



# Prospectus



**Monkton  
Wood  
Academy**



# Welcome to Monkton Wood Academy

**You are warmly welcomed to our Academy, and we are delighted that you are interested in joining us. Monkton Wood Academy has been serving the community of Taunton and the surrounding areas for more than 40 years. We are proud of the relationships we have built with our local community and are committed to placing our students at the heart of everything we do.**

We are also proud to be a community school and are determined to meet the needs of all young people. Our goal is to prepare them for their future by equipping them with the skills, experiences, and qualifications necessary to take their next steps into further education, training and ultimately the workplace.

Your child's safety and happiness are of paramount importance to us at Monkton Wood. We have a large and dedicated pastoral team who oversee student welfare and inclusion, as well as highly-skilled staff in our SEND team, including those who work most closely with students in our Cedar Centre autism resource base.

Monkton Wood has a long and proud tradition within the performing arts. We are the home of the Tacchi-Morris Arts Centre, as well as Somerset Performing Arts Centre of Excellence (SPACE) which is our sixth form centre. We are immensely proud of our students' achievements in the arts, in sport and many other extracurricular activities.

Our core focus at Monkton Wood is, of course, learning. We are developing an increasingly vibrant and rigorous curriculum for all our students across a wide range of subjects, creating pathways for our students into excellent qualification routes when they leave us. We appreciate your interest in Monkton Wood Academy, and hope this prospectus gives you much of the information you need, however, there is really no substitute for visiting us in person, so we hope to be welcoming you here very soon.

Mrs Hannah Jones  
(Principal)





# Welcome to the Cabot Learning Federation



The Cabot Learning Federation (CLF) is a family of 36 schools located in Bristol, Gloucestershire, South Gloucestershire, North Somerset and Somerset. Our schools include secondary and primary academies; one all-through academy; overarching post-16 provision; a studio school; special schools, and a suite of alternative provisions.

Since the CLF's inception 16 years ago, our story has been one of both growth and improvement. Today, we are responsible for educating more than 18,000 children, aged between two and 19, and we are proud that every CLF academy has shown marked improvement since joining us, as recognised by Ofsted and illustrated through pupils' outcomes. Regardless of their background or starting points, more of our students than ever before have qualifications that compare favourably with other young people nationally and across the South West, allowing them to step forward into their destinations with confidence and aspiration.

As we have grown, our vision has remained consistent and clear: we believe that by working together rather than in isolation we can accelerate school improvement, embed excellence in our academies, deliver our mission, and be an educator of choice for pupils and their families. We



champion the success and life chances of all children, as exemplified in our HEART values, and believe every child can be supported to find a route to happiness and prosperity.

In addition to our work in our own schools, the CLF is committed to driving up standards across the wider education sector. We perform a range of roles in government-backed initiatives and support a large number of schools beyond our trust as a lead partner in the Five Counties Teaching School Hubs Alliance. We also run Attendance and Behaviour Hubs, and the Boolean Maths Hub. This places us at the heart of a network of more than 900 South West schools.

We also invest in the future of the education sector, training and accrediting new teachers via our own Five Counties School Centred Initial Teacher Training provision, which was judged to be outstanding in 2024. This is a clear illustration of our determination to recruit the best people into the profession and support them

to become highly-effective practitioners and leaders via ongoing professional development.

Monkton Wood Academy is a key partner in our growing family of CLF schools. Please do take the opportunity to get to know the school, its staff and the Principal, Hannah Jones. I am confident you will discover that Monkton Wood Academy shares the CLF's commitment to high expectations and standards, and offers a joy-filled contemporary curriculum and excellent teaching, underpinned by an inclusive ethos which seeks to eradicate disadvantage and help all pupils reach their full potential. This all combines to help us create opportunities for our students to enjoy lifelong success.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Taylor".

**Mr Steve Taylor**  
Chief Executive  
Cabot Learning Federation

*The CLF is sponsored by Rolls-Royce PLC and University of the West of England (UWE).*



## Our Academy

**Fantastic facilities at Monkton Wood enhance what we provide for students. Whether it be the light and airy art studios, the science laboratories, the specialist dance and drama studios, the hard court, large sports hall and artificial pitch for PE, or the library, we are able to provide opportunities for exceptional progress in a positive learning environment.**

Built in a college-style campus layout, Monkton Wood has generous green spaces in which students can enjoy leisure time with friends. Our sixth form centre also has a communal café-style hub and full theatre facilities.

On our site we share the facilities of the Tacchi Morris Arts Centre with a full-sized and equipped theatre, working closely with us to offer unique performing arts opportunities for our students.

We have specialist facilities for SEN pupils, including a linked autism inclusion centre and learning support centre. Outside school we operate a sports centre offering facilities for our communities' use.





## The Cedar Centre

**The Cedar Centre is a Resource Base for secondary mainstream students and is a Somerset-wide provision. As such, the Local Authority is instrumental in placing students there. It is aimed at providing education for students who have an Education, Health, and Care Plan (EHCP) with a primary need of Autism, and who benefit from an adapted curriculum in that, full time access to all their lessons in mainstream would be challenging in the short term but is very much the goal.**

Whilst the Cedar Centre is an integral part of the school community it has its own purpose-built facilities which are set apart from the main thoroughfares. This enables pupils to build confidence in the Base at a pace that may not always match that of mainstream and receive a greater level of holistic input to support their Autism, with an emphasis on communication and social skills strategies.

Students in the Cedar Centre follow individual timetables. Adaptations and reasonable adjustments, within the setting of a Resource Base, are made to facilitate this and the widening of educational experience is wholly encouraged.





**Monkton  
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## The SPACE

**Bringing Creativity to Life!**

The Somerset Performing Arts Centre for Education is Monkton Wood's post-16 provision and has a performing arts emphasis. Learners follow pathways in acting, dance or production arts and have experiences in musical theatre, physical theatre and film.

Learners at The SPACE study the Level 3 University Arts London Extended Diploma in Performing and Production Arts. The SPACE operates as a Company and this ethos gives young creators the very best training, the most exciting experiences and the chance to achieve the best possible results, academically, practically and in terms of personal development.

### Progression routes include:

- Furthering training in creative subjects
- Furthering training in different subjects which use skills developed through the arts
- Employment in the arts industry
- Employment in other careers which use skills developed through creativity



“ The SPACE has excellent facilities and a dedicated team which ensured my daughter has a bright future ahead of her

Parent

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## Our Curriculum

**Our curriculum focuses upon acquiring key knowledge and builds upon what students have previously learned. The content of our curriculum is specified in detail, seeks equity and is academically rigorous. We strive to ensure our curriculum and its implementation is highly effective in delivering outcomes but also ensures our students will be widely educated, with experiences that include consideration of the best that humanity has produced; words, art, ideas, science.**

- All students study a broad and balanced curriculum.
- Our curriculum is knowledge-rich and taught to be remembered.
- Our curriculum is well sequenced, rigorous and provides equality of opportunity.
- Subject experts develop and drive the curriculum and their professional development.

To help equip students to keep themselves safe in school, outside school and in the future, safeguarding is an integral part of our personal development curriculum.

In Key Stage 3 we intentionally provide a broad and balanced curriculum, which meets the National Curriculum. In our two-year Key Stage 4, option subjects are offered based upon student need, and our experience of where students are successful. Subjects are combined and provide opportunities for students to develop in specialist areas. We recognise the value of the EBacc.

# Our Curriculum *contd.*

The curriculum is delivered by subject experts who are given the autonomy to adapt the curriculum to our context and consider the needs of the students in their classes. We emphasise the importance of improving pedagogy through subject planning and development sessions, supported by research and national developments. Lessons are well planned and sequenced to ensure progression and accessibility to all.

Reading is a key area of focus within the school. Our approach to reading falls within two strands: whole school reading and reading interventions. Our aim is to ensure all students possess the reading skills needed to access the curriculum presented to them, as well as the opportunities open to them upon leaving Monkton Wood.

Our enrichment programme encourages our students to look for opportunities to lead and work as part of a team, with the programme designed to develop a wide range of qualities and skills. Students are offered a variety of activities including the Duke of Edinburgh award, inclusion groups, sports teams, expressive arts performances and weekly clubs.

We encourage students to explore their future options and create opportunities for themselves by explicitly teaching careers through our responsive personal development programme. Our careers education, information, advice and guidance (CEIAG) programme is interweaved across our taught curriculum. At Key Stage 4, every student is offered independent careers advice. For every student, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds, we aim to unlock future educational pathways and careers, which in turn lead to greater life chances.

Monkton Wood Academy is a place where staff are enthused and encourage a love of learning in students. We have high expectations and want every student leaving Monkton Wood to be equipped with the right qualifications, skills and qualities – ready for a successful future.





## Our Houses

To foster a sense of belonging here at Monkton Wood, we have continued to develop our house competitions. Named after historical Royal households of the United Kingdom, we have created a system that nurtures the human emotional need to affiliate with and be accepted by members of a group, and to offer an opportunity to contribute to the wider society, both inside and outside of school.

Students are allocated a house on their arrival in Year 7, and will remain in this house for the duration of their 5 years here at school. A student's house can be easily identified from their house tie.

Throughout the academic year, house leaders will celebrate all of the wonderful achievements of their houses in our celebration assemblies. Students will participate in a range of house activities to earn points for our annual house cup.

They can achieve points for:

- Attendance
- Community
- Participation
- Success
- Creativity
- Potential

Each term the winning house participates in a reward trip, which has previously included festive movies at the local cinema, bowling at Hollywood Bowl and access to an inflatable theme park on the school field.





# Joining us - The transition programme

**At Monkton Wood Academy we strive to ensure your child experiences a high-quality transition and enjoyable start to secondary school life. This starts with effective collaboration, with the professionals who know your children best, with our feeder primary schools.**

The transition from primary to secondary school is a very exciting time, but this leap can also be daunting for both children and their families. At Monkton Wood Academy our aim is to make this process as smooth and enjoyable as possible for all involved.

Along with ensuring that we have all the information we need about each child from their primary school, we always plan lots of activities and opportunities for new students to meet each other and get to know their new school before they start with us in September such as;

- Visits to meet the students in their Primary School.
- 'Movie Night' in our Tacchi-Morris performing arts centre.
- 3 Transition days – allowing students to build relationships with peers and their tutor, as well as sampling the curriculum with taster lessons.
- Additional transition days and Summer School for a limited cohort identified from Primary School's as requiring extra support.
- Welcome evening for parents - with guided tours of the site, a welcome from the principle and an opportunity to meet your child's tutor and the pastoral team.

“ My daughter came today for the 1st day of transition and really enjoyed the experience and is excited to join the school in September.

Parent

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## Ethos, vision & value



### Our Vision

Our vision for our shared future – students, families and staff – is that we all are able to experience success and achieve our goals. This is because we work hard and have been encouraged by our friends and colleagues around us. Our success allows us to have options, and to make choices about the future. We are adaptable and can be resilient in the face of a rapidly changing world, because we know that we are valued, accepted and safe. We have the knowledge, skills and purpose that enables positive change to happen around us and because of us: the community is safe in our hands.



### Our Ethos

The Monkton Wood Academy ethos is vibrant and ambitious. We celebrate our successes, and we support those in need. Our collaboration and our creativity allow us to achieve highly and to realise our goals. We are proud of who we are, and we are positive about our shared future. We value inclusion and ensure that we all share a sense of belonging to our school. We are passionate about learning, and we want to have fun. Because we care about one another deeply, we are open and honest, and always respectful.



### Our Values

We aim for success  
We realise our potential  
We value our community





# SEND Information

Monkton Wood Academy encourages all its students to aspire to and achieve their potential including those students with Special Educational Needs. We believe in offering an inclusive education for all students with access to mainstream lessons. We aim for all students to become confident, successful, and independent learners. As such, we treat every child and young person as an individual and make 'reasonable adjustments' in the context of the Code of Practice to promote maximum achievement and progress.

We use a range of data, observations, and assessments to identify students who we feel may have additional learning needs. These may include literacy difficulties such as dyslexia, spelling difficulties, and processing speed. In addition to this, some students may have more complex needs and require a more comprehensive process of assessment and/or involvement from external professionals. All additional needs fall under the following four categories of need, although many students will have needs from more than one area:

- **Cognition and Learning**
- **Social, Emotional, Mental Health**
- **Communication & Interaction**
- **Physical and Sensory**

## Definition of SEN

**Students have Special Educational Needs if they have a learning difficulty or disability which calls for special education provision to be made for them, namely provision which is additional to or different from that normally available in a differentiated curriculum.**

[Click here](https://monktonwoodacademy.clf.uk/content/key-information/policies/) or visit <https://monktonwoodacademy.clf.uk/content/key-information/policies/> to view our policies page where the school's Special Educational Needs Policy and the SEND Information Report are available. These set out information about our procedures for making provision for students with Special Educational Needs, whether or not students have EHC Plans.



# Extracurricular Offer

At our school, we believe that education extends beyond the classroom. Our growing range of extracurricular activities allows students to explore new interests, develop valuable skills, and build lifelong memories and friendships.

Strong links to the Tacchi Morris Arts Centre and our popular Arts sixth form provision SPACE mean our students benefit from a strong Arts extracurricular timetable. Our vibrant music department hosts annual events, not limited to Christmas concert and the Young Musician of the Year competition, complemented by weekly orchestra and 'MWA voices' choir that nurture musical talents. Our students have many opportunities to showcase their work in the arts through galleries and performances.

Weekly clubs are offered to all such as science club and games clubs through the year to offer safe welcoming spaces for all our students.

We celebrate our diversity through our Global Ethnic Majority club (GEMs) as well as our LGBTQ club. In Year 9 students are offered the chance to achieve the prestigious Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award program accumulating in a summer expedition after which we support

teams through both Ten Tors and Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award.

Athletics are a cornerstone of our extracurricular offerings, with seasonal sports clubs including football, rugby, netball, and basketball. Our dedicated PE department supports students in achieving sporting excellence that is recognised in the county. Our teachers are dedicated to planning enriching educational trips, including a Geography expedition to Iceland, a Modern Foreign Languages immersion in France and Spain, Art trip to New York and a history tour of Poland.

We have also reintroduced the ASPIRE programme. The Aspire Challenge Programme is comprised of several challenges which aim to stretch, challenge, engage and motivate our students in a wide range of skills and subjects. Our relationship with Cabot learning federation has opened new links to other schools in the trust where we collaborate in our BIG events including the Big Bake and Big Parliament. Through these partnerships students can visit other schools and represent Monkton Wood academy at other schools.

## Extracurricular Timetable Summer 2025 After School

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri
Art GCSE open Studio session	Art GCSE open Studio session		Art GCSE open studio sessions	Art & Textiles GCSE
Music Percussion Club (All years)	Art & Textiles GCSE		Art & Textiles GCSE	Further Maths (Invite Only)
Boys & Girls striking & fielding Club (Year 9/10)	Dance GCSE Catch Up		Dance/Darama GCSE Catch Up	
MWA Voices (Choir)	Monkton Wood Band		GCSE & BTEC Music Coursework Support	
Dance Club (Year 9)	Spanish GCSE Drop in		Boys & Girls striking & fielding Club (Year 7/8)	
Homework Support Club	Homework Support Club		Year 7/8 Short tennis	
Maths Revision (Year 11 - Foundation)	English Revision (Year 11)		Maths Revision (Year 11 - Higher)	
Science Revision (Year 11 - higher tier)	Athletics Club (All years)		French GCSE Drop in	

## Lunchtime

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri
Art studio open studio sessions	Art Studio open sessions	Art Studio open sessions	Art Studio open sessions	Art Studio open sessions
DT & Food NEA assistance	DT & Food NEA assistance	DT & Food NEA assistance	DT & Food NEA assistance	DT & Food NEA assistance
GCSE & BTEC Music Coursework Support	Writers Club (All Years)	Lego create, Colour me Calm, Bracelet Making	GCSE & BTEC Music Coursework Support	Music Room Bookings (GCSE & BTEC)
Lego Create, Colour me Calm & Bracelet Making	Lego create, Colour me Calm, Bracelet Making, Crochet	Music Room Bookings (GCSE & BTEC)	Lego create, Colour me Calm, Bracelet Making, Crochet	Lego create, Colour me Calm, Bracelet Making
Dance Club (Year 7)	Music Room Bookings (GCSE & BTEC)	Dance Club (Year 8)	Art & Stitch club (KS3)	Programming Club
Dance Club (KS4)	Spanish Drop-in (GCSE)	Dance Club (Year 9)	Drama Club (All Years)	
DofE Meeting Year 9	History Drop-in (GCSE)	DofE Meeting Year 9	Music Room Bookings (GCSE & BTEC)	
Music Room Bookings (GCSE & BTEC)	Songwriting & Music Theory Club	Film Club (Year 7)	Spanish Drop-in (GCSE)	
French Drop-in (GCSE)	GEMs - Global Ethnic Majority	Science Club (KS3)	Pride Group & Allies	
Reading Club		Film Club (Year 9)	Striking & Fielding Club (Year 7 & 8)	

## Careers

Careers information advice and guidance is available throughout a student's time at Monkton Wood Academy. There are careers and work-related learning lessons within the PHSE curriculum for all years and all students have the opportunity to complete a week's work experience in Year 10. As part of our careers provision, we aim to provide our students, parents and carers with the guidance, advice, and information to ensure that all students are prepared for the next stage of their lives and develop the necessary skills and attributes needed for a successful working life.

Looking ahead to life after Monkton Wood can be a little daunting, however all students are encouraged and supported with the completion of applications for a variety of post-16 education courses at local colleges and sixth form centres, including traditional A Levels, vocational courses, apprenticeships, or traineeships. To support this, we have a dedicated Careers advisor as part of our team.

The Academy has strong links with local Further Education providers in particular Richard Huish, Bridgwater and Taunton College and our own Post 16 offer The SPACE. Students will visit these colleges and take part in a range of taster activities to enable them to experience first-hand some of the options available when they leave Monkton Wood Academy.





## Monkton Wood Academy

**For more information**

**Email:** [info@mwa.clf.uk](mailto:info@mwa.clf.uk)

**Call:** 01823 412396

To apply for a school place, admissions are via Somerset Council:

Online at [www.somerset.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.somerset.gov.uk/admissions)

Or request by phone on 0300 1232224