



**Wath
Academy**

**The Parent &
Community Advisory
Board Guide to
Wath Academy**

Wath Academy

Delivering exceptional learning experiences that enable all young people to thrive in a competitive world and lead successful and fulfilling lives



Our Key Drivers

World-class learning

World-class learning every lesson, every day

The highest expectations

Everyone can be successful; always expect the highest standards

No excuses

Create solutions not excuses; make positive thinking a habit

Growth mindset

Believe you can improve; work hard and value feedback

Never give up

Resilience is essential; be relentless in the pursuit of excellence

Everyone is valued

Diversity is celebrated; see the best in everyone

Integrity

Be trustworthy and honest; deliver on promises and walk the talk

Curriculum Intent



All students develop an inner belief and ambition to fulfil their dreams

Students acquire the knowledge, skills and character needed to live happy, healthy and successful lives. All are included and work hard to fulfil their potential regardless of background or starting point

All students develop a passion for life-long learning

An appetite for acquiring further knowledge, skills and awareness throughout their lives

All students gain first rate qualifications

Qualifications that ensure all doors remain open, giving our students the platform to compete and thrive on a global stage

All students develop exceptional character

Character that exemplifies a true growth mindset, a phenomenal work ethic, confidence and high levels of grit, resilience and determination; ensuring they are fully prepared to flourish in an ever-changing world

All students develop high levels of cultural and global awareness

Awareness that develops through diverse experiences that enrich our students, enabling them to engage in, empathise with, challenge and debate current affairs beyond their local community

All students develop a love of reading

All students become confident, invested readers who see the power of texts in fostering imagination and curiosity; driving their education, personal development and success in life

All students become responsible citizens

Students that are responsible members of both the school and local community; who grow into grounded and humble adults, making a positive contribution to society

All students gain an array of positive school memories

Positive school memories which last a lifetime. Memories that are created from students, staff and our community being fully invested in forging exceptional relationships based on trust, care, high expectations and a passion for genuinely making a difference



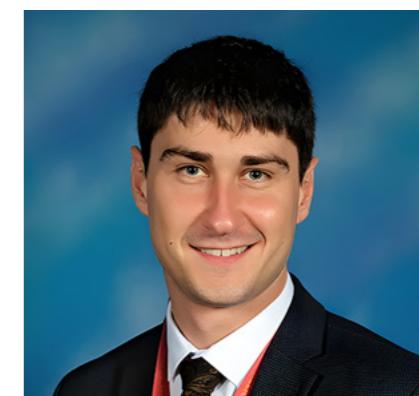
The Wath Academy Parent and Community Board.

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Welcome!



Welcome to our Parent & Community Advisory Board (PCAB) Guide for Wath Academy.

Through various documentation, such as the Academy prospectus, enrichment brochures and our website, we aim to inform parents/carers about our curriculum and systems. In addition to these documents, we feel it would be useful for all parents/carers to read other parent/carer views on our curriculum and system to ensure that you are able to make a fully informed decision based on views from similar stakeholders. Therefore, we asked our PCAB members to respond to a series of questions about pertinent aspects of school life which prospective parents/carers may wish to ask. We then collated their responses in the booklet you are reading now. We hope you find this authentic parent-led brochure to be a useful addition to our informative suite of documents.



Mr L Ransome
Principal

It has been a pleasure to lead our PCAB at Wath Academy over the past few years.

The group is currently made up of 59 parents, carers and members of the community who meet once every half-term to give feedback on processes at the Academy. Each PCAB meeting, the member of staff leading in a particular area will present to the group on a topic chosen by our members and we will then break into smaller tables for discussions related to the area. We would welcome your input in future PCAB meetings as we are always looking to expand our group. If you are interested in joining our PCAB, please email pcab@wathacademy.com.



Mr S Davies
Associate Assistant Principal



Parent and Community Advisory Board (PCAB)

Our Parent and Community Advisory Board (PCAB) is a group made up of parents, carers and members of the community who meet once a half term to discuss and give feedback on different areas of the Academy. We would love for you to join our PCAB to enable us to gain further opinions and feedback to improve the Academy. Please email pcab@wathacademy.com if you are interested.

WHAT OUR PCAB SAY...

"The PCAB meetings are a fantastic way to share ideas and feel heard as a parent. The school truly listens and acts on feedback."

"It's great to see how our input directly influences school decisions and improvements."

"We make requests for agenda items in advance which is very useful. It is good to hear from different members of staff and students in particular. It is a great opportunity to engage and challenge staff on a variety of topics."

"After each meeting there is a document produced on the actions and suggestions that came up at the meeting. This is shared with our group via email and is put on the Academy website."

"You get the opportunity to share ideas, put ideas forward, meet staff in an informal setting and get to understand the reasoning behind why things are in place."

"The coffee and cake at each meeting is a positive, obviously!"

"It's great to be able to talk to other parents and get positive feedback from how their children have been at the Academy."

Apps & Communication

At Wath Academy we use a range of apps for parents, carers and students to keep updated.

All our communication goes through Class Charts. It is essential that you download the app so that you can receive updates and notices about the Academy. We also use Satchel One to set homework tasks, which you can monitor. To manage school dinner spending we use ParentPay. This allows you to see what food your child spends their money on, as well as booking tickets for different events.

WHAT OUR PCAB SAY...

"Using Class Charts has made keeping track of my child's progress so much easier. It's a game-changer!"

"Class Charts is a great way to monitor behaviour. It is good for keeping up to date and getting all announcements."

"ParentPay simplifies managing school payments, making life much more convenient."

"It's great to see what they are eating!"

"Nice to see where the homework is and how your child is performing. It is a good way to communicate with teachers."

"It is great to be able to check homework when they are getting used to it. It is easy to use and students can communicate with teachers too via the app."





Behaviour System

We want to ensure disruption-free learning so that students can make the most of the time they have in the classroom. In all classrooms our teachers follow our consequence system. Students will receive a consequence if they disrupt the learning of others. When a student receives three consequences, they are removed from the classroom. This is to ensure that students who want to learn can learn.

WHAT OUR PCAB SAY...

"The behaviour system helps create a focused learning environment, which my child benefits from greatly."

"A bullying issue was dealt with in a professional and timely manner."

"Behaviour issues are readily resolved."

"There's a clear system so that students get the opportunity to rectify their behaviour before getting to the point of having to leave the class. This ensure other students' bad behaviour doesn't disrupt the learning of the whole class."

"The consequence system maintains a calmness in lessons and minimises disruptions. The policy is clear and expectations are set out."

"Clear and consistent rules make a huge difference in maintaining discipline and order."

"I appreciate the requirement for the toilet system and it promotes a safer environment for students in regards to vaping and minimises disruption."

"I think it is important to ensure there are rigid safety and behavioural policies in place around toilet use and support it fully."

"The corridors control movements. The students get used to the one way system quickly."

"The corridors feel clear and orderly."

"The one-way system is very useful. It causes a lot of anxiety for new pupils however it is not an issue. No safety issues reported."

"I think the one-way system seems to work well, and the small number of times I have attended during an operational school day the general atmosphere around school has been exceptionally calm and positive."

Homework

We want homework to support our students to be best prepared for their lessons. Homework can consolidate previous learning or give students an insight into upcoming lesson material. This supports our students to recall information with greater success all through the homework app Satchel One.



WHAT OUR PCAB SAY...

"The school's approach to homework ensures my child stays on track while not feeling overwhelmed."

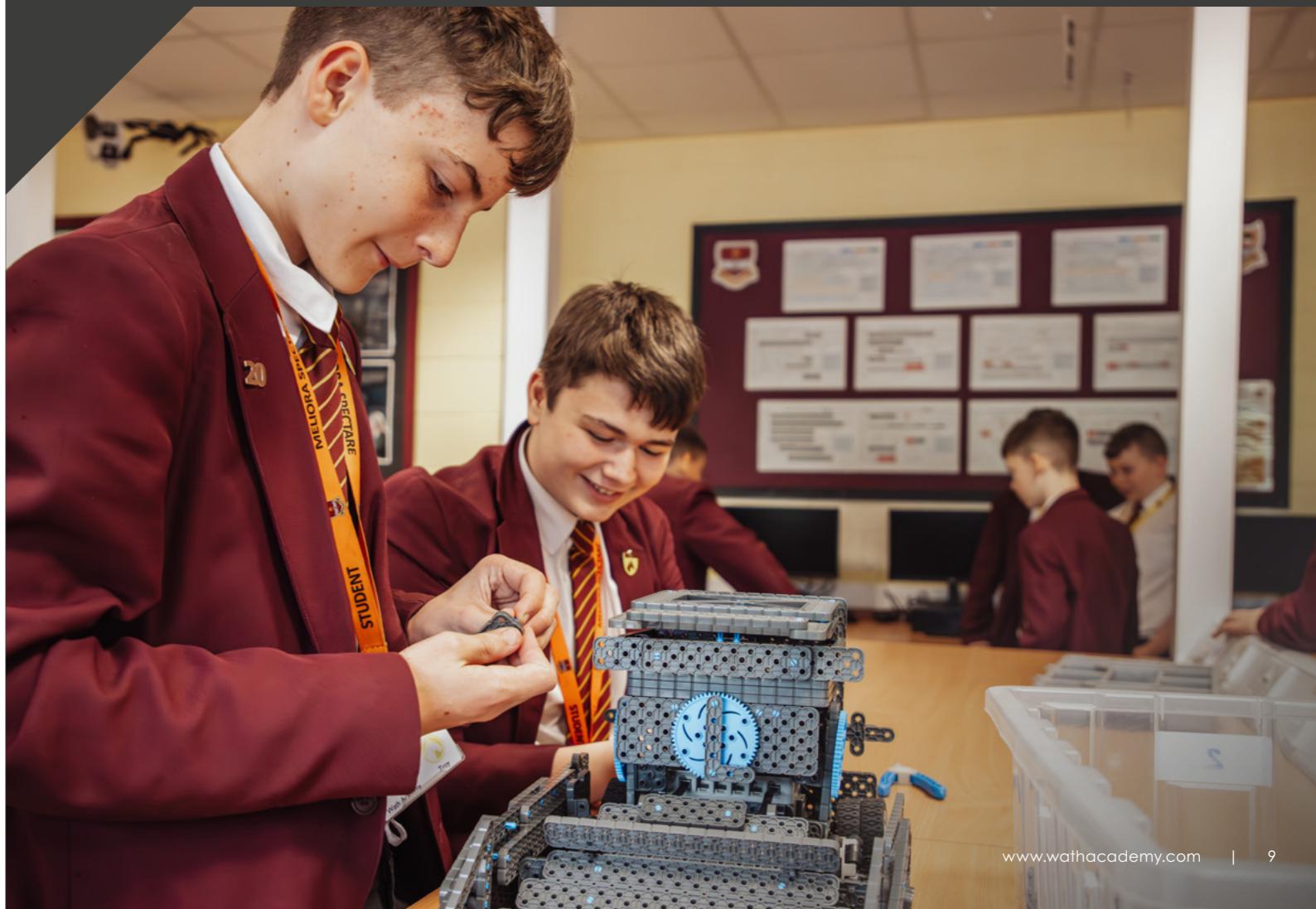
"Having a structured homework system allows us to support our child effectively at home."

"Our child can contact the teacher directly on Satchel One."

"There is a homework club that my son attends every day after school."

"Homework is built up gradually in Year 7 to enable students to get used to the process."

"Homework is good to give the pupils accountability on tasks to complete and when. It teaches them skills of how to organise their day and week to solidify their learning in school."



Enrichment

We want all students to gain an array of positive school memories. We strongly feel that our enrichment programme on a Wednesday afternoon creates positive school memories as students can discover new talents and interests, as well as further enriching their time with topics that interest them most.



WHAT OUR PCAB SAY...

"The enrichment programme at Wath Academy has helped my child discover new hobbies and talents."

"My child looks forward to these activities every week and has grown more confident as a result."

"There are amazing choices for enrichment. It gives all children the opportunity to try new things, particularly if they aren't able to stay late after school."

"It involves the local community and helps with core community values."

"It allows children to access an opportunity that they might not otherwise be able to."

"It champions inclusivity, opportunity and independence. There is something for everyone, whether your child is creative, sporty, academic, shy, outgoing, anxious or adventurous."

"It gives the children ownership over their choices and decisions which massively helps with confidence and engagement."

"My child was able to do a qualification which was great."

"The variety to allow different children with different interests is exceptional. I have one daughter gaining extra UCAS points for university in a subject she is interested in (Criminology) and another having fun and making new friends who she wouldn't usually spend time with."

"My children love it and always leave school on Wednesdays buzzing and eager to share what they've been up to. They have loved trying completely new activities like playing an instrument in a band, camping and first aid skills for Duke of Edinburgh and also doing special effects make-up."

"My daughter has made new friends and learnt new skills which has brought her closer to different teachers and other pupils in other years which has built confidence."

"Our children love enrichment. Wednesday is their favourite day. It helps break up the week and improves their mental health."



NGRT Testing & Reading

Students in Year 7 to Year 10 complete New Group Reading Tests (NGRT) twice a year. This allows us to put different interventions in place to students with specific support to ensure that all students at Wath Academy develop a love for reading.

WHAT OUR PCAB SAY...

"A letter is sent to parents explaining the pupil score and the relevance."

"The reading tests have given us a clear picture of where my child stands and how to support them further."

"Receiving detailed feedback on reading skills helps us encourage more reading at home."

"There is a lot of enthusiasm for reading at the Academy including the 60 books to read before you're 18. Teachers also put the books they're currently reading on display in classrooms."

"This spots students who need interventions. Year 12 students read with selected younger students which is great."

"I like the test as it allows the child to see the results to give them awareness and empowerment to either celebrate or take positive action. It has made my daughter read more so I don't have to nag."

Rewards

Students can gain achievement points for showing one of our seven Key Drivers in lesson, by completing homework and ensuring 100% punctuality and attendance in each half term. Students can then spend their achievement points on a golden ticket which gives them access to one of the many events that take place every half term free of charge.

WHAT OUR PCAB SAY...

"The rewards system motivates my child to do their best and feel recognised for their efforts."

"It's wonderful to see the school celebrating student achievements in such a positive way."

"It is an amazing way to make memories and spend time with friends."

"There is an incentive to do homework to get achievement points."

"It created positive competition in our household as to who can gain an award, pushing forward good behaviour."





Safeguarding

The safeguarding of our students is our absolute priority. We have a highly experienced Safeguarding team to support our students at Wath Academy.

WHAT OUR PCAB SAY...

"I feel reassured knowing my child is safe and has someone to turn to if needed."

"The school's dedication to safety is clear, and this gives us great peace of mind as parents."

"Staff are approachable and ready to listen. Bullying issues have been dealt with effectively. Staff are very responsive to parental concerns."

"Staff on the gates greeting children every morning are a wonderful support for children."

"My child feels safe and can approach teachers. There is clear guidance which is displayed well."

"My child knows who to speak to if they have any concerns. There is their Pastoral Year Leader, Academic Year Leader tutor but also any teacher. Students have access to apps so they can report things anonymously and access help online. Students learn about peer support in tutor and assemblies."

"There is good communication from school and updates regarding contextual safeguarding issues. There is a really good and experienced safeguarding team."

SEND

(Special Educational Needs and Disabilities)

It is essential that we remove all barriers in place for every student and provide equity to our students. We have a committed SEND department to support our most vulnerable students.



WHAT OUR PCAB SAY...

"The additional support my child receives has made a tremendous difference in their confidence and learning."

"The staff's understanding and care for children with SEND needs are exceptional."

"My child receives the ability to have time out and access a SEND room when feeling overwhelmed at any point. This was arranged through regular contact with the SENCO and Academic Year Leader. We had conversations throughout transition from Year 6 to Year 7."

"My son is within the alternative provision. There are smaller classroom sizes and two days each week he attends off-site provision. This includes sports, cooking, fishing but also their Maths and English work. This happens within the school day. My son does English, Maths, Science and Physical Education from Monday to Wednesday. On Thursday he does cooking but this includes Functional Skills. He also does sports and games. They can also talk to staff during this time and gain emotional support."

"Issues were raised by a parent with the head of year regarding issues around reading. This was quickly passed on to the SEND team and a test was carried out. An Irlen syndrome test in school was carried out promptly, results shared with parents and intervention implemented, including coloured paper for GCSE exams and classwork."

"My son has an IEP in place which is very supportive and is reviewed regularly."

"The additional transition days for SEND children were useful, as well as the SEND parents' evening."

"I have heard great things about the SEND offer at Wath. It seems to be a very holistic approach. I have heard about parents who would like to move their children to Wath because of the amazing opportunities for children with additional needs."



Trips

We want all students to gain an array of positive school memories. At Wath Academy, students have the opportunity to attend many trips around the globe as well as attending nearby educational settings and universities.

WHAT OUR PCAB SAY...

"The trips have been eye-opening for my child, sparking new interests and aspirations."

"These experiences outside the classroom are invaluable for my child's growth."

"My daughter has been to Wimbledon, completed Duke of Edinburgh, visited Alton Towers and the Houses of Parliament in London on a History trip. There have been multiple university visits and they will be going to Portugal and Spain this year."

"House winners go to Alton Towers and my daughter has been on several trips, making some incredible memories!"

"We are happy about the diverse options for everyone that cover all interests, especially compared to other local schools. They are great for pupil bonding and learning new skills. They can trust that they can be away from parents allowing their confidence to grow."

"The trips have enhanced the learning and experience for pupils."

"I love the amount of time we're given to pay for the trips, it helps to spread the cost a little more."

"I think they are very well organised. The risk assessments are well planned and taken seriously by staff. The detail provided to parents is excellent."

"The university visits are a good opportunity to see university life and some of the courses on offer. It broadens their horizons."

Tutor Programme

Our comprehensive tutor programme includes Character Education and Votes for Schools. Students complete a range of activities in our Character Education sessions. Firstly, students spend meaningful time setting their goals by tracking their progress and exploring ways to develop positive character traits. Through Votes for Schools, they engage with current political and social issues. This culminates in the planning, writing and delivery of a speech to their tutor group.



WHAT OUR PCAB SAY...

"The tutor programme has helped my child develop a strong sense of character and responsibility."

"Discussing Votes for Schools topics at home has been a great way to connect and learn together."

"Votes for Schools is good for the students to learn current affairs and learn how to express their opinions and deliver this to the class. It pushes those with lower confidence and gets them ready for work life."

"Votes for Schools generates debates at home. There is a good balance in the discussions which builds confidence for pupils when speaking in front of peers."

"The experience passport encourages children to carry out areas and complete tasks mentioned on the passport which gets them out of their comfort zone."

"Tutor is a good use of students' time and they gain valuable skills for the future."





Uniform

Our uniform helps to establish a feeling of community, sense of belonging and develops the personal presentation skills of our students. Uniform is not an option, it is a necessity. We expect all students to wear our uniform with pride.

WHAT OUR PCAB SAY...

"The uniform policy promotes a sense of pride and belonging among the students."

"Having a clear and fair uniform code ensures equality and consistency."

"There is a very smart uniform. The school has high expectations. Uniform is recycled by distributing it to other students. There is a clear policy with no ambiguity."

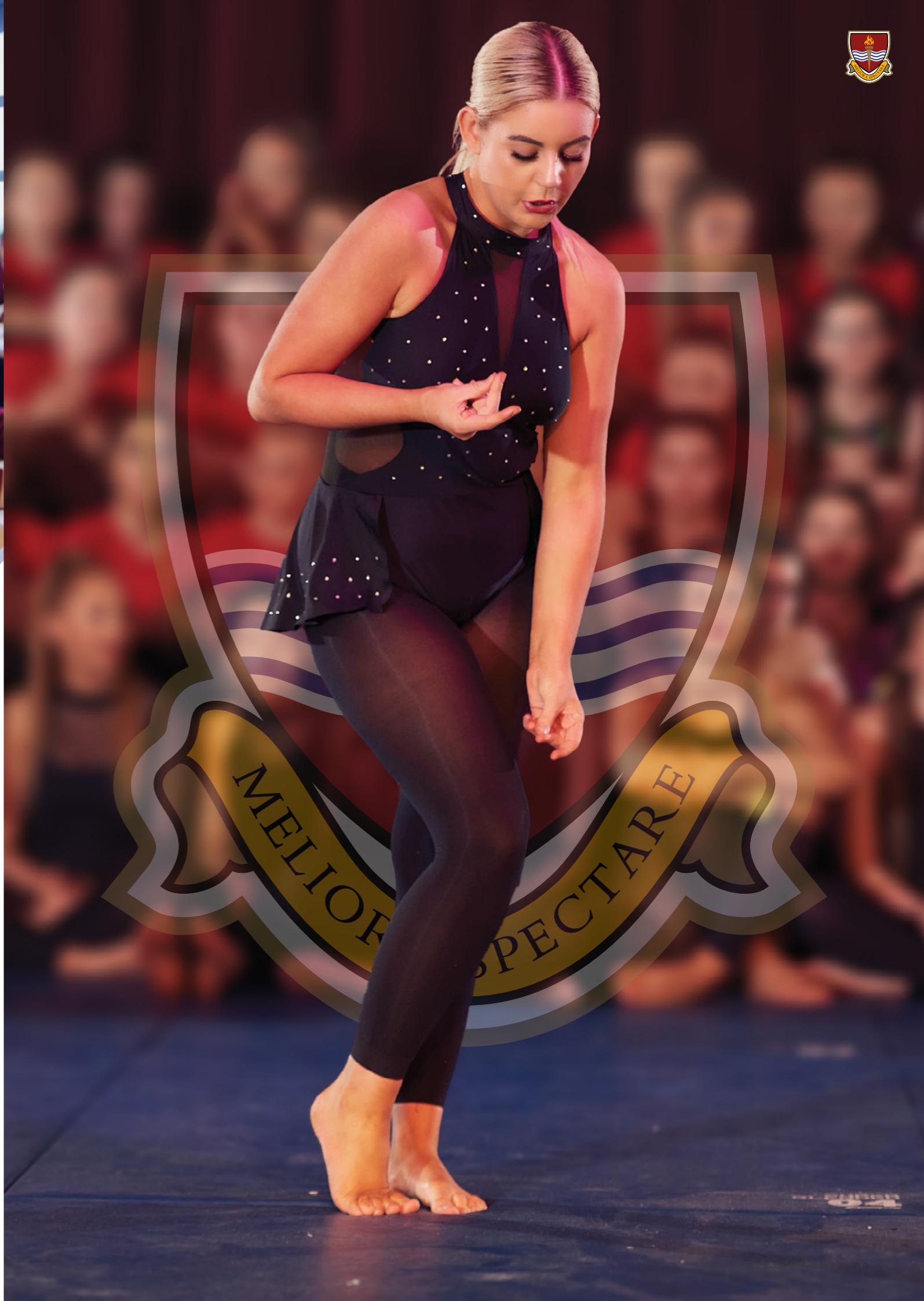
"PE uniform is smart and functional."

"It is good to be able to buy from a range of shops."

"It is easy to purchase items."

"The children all look very smart and professional."

"It sets a standard to represent the school in the community and it is nice to follow the heritage of the school's history."





Wath
Academy



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Exceptional Experiences. Successful Lives.

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