their time with us, in line with their future aspirations. Trinity Multi-Academy Trust has worked in partnership with Calderdale to provide a brand new sixth form centre.

This transformational project is designed to give more students greater post-16 choices and to allow them to benefit from outstanding sixth form provision in a state-of-the-art new building in the centre of Halifax.



Applying for a place

Trinity Academy Sowerby Bridge is a popular school. We admit 180 students into Year 7 and these places are awarded strictly in line with the terms of our Admissions Policy, which is available to view on our website.

Fair Banding Assessments

For Year 7 entry into Trinity Academy Sowerby Bridge in 2021, parents/carers will need to register their child to sit a non-verbal reasoning assessment (a Fair Banding Assessment). The assessment is not a traditional entrance exam which children either pass or fail. No special preparation or tutoring is necessary. The purpose of fair banding is to ensure that our intake exactly matches the ability profile of the children applying by assessing each child's cognitive ability. This means that they have a fair chance of securing a place at Trinity Academy Sowerby Bridge.

Applicants who sit the Fair Banding Assessment are considered for admission first. Any applicants who choose not to sit the Fair Banding Assessment will be 'non-banded' and will be ranked in order of priority (after all of the banded applicants), with the level of priority then determined with reference to the oversubscription criteria (see the Admissions Policy). Please visit the Admissions page on our website to view our Fair Banding video for a full explanation of how Fair Banding works.

Important note - An application to sit our Fair Banding Assessment is not an application to attend the school.

Parents will also have to include Trinity Academy Sowerby Bridge as one of their five preferences on the local authority's Common Application Form (CAF) which must be submitted to the local authority **on or before 31 October 2020**. Please refer to your local authority's website for information on how to apply for a place at a Calderdale secondary school.





National Teaching School
designated by

National College for
Teaching & Leadership

 Trinity MAT



 MathsHUBS
West Yorkshire

 TRINITY
TEACHING SCHOOL ALLIANCE

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