



# Prospectus

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## Introduction

# from our chair of governors

Education has an enormous impact on the life chances of our children; it is fundamental in the successful development of our communities, our region and our economy. It is, therefore, imperative that we provide the children and young people of Sunderland with the learning environment that they deserve and an education that will improve their life chances and raise their aspirations.

The Leighton Group, along with co-sponsors Sunderland City Council and the University of Sunderland have successfully supported the Academy in its development over the last 5 years. From 1st October 2014 the Academy has decided to change sponsors to the Northern Education Trust (NET) and I have joined the NET Board and will continue to be the Chair of the Academy.

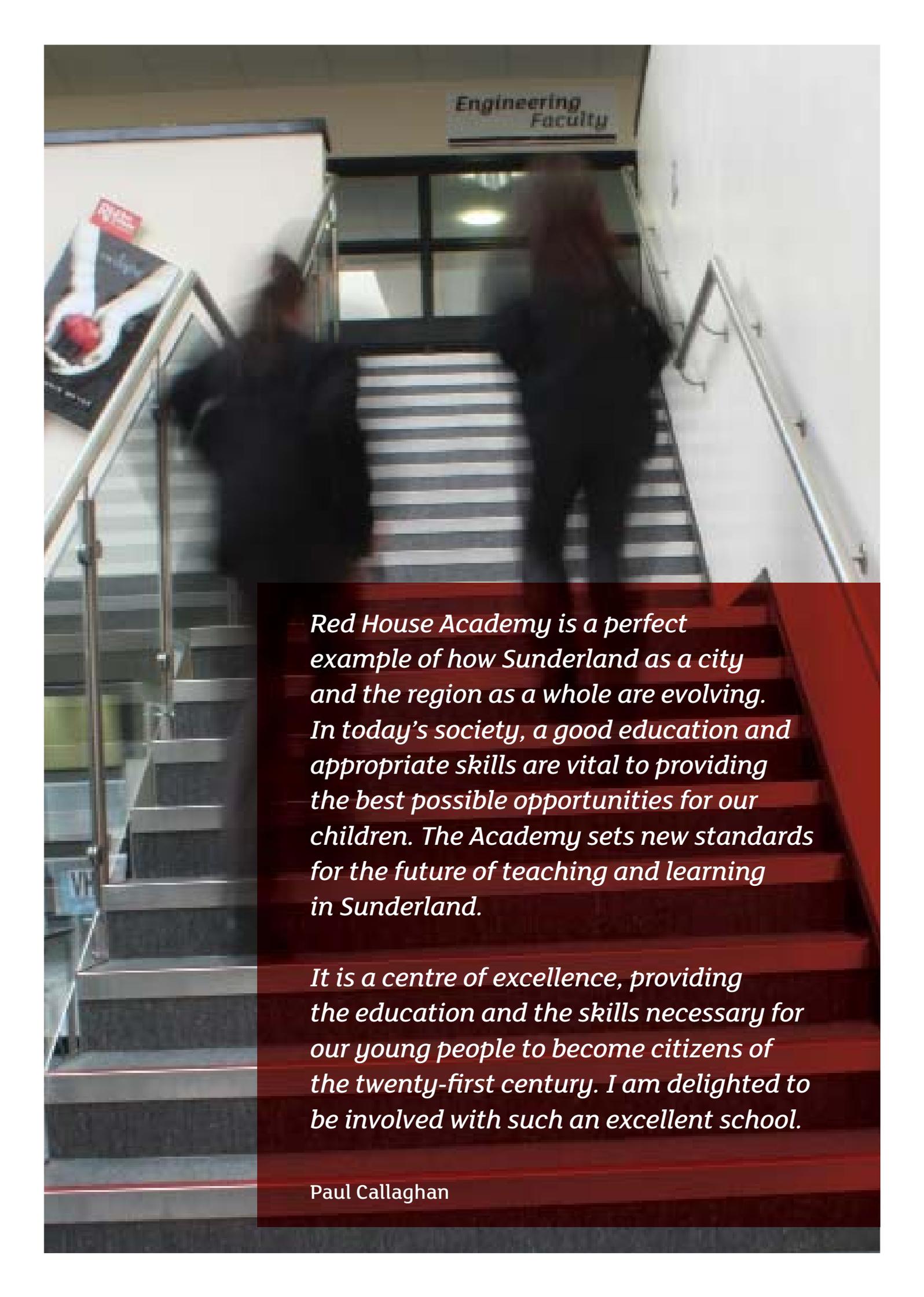
NET has vast experience of school improvement across the north of England and now has 19 primary and secondary academies in the group and their expertise will support Red House in the next stage of its development.

Our vision, supported by the Northern Education Trust will be to create an Academy where children are actively engaged in their learning, strive for improvement and are proud of their achievements. Our dedicated staff will continually evaluate their practice in order to meet the needs of our children and ensure the success of each and every one of them

I strongly believe that Red House Academy will continue to transform the education of our young people. With its state of the art building, the Academy offers students an outstanding school with specialist facilities and resources.

### **Paul Callaghan**

Chair of Governors  
and Chair The Leighton Group



Engineering  
Faculty

*Red House Academy is a perfect example of how Sunderland as a city and the region as a whole are evolving. In today's society, a good education and appropriate skills are vital to providing the best possible opportunities for our children. The Academy sets new standards for the future of teaching and learning in Sunderland.*

*It is a centre of excellence, providing the education and the skills necessary for our young people to become citizens of the twenty-first century. I am delighted to be involved with such an excellent school.*

Paul Callaghan



# Welcome to **Red House Academy**

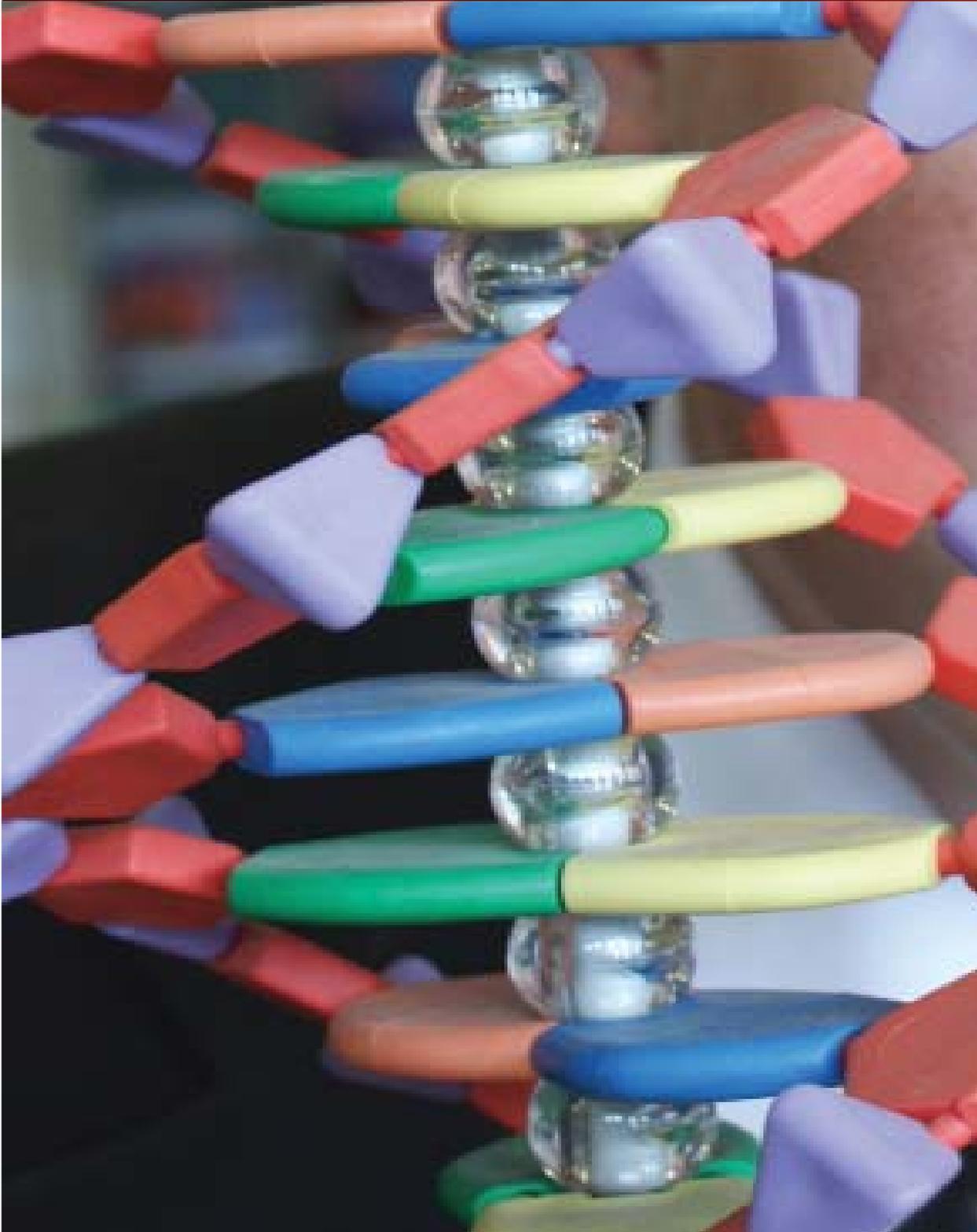
Red House Academy opened in September 2009 on the site of Hylton Red House School. It opened in state of the art buildings and offers a balanced curriculum to all students so they can pursue their own ambitions according to their personal ability and aptitude.

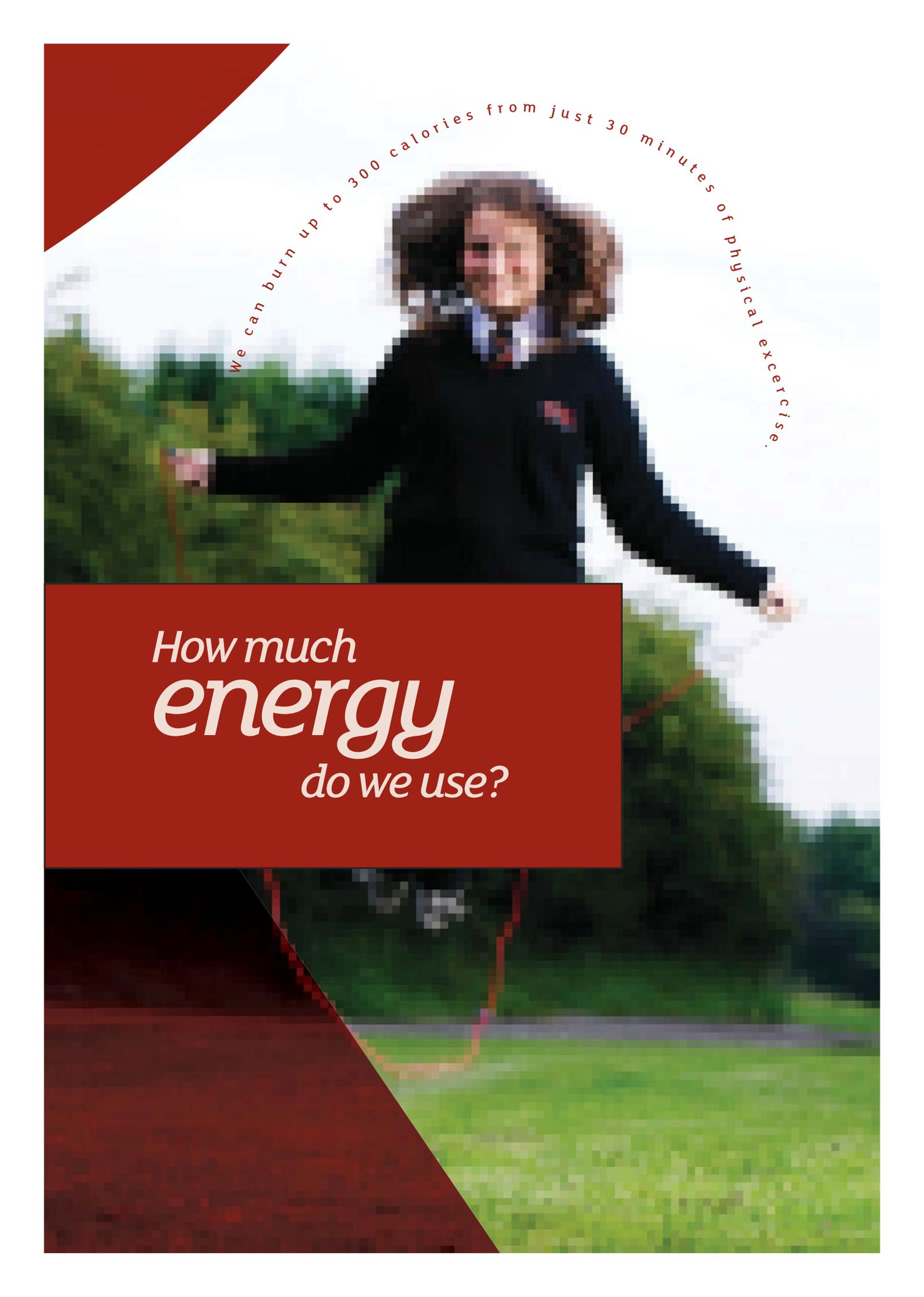
The Academy enjoys specialist engineering facilities, in terms of resources, which allows us to develop problem solving, employability and thinking skills. Our curriculum prepares all of our young people to take their part in the world as thinking, independent adults.

The Academy works with other partners in the business and educational field, including the City of Sunderland College and it's Sixth Form and other Local Authority Primary and Secondary Schools, to ensure our young people are prepared for the 21st Century. The Academy contributes to the Sunderland Strategy 2008-25, where everyone can be involved in learning.

The Academy ensures your children achieve their potential and enjoy their time in education through a personalised response to their individual needs.

*In everything we do and in our entire organisation, every individual is responsible for modelling what it is that we value and stand for.*





*We can burn up to 300 calories from just 30 minutes of physical exercise.*

*How much  
**energy**  
do we use?*

# The **Learning Community**

## **Our ethos**

is to create a culture of innovation and creativity that encourages high aspiration and ambition, in an enterprising environment, in which all students, their families and local community find their learning challenging, engaging and motivating.

## **Our aims**

are to raise standards through a constant focus on individual achievement and attainment.

- To place student learning, engagement and aspirations at the heart of all activity.
- To motivate all learners and equip them for lifelong learning through high quality teaching and support.
- To generate communities of responsibility in order to play a full part in the wider community, valuing the change to life chances that education can bring.
- To nurture relationships that embody all that is valued by Red House Academy.
- To maintain a quiet Academy which is evidenced through engagement, learning, progression, mutual respect and partnership working.
- To generate confident, independent learners, equipped to meet the demands of the 21st Century world by taking full advantage of its specialism and other resources.

## **We value**

- Diversity
- Equality
- Honesty
- Mutual respect
- Hard work
- Integrity
- Safety
- Morality
- Positive attitude
- Good behaviour
- Courage
- Consistency
- Aspiration
- Partnerships
- Teamwork
- Compassion





## Academy Structure

Red House Academy is a two floor designed building using a combination of traditional and modern materials, with flexible working spaces.

The ground floor accommodates the Learning Resource Centre (LRC) and a large hall allowing group and large project work, as well as performance and presentations, also the hairdressing salon, catering kitchen and specialist ICT, science and engineering rooms. The upper floor accommodates a specialist music suite and recording studio. Teaching takes place in specialist rooms on both floors.

### *fact*

“We get our energy from fat, carbs and protein.”

It has a unique partnership between Red House Academy and Sunderland City Council in the development of a Youth Centre, providing Academy accommodation during the day and youth opportunities in the evening.

These are in addition to resources provided by the City of Sunderland College, our Sixth Form through Sunderland College.



## Transition

*Moving into KS3 will be a more comfortable transition, transferring into a smaller environment, with staff specialists in KS2-3 transition, supporting your child in his/her move.*

Red House Academy works very closely with feeder primaries to ensure the smooth transition of your children. Primary children are often very wary about moving into a new situation with older children.

Our relationship with the Primary Schools ensures your child's familiarity with the Academy and its staff and our familiarity with your child's aptitudes and needs, so that we can plan their learning journey from entry.

Transition is Foundation KS2-3, Foundation GCSE to GCSE and GCSE to KS5.



## Safeguarding

*Parents should be aware that the school would take any reasonable action to ensure the safety of its pupils/students.*

In cases where the school has reason to be concerned that a child may be subject to significant harm, ill-treatment, neglect or other forms of abuse, staff have no alternative but to follow SSCB (Sunderland Safeguarding Board Procedures) and inform Children Services Social Care of their concern.



## Community

Our vision is to create both an outstanding Academy and Community hub.

Part of this is the provision of intervention support for our children and their families beyond the Academy day.

We work in collaboration with other agencies and organisations to offer a range of enhanced services including breakfast clubs, homework activities, holiday programmes and a range of activities beyond the normal Academy day.

We have a designated Parent Liaison Officer - Mrs. Alyson Taylor, whom you can contact at [parent@redhouseacademy.co.uk](mailto:parent@redhouseacademy.co.uk).

The development of our Youth Centre won a national BT award for student voice.



*At Red House Academy we are creating an outstanding learning environment for students, staff and the local community.*

*Every aspect of the Academy - from the design of the building to the curriculum and staff - are being carefully considered to ensure we reach this objective.*

# Learning and Teaching

Our teaching staff are skilful practitioners, at the forefront of their profession, able to apply highly effective and innovative approaches to learning. They make learning enjoyable and stimulating, ensuring every student achieves their best.

## Curriculum

The curriculum has been designed to meet the needs of students of all abilities with a strong focus on personalised learning. In some cases this may mean a greater emphasis on literacy and numeracy if a child needs additional help in these key areas.

For most able students there are opportunities for extension work so that they are constantly challenged and stimulated.

Red House Academy gives all the students the skills, confidence, poise, drive and ambition to prepare them for the worlds of further and higher education and the wider working environment.

All students follow a broad and balanced curriculum during the Foundation GCSE Years 7-9, which prepares them well for choosing the most appropriate courses to study towards qualifications higher up the Academy.

A wide range of subjects are offered in Years 10 and 11 to ensure each child is able to pursue their individual strengths, whilst maintaining a strong core of learning that will stand them in good stead for life after Red House Academy.

Red House Academy has a strong commitment to developing life skills through improved self-confidence and self-belief.

*Students have the chance to go on field trips and visits relevant to the curriculum as well as having access to residential opportunities as appropriate and international visits.*

### fact

“Walking for forty-five minutes a day increases your thinking skills.”



Friction is the force resisting the relative motion of two surfaces in contact.

it is derived from electromagnetic forces between atoms and electrons,

friction between two objects converts kinetic energy into thermal energy.

What are the  
**forces**  
behind friction?



## Skills Development

Red House Academy teaches a broad and rich curriculum with a strong focus on skills development.

*Learning and teaching ensures that students develop an enthusiasm and confidence around all subjects in ways that will enable them to move forward into further and higher education according to their individual abilities, aptitudes and ambitions. Our wider aim is to increase the post-16 participation rate in all subjects. Red House Academy strives for continuous improvement in attainment through the sharing of good practice across all curriculum areas.*

Our use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is extensive and well considered. Employers increasingly seek candidates who are equipped with a wide range of skills and competencies for a wide range of jobs.

The focus at Red House Academy is to address the needs of 21st Century organisations looking to recruit the next generation of talented young people from our local community.

We work alongside relevant partners to provide students with the appropriate careers guidance.

*Well-designed software packages supports individual learning for students who will have the added advantage of being able to access learning resources and material outside the Academy day through the Academy's website.*



## Using new technology

New technologies support learning and teaching both at the Academy and at home. As well as two well-equipped, dedicated ICT suites, the Academy provides clusters of desktop computers, laptop trolleys and ubiquitous network connectivity for students to work on their own, in small groups and as a class.

Students are also be able to use the Academy's Personal Learning Environment to support learning and teaching wherever they have access to an internet connection.

## Encouraging participation

Students have the chance to participate in a full extra-curricular or enrichment programme. This includes sports, the creative and performing arts. The Academy fosters a culture where responsibility and participation go hand in hand. Students also have a choice of a range of clubs and societies and in the evening, the Youth Centre.

The Academy develops talent across a wide spectrum, including artistic, mathematical, sporting and interpersonal skills.

Students are encouraged to be active citizens and take part in the wider life of the Academy community.



## Support for students

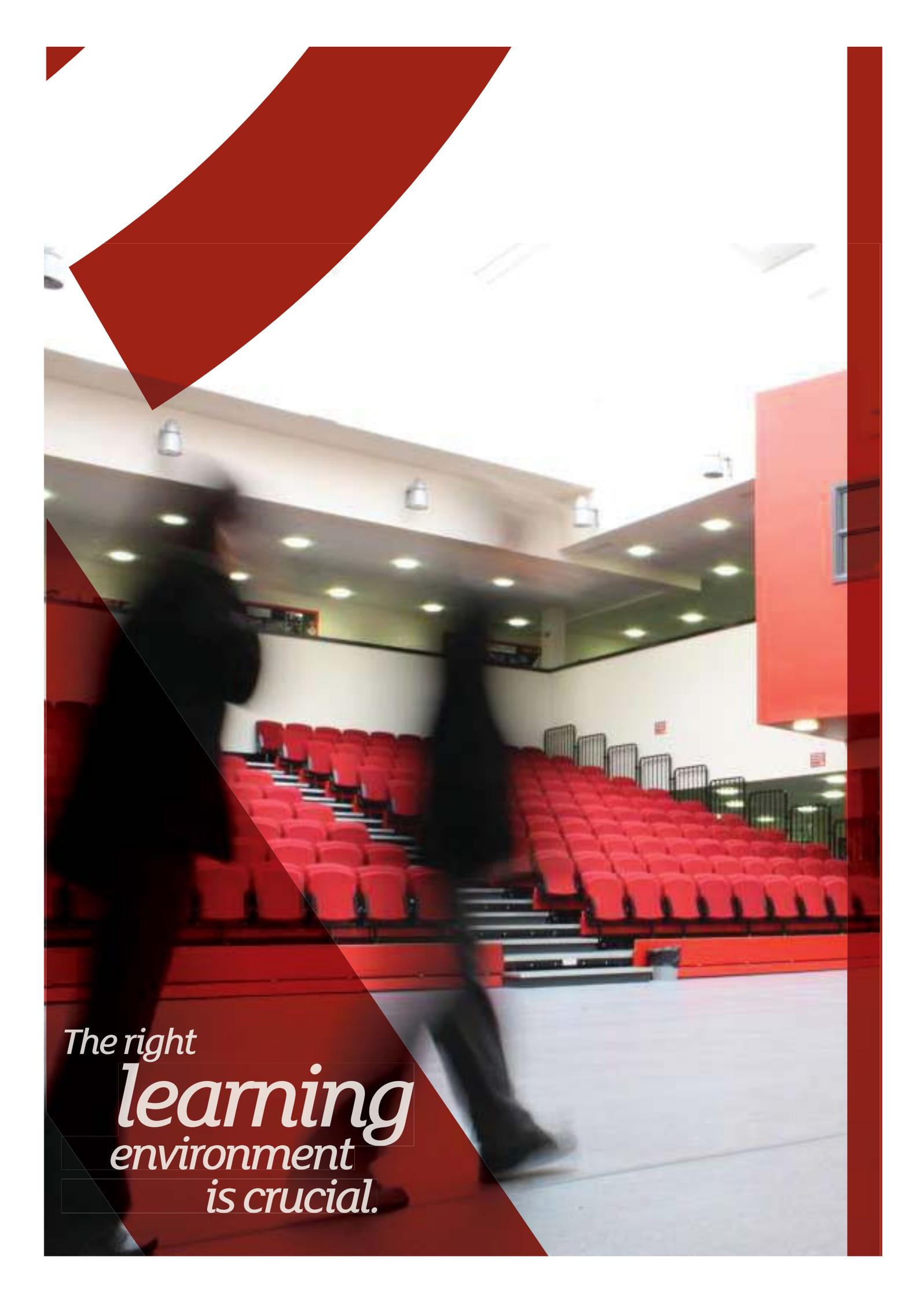
At Red House Academy we believe that every student is important and we have high expectations of them all. Early identification of each student's abilities and monitoring progress every half term are important tools in supporting their learning.

Progress reports each half term provide valuable evidence on each student. Students are organised into Year Groups and supported by Form Tutors in tutorial time.

Students have to show the progress they are making towards achieving their targets. Parents are encouraged to actively participate in this learning journey.

The Academy's Student support team aims to provide every child with the support they need to feel safe and valued at Red House Academy so that they achieve their full potential.

*Students have to show the progress they are making towards achieving their targets.*



*The right  
**learning**  
environment  
is crucial.*

*The Academy wants parents and carers to be fully involved, to talk to teachers and meet staff, in order to understand what is going on.*

## Working with parents and carers

Parents and carers are encouraged to be involved in their child's progress as part of building strong partnerships with the Academy. There is a Home-Academy Agreement that the Academy, parents and carers and students sign.

This sets out the responsibilities of all the parties in enhancing the learning of each child.

It also covers areas such as upholding the dress code around the Academy, uniform, punctual and regular attendance and exemplary behaviour.

The Academy wants parents and carers to be fully involved, to talk to teachers and meet staff, in order to understand what is going on.

Policies relating to bullying, child protection, health & safety, the promotion of good behaviour and sanctions adopted in the event of pupils misbehaving are available on the Academy website or available from the Academy.

### **fact**

“The brain keeps developing, no matter your age, and it reflects what you do with it.”



*When a kite is tilted so that the air is deflected downward the kite has no where to go but up.*

*The four forces of flight are drag, lift, thrust and weight.*

What are the  
**physics**  
of flight?

## Taking responsibility

The Academy believes in the traditional values of respect and courtesy for others.

Good behaviour is expected at all times both within the Academy and when students are arriving or leaving at the end of the day.

Smoking, drugs and alcohol are not permitted on the Academy site at any time. Such behaviour will not be tolerated and could lead to exclusion.

When students join the Academy, parents and carers are given more information about the policies and rules that apply.

*There is a zero tolerance approach to bullying as the Academy community is a safe place for all students. The building has been designed in a way that encourages safety and security and its culture reinforces that.*

*Students are expected to stay on site during lunchtimes to promote a calm and orderly environment. By building strong relationships with other schools and parents and carers, Red House Academy gives students an excellent education, where high standards and individual learning are at the heart of the Academy.*

### ONE ACADEMY RULE

All students and adults are expected to behave in a responsible manner both towards themselves and others, showing consideration, courtesy and respect at all times.

*Red House Academy has an inspiring building. The first class facilities for students and staff make it a fantastic place to learn.*



## Academy uniform

The uniform is part of a student's pride in belonging to Red House Academy. They are the ambassadors for the Academy and this applies as much to their appearance going to and from the site as when studying within it. A smart appearance is expected at all times and parents are asked to ensure that this is respected. The uniform consists of:

### Compulsory Uniform:

- Grey trousers
- Trousers are not to be tucked into socks
- Black blazer with Academy Badge (can be purchased from the Academy)
- White shirt, buttoned up to neck, tucked into trousers
- Clipped tie (Academy colours, can be purchased from the Academy)
- Black socks
- Plain black shoes
- PE uniform, consisting of grey polo shirt, black tracksuit bottoms, black tracksuit top and trainers

### Optional Uniform:

- Black v necked jumper or black v necked tank top.

## The Learning Environment

*Red House Academy is an inspiring building. Its innovative design and sense of light and space make it friendly and welcoming. The first class facilities for students and staff make it a fantastic place to learn. The building helps create a learning community and makes the Academy part of the wider community.*

The classrooms vary in shape and size and a number of them can be adapted quickly for small or large groups. Each floor has space for learning and teaching specialist curriculum subjects, including high quality Science laboratories, specific areas for Design Technology and ICT and a specialist Arts space. The Academy has a 240 seat Lecture Theatre.

The Lecture Theatre space provides a large-scale learning environment as well as hosting Academy and community events. Visiting speakers, master classes and video conference facilities link learning to the outside world. All areas of the building are fully accessible for people with disabilities or mobility problems.

Jupiter has forty-nine named moons. **fact**

# What's in *space?*

Mars is over 250 million miles away from planet earth. **fact**

Mercury is the smallest planet in our solar system. **fact**



## A great place to learn

*'Anytime, anywhere' learning is part of the Academy's approach to learning.*

The Academy has an excellent Learning Resource Centre, located at the heart of the building, with a wide range of both traditional and digital materials and resources to support students and teachers. It has space for tutorials, quiet study and of course the latest technology. 'Anytime, anywhere' learning is part of the Academy's approach to learning.

ICT facilities are open outside the core Academy hours. Technology also supports good attendance through a system of electronic registration.

Students and staff use a multi-purpose smart card to access the building, pay for meals and use the library as well as a range of other Academy facilities.

## A safe place to learn

*The Academy has been designed as a safe space for everyone. This has been a top priority. Red House Academy wants all students and staff to feel safe and secure, learning and teaching in the Academy, and wants parents and carers to know that the well-being of their child is our first concern.*

*The Academy has invested in excellent security systems including CCTV cameras and there is a secure main entrance for students and staff with full access control.*

Red House Academy is a safe environment where people have respect for each other, the Academy's building and facilities and other people's belongings. If this is not respected sanctions do follow.



## A healthy environment

*The Academy is committed to caring for the whole child and their physical well-being, as well as giving them the best possible education.*

The PE curriculum helps to build the Academy community through co-operation and teamwork, helping students to develop confidence, poise and a sense of achievement.

Sport is promoted within the curriculum as well as through a range of clubs and societies.

Red House Academy is also committed to healthy eating with a high quality kitchen preparing and serving delicious, nutritious food. We have achieved Healthy Academy status. Academy meals are attractive and healthy with a good mix of menus.

Staff and students eat in the same dedicated dining area so that eating becomes a social activity for the whole Academy as well as a boost to students' health. Students may choose to bring a packed lunch but the Academy asks that they meet 'Healthy Eating' standards.

### **fact**

“We aimed to achieve Healthy Academy status, and we did”

### **fact**

“You will learn better if you spread your learning of a topic over an extended period of time”

## Attendance and Punctuality

An extremely high standard of attendance and punctuality is essential for any student or employee in order for them to maximise their potential.

At Red House Academy we insist that all students and parents strive to ensure that, together, they meet this fundamental requirement.

We encourage high standards by closely monitoring levels of attendance and punctuality and rewarding those who meet our high standards.

Any student who arrives on the Academy site following the closure of the register will be marked late and appropriate action taken.

## Religious Education and Collective Worship

Our Religious Education is taken from the Sunderland agreed syllabus, agreed and ratified by Sunderland City Council, local teachers and representatives from all major faiths and denominations.

Although Christian based, it also ensures that our pupils gain some awareness and understanding of other world religions. There are varied arrangements for daily worship.

***All parents have the right to withdraw their children from the Academy daily acts of collective worship or from religious education.***

***If you want to withdraw your child from these parts of Academy life, please contact the Principal.***

*We encourage high standards by closely monitoring levels of attendance and punctuality and rewarding those who meet our high standards.*



## Admission Arrangements

The governing body is the Admission Authority for Red House Academy. The admission process is managed by Sunderland City Council and the Academy follows Sunderland City Council's policy for admissions.

You will be provided with a booklet which outlines the arrangements.

This booklet gives specific guidance related to the Red House Academy and the role of the Governing Body in any decisions made, including appeal arrangements in the event of your child being refused a place.

*To support the decision making process every pupil attending a feeder school will receive a detailed prospectus which includes a clear description of the new Academy, this has been designed to support you when making your decision in time for the October deadline.*

*Red House Academy is the heart of the community and we look forward to welcoming you.*



## The Home Academy Agreement

### The Academy will:

- Provide our students with a safe, ordered and caring environment and a broad, balanced and challenging curriculum through which they will be free to achieve their academic potential and grow to be active citizens of the world.
- Provide tailored support to ensure progression towards all targets and provide high quality teaching and a range of enrichment and enhancement activities.
- Provide a series of 'catch-up' classes for students who are poor attendees or who are not reaching their potential in class for whatever reason (eg non-completion of homework/coursework). These may take place after the normal school day or during non-teaching weeks.
- Value and respect our students as individuals.
- Listen to you and your child and respond quickly to any concerns you may have and contact you promptly should a problem arise.
- Keep you informed about the Academy and your child's progress by providing you with regular reports and parent/teacher consultations.
- Keep you informed of all assessments, behaviour, and attendance.



## The Home Academy Agreement

### The Student will:

- Always follow The One Academy Rule:  
“All students and adults are expected to behave in a responsible manner, both to themselves and others, showing consideration, courtesy and respect at all times.”
- Always work to the best of my ability, completing class work and homework and behaving appropriately, showing respect for the Academy community and environment.
- Work with all the staff in the Academy to ensure that I meet my targets.
- Understand that all time missed by being late for the Academy day will be ‘paid back’ during school detentions at lunchtimes, evenings or holidays. Also that work missed due to poor behaviour will be done in my own time.
- Attend regularly, on time, in full uniform and prepared for all lessons.
- Understand that if my attendance and/or performance does not reach the necessary standards then I will be expected to make up the time/work in a pre-planned programme of activities which may take place after normal school time or during non-teaching weeks.
- Work to the best of my ability and seek help if I am unsure about anything.
- Adopt a positive ‘can do’ attitude and participate fully in all aspects of Academy life.



## The Home Academy Agreement

### The Family will:

- Ensure that the student attends regularly, punctually and in full uniform, with all equipment and bag.
- Be aware that requests for holidays during term time are likely to be refused and that any time taken will be recorded as unauthorised absence with appropriate follow up action taken, including fixed penalty notices (fines).
- Support the student and the Academy by ensuring the student's attendance at any extra-curricular activities during term time and/or non-teaching weeks where these are expressly provided to ensure the academic progression of the student.
- Work with the Academy on all reading programmes and encourage students to attend catch up programmes when the Academy is in session and during holidays.
- Support the Student in their homework and ensure that they meet all deadlines.
- Keep the Academy informed of any issues which may affect the student's learning, including notifying the Academy of absences, changes of address and contact details.
- Read and respond to all correspondence from the Academy as soon as possible and attend all meetings and Performance Reviews/Parent Evenings.
- Encourage the student to do their best at all times, to behave in an appropriate manner and to have a positive regard for the values and ethos of the Academy.
- Agree to photographs of students being used internally and externally, unless another agreement had been reached with the Academy Principial.
- Support the Academy in ensuring that all work missed; due to illness, truancy or poor behaviour is made up in my child's own time.
- Support the Academy by keeping up to date with revision techniques through attendance at support sessions.



## Attendance & Punctuality Guidance for Parents

### **Full attendance is important because:**

- We want all our students to take full advantage of the opportunities provided by the Academy.
- Students not in school are more at risk of getting involved in crime or becoming victims of crime.
- The law says that parents and carers are responsible for ensuring that their children attend school and are on time.

### **Authorised absence means:**

- The parent/carer has informed the Academy of the reason of absence.
- The reason given for absence was reasonable and in line with the Red House Academy attendance policy.
- The Academy decided the explained absence was authorised.

### **Unauthorised absence means:**

- The absence has not been explained, or the reason for absence was not in line with Red House Academy attendance policy.

### **We expect your child to be in school every day unless:**

- He or she is too ill to attend.
- He or she has a dental/medical appointment.
- He or she is on a family holiday agreed by the Academy.
- There are other circumstances authorised by the Academy.



## Attendance & Punctuality Guidance for Parents

### **The following are not good reasons for absence and will not be authorised:**

- Shopping
- Hairdressing appointment
- Looking after younger children
- Staying in for deliveries
- Housework
- Taking the last day of term off
- No uniform

### **Truancy occurs when a pupil:**

- Misses the Academy without permission
- Registers and then does not attend lessons

### **The Academy treats truancy very seriously:**

- We shall inform you if your child is suspected or known to have truanted
- Action will be taken by the Academy. This could include making up the work, daily attendance report or detention.

### **Holidays in term time:**

- These are not a right and are authorised at the Principal's discretion. However, no authorisation can be given during school exam time, the first two weeks of any academic year, or if the pupils attendance falls below 90%.

### **The Academy and home need to work together to achieve good attendance:**

- We need to know that our students are safe and where they are.
- We have an electronic registration system.
- We operate 'First Day Absence' text messaging service as a health and safety measure to safeguard our students. Please ensure we have up to date contact numbers at all times.



## Attendance & Punctuality Guidance for Parents

### **We need you to:**

- Make sure that the Academy knows the reasons for all absence as early as possible. Please phone the Academy on the first day your child is absent.
- Keep the Academy informed on a regular basis if the absence is ongoing.
- Contact the Academy if you have any concerns about your child's attendance.

### **What we will do:**

- Keep a close check on your child's attendance.
- Send attendance and punctuality statistics as part of a report to parents.
- Telephone you at home or at work if you haven't let us know why your son/daughter is absent.
- Send an absence letter if we haven't been able to contact you.
- Contact you if we have any concerns about your child's attendance.
- Involve the Attendance/Enforcement Officer if our concerns continue.

### **A reminder:**

- Registration is at 8.30 a.m.
- All pupils are expected to be in on time.
- Lateness will be recorded on the register.
- Parents and carers will be informed of persistent lateness.
- Time missed due to poor attendance or punctuality will be made up in your child's own time. This may be during the holidays.



*As part of our commitment for caring for your child and his or her education, the Academy has a range of policies, strategies and activities that are part of the day to day work of the Academy.*

These include:

Awards evenings

Behaviour Policies

The Bridges Centre for Interventions and Alternative Education

Compulsory intervention for all students of all ages each evening

Homework Club

House system

Literacy/numeracy across the Curriculum

Parents Meetings

Reading Interventions

The Academy Council

The RHAY Centre (Community)

SEAL agenda

Skills development

Year system

Year 11 Prom as a reward for progress and attendance

For further details of each of the above would you please go to our website at: [www.redhouseacademy.org](http://www.redhouseacademy.org)







Rutherglen Road  
Sunderland  
SR5 5LN

**Tel:** 0191 561 5511

**Email:** [rha@redhouseacademy.co.uk](mailto:rha@redhouseacademy.co.uk)

[www.redhouseacademy.org](http://www.redhouseacademy.org)