



[Introduction to Watling Academy](#)

Welcome to Watling Academy and thank you for your interest in joining our team.

The Academy is part of the Denbigh Alliance Multi-Academy Trust, which currently contains one other school – Denbigh School, approximately 1.5 miles away from Watling and from September 2023 will also include a brand new 630 place Primary school, just behind the Watling Site, named Watling Primary School.

I was appointed as Head of School for Watling Academy in July 2019 but have had a much longer association with its creation. I served as Deputy Head and Senior Deputy Head at Denbigh School from 2009 to 2019 and was significantly involved in driving the original bid for the Trust to sponsor Watling Academy. The bid was submitted back in November 2017 and after the announcement of our success in early 2018 I worked jointly as Senior Deputy Head at Denbigh and Head of School for Watling on all aspects of the pre-opening phase.

The following will provide you with some information and a flavour of the context and vision for the Academy. I do hope that this will prompt you to want to find out more about us and apply for one of our available roles.

[Location/catchment area](#)

Watling Academy is a brand new, purpose built 11-16 secondary school on the rapidly expanding western flank of Milton Keynes, comprising of the Whitehouse and Fairfields developments. The Academy opened in September 2020 but due to a delay in the completion of the main build we initially opened on the top floor of Fairfields Primary school, approximately 1 mile away from the Academy building. The main build is now fully operational and we moved our first cohort of Year 7s into the main build in June 2021.

The Academy will have 1800 students when it reaches its capacity, taking year groups of 360. Our first cohort of Year 7 students, however, was restricted to 180 and we will fill up a year group at a time from that point onwards, our second cohort being 300 before we begin taking subsequent cohorts of 360.

Watling Academy will serve the communities of Whitehouse and Fairfields, which are currently expanding rapidly – there is currently 1 Primary school operating in each area, but this will increase to two in each area by 2025, each one of those having cohorts of 90 children per year.

In the first few years of operation, Watling will take students from further afield in Milton Keynes, but this radius will reduce year on year as the communities continue to expand. The projected numbers for students requiring a secondary school place in September 2022 demonstrate that there is more than adequate need for our planned 360 intake.

Watling Academy was commissioned by the Local Authority as an 11-16 school and as such will open on that basis. The philosophy of the Trust, however, is that a community school

should offer an education through from 11-18. We are currently in discussion with the Local Authority about how we secure sixth form provision from 2025, when our first cohort of students reaches the end of Year 11. Those discussions have proved positive to date and we remain fully committed to providing a clear sixth form pathway for our students.

[Core values and vision](#)

The Trust's mission – to provide the highest standards of Education, Care and Opportunity for all its students is underpinned at Watling by our core values of [Respect](#), [Responsibility and Kindness](#), which is an integral part of our language within lessons, extra-curricular activities and around the school.

[The curriculum](#)

Whilst the curriculum is broad and balanced and offers the complete range of subjects the three themes that provide the foundations for everything we do are based on STEM, Sustainability and the development of Milton Keynes. As the fastest growing city in the UK, we believe it is important that our students understand how Milton Keynes has developed over time, where its sits now as a centre for innovation and the latest technology and prepare them to have the skills and knowledge to be successful as the city continues to expand. We have a responsibility to work with our students to help them understand and contribute to tackling challenges around the environment and sustainability and this manifests itself not just within the formal curriculum but through the way we operate as an Academy.

[What can we offer you...](#)

As we plan ahead for our third year we are looking to recruit teachers to work with our current team, who have done such a great job in establishing learning at the heart of the Academy and doing everything possible to put students first. With a growing team there may be the need to be flexible and adaptable within roles but the opportunity to play a part in creating the culture and success of what will be the biggest 11-16 Academy in Milton Keynes will provide huge rewards for everyone, not least our first cohorts of Year 7, 8 and 9 students!

As the Academy grows from 180 students to 1800 students over six years there will be many new and exciting roles created and being part of the journey will open up those opportunities to colleagues who have the right skills and experience to take the next steps at whatever level.

We believe in providing professional development and support for all colleagues, both teaching and associate staff, enabling them to grow their expertise and be ready for the next steps in their career.

Alongside the support you will get from experienced leaders at Watling Academy, there will also be wider support from staff within the Denbigh Alliance Multi-Academy Trust. With access to the Teaching School, Tommy Flowers SCITT, Enigma Maths Hub and Computing Hub, there are direct opportunities for colleagues to take part in and lead quality professional development.

Ian Bacon
Head of School
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