

# Faith in our future

2011 Prospectus





“A community of learners of all ages from the local area committed to mutual service where each person can flourish, be their best and work for the common good to the glory of God and his creation.”

**Our Mission**



# A new beginning for our children



**John K Gannon** BSc MA(Ed)  
Principal

I offer you a very warm welcome to the brand new Hope Academy.

As an Academy, Hope is part of an innovative group of schools, different from many other secondary schools both locally and nationally. We are an independent state-funded school and use the freedom this brings to create a distinctive, outstanding education for your sons and daughters.

Hope Academy is a joint Catholic and Church of England school, sponsored by both Churches and Liverpool Hope University in partnership with St. Helens Council. We offer an inclusive approach to all young people in the area and are committed to meeting their individual needs.

This is not simply a new name for an existing school – it is the result of a £33 million investment: a new beginning. It is the chance to create a new generation of adults.

At the heart of our vision and Christian ethos is the spiritual and moral development of our community; a community where you will find confident, engaged, moral and responsible young people.

There is a strong investment here in an effective pastoral system which focuses on the care and happiness of pupils, creating an environment that is secure, stable and orderly, yet full of opportunities, challenge and activity.

Our passionate belief in young people is reflected in the high expectations placed on all members of our community. We will combine hard work and discipline to provide our pupils with the determination and motivation to succeed. Pupils will gain much from their time at Hope Academy and in return we expect a high level of commitment and endeavour from them, as well as very high standards of personal appearance and behaviour.

In turn we look to retain and attract highly gifted and committed teachers who are ambitious for the children they teach. Teachers who understand the importance of engagement and relationships within a school community, and are prepared to go that extra mile for the pupils and community they serve.

Our broad, flexible curriculum caters for all aptitudes, needs and aspirations. This includes additional support where needed, and curriculum acceleration and challenge where appropriate. Our pupils have an outstanding curriculum on offer, with a wide and flexible choice of subjects, the option of early GCSE entry, and A level provision at Key Stage 4.

The Academy has adopted 'sustainability' as our specialism. At its heart is the responsibility we all have for sustaining a viable future for our planet. This specialism is reflected both in the design of our school buildings and in the curriculum across the school.

Hope Academy will open in brand new school buildings and offers facilities that are truly exceptional, comparing well with the best in Europe. Our outstanding ICT provision – which includes personal laptops for Year 7 pupils – is just one example of the level of resources across the Academy.

Thank you for your interest in Hope Academy. I hope the information we provide in this prospectus encourages you to make an application to the Academy. Further information about how to make an application is provided on the back cover of this prospectus.

## Why Choose Hope Academy?

- Hope is a caring Christian community, where all are welcome
- We focus on the care and happiness of our pupils, creating a safe environment where they can thrive
- We are a school with high expectations and standards in terms of academic achievement, behaviour and personal appearance
- Hope has an outstanding, flexible curriculum, which caters for a wide range of needs and choices
- We share innovative, research-based approaches to teaching and learning
- We employ high quality and committed teachers and staff
- Our school specialism is sustainability. The broader focus of our teaching here is on the future of our planet, providing a global perspective to your child's education
- We offer an outstanding range of enrichment and extra-curricular activities, including sport, performing arts, Duke of Edinburgh Award schemes and the opportunity to help others by working with local charities plus other voluntary and faith based groups.
- Hope provides state-of-the-art ICT facilities, including laptops for all Year 7 pupils
- We are housed in brand new buildings with exceptional facilities, comparing well with the best in Europe



### A Message from the Sponsors

The Catholic Archdiocese and the Church of England Diocese of Liverpool and Liverpool Hope University are proud to be the sponsors of Hope Academy and to be working in close partnership with St Helens Council.

Following over two and a half years of planning and consultation, we are now entering a busy period of activity to move the project into its final stages ready for opening in our brand new and inspiring building which reflects the environmental specialism of the Academy. As sponsors we have the highest ambition for the Academy and believe that our vision is ambitious, innovative and challenging. We will create an Academy that provides exemplary standards of teaching in an environment in which all students will be able to develop to their full potential. The combination of the sponsors, together with a management team led by an outstanding Principal in Mr John Gannon will bring a unique blend of experience, knowledge, commitment and energy.

You will find more information about the Academy in this prospectus but underpinning everything is a Christian ethos that will welcome and nurture students of all faiths and none.

We look forward to September 2011 and the opening of our Academy, and beyond that, to fulfilling the vision we all share for enhancing the lives and education of the local community in Newton-le-Willows.





Sustainability is at the heart of the Academy, and forms a powerful combination with our Christian ethos.

### **Our Specialism**

The Academy has adopted 'Education for Sustainable Development' (sustainability) as our school specialism.

Sustainability is more than just consideration for the environment – it is our responsibility for sustaining a viable future for humankind. Internationally, people increasingly recognise that we need to change our lifestyle and habits to make sure that we take care of our planet and its resources.

Sustainability is at the heart of the Academy, and forms a powerful combination with our Christian ethos.

Hope Academy will help our young people to develop the skills, understanding, knowledge and attitudes to have a real influence and impact on both their local environment, and world beyond it, helping create a more sustainable future.

We look to our students to make a personal commitment to promoting a sustainable future; to be outward looking and dedicated to supporting their local communities and to develop an international and global perspective on the issues that face the world today.

We also believe schools can demonstrate sustainable development through the way they are run, as much as through their teaching. Here at Hope Academy we have designed and built one of the most sustainable school buildings in the country – we will generate our own electricity through the use of wind turbines, use biomass boilers to reduce our carbon footprint and recycle rain water, saving 500,000 litres of water a year.

We recently won a national 'Innovation in Sustainability' award, as part of the Building Schools for the Future Excellence Awards. Hope Academy also looks to be the first school in country to achieve a rating of 'outstanding' in the Building Research Environmental Standards.

## At Hope Academy we are looking to create an inspirational and unique Christian learning community for everyone.

### Our Vision

We seek to promote the growth of the whole person towards the fullness of life, which comes from God.

We therefore are committed to:

- Nurturing the spiritual and moral development of our community.
- Providing an experience of learning and life founded on the values of the Gospel.
- Raising awareness of, and response to, the needs of others locally, nationally and globally.
- Providing a secure and caring environment where the uniqueness, dignity and worth of all are recognised and developed.
- Being a beacon of best practice and excellence, where everyone is known and achieves to their highest potential.
- Sustainability as a school specialism and promoting sustainable approaches for the benefit of current and future generations.
- Being outward looking, working in partnership with others to provide opportunity and provision for local families and adults.
- Working closely with parents and carers recognising their primary importance towards the education of their children.

### Prayer and Worship

Opportunities for personal and community prayer and reflection will be provided in many forms throughout the year. In addition to the daily act of worship, weekly assemblies provide opportunities for reflection and prayer.

A range of liturgical celebrations will be celebrated throughout the year, with key feast days celebrated collectively, as they reflect the mission and religious nature of our Christian school. Opportunities will also be provided for religious retreat to foster reflection and personal development.

### Religious Education

At Key Stage 3 all pupils will follow two hours of Religious Education each week, approved by the Catholic Archdiocese and Church of England Diocese.

At Key Stage 4 all pupils will follow a GCSE course in Religious Education.

### Sex Education

The Sex Education programme is supported by the teaching and guidance of both the Catholic and Church of England churches. The programme reflects the appropriate ages and levels.

While parents have the right to withdraw their son or daughter from Sex Education and Religious Education lessons, we believe these topics are an important part of a young person's moral, spiritual and social development.

If you'd like more information, full details of our Sex Education Policy and Religious Education Policy are available on request.

### Advice, Information and Guidance (AIG)

All of our pupils will be offered appropriate and timely advice, information and guidance. We work in partnership with external career guidance services to help our students make the very best decisions about their future.

A programme of careers education is provided for students to raise aspirations and awareness of career opportunities and educational transition. Our pupils will also be offered up to two weeks' work experience during Key Stage 4 to broaden their understanding of opportunities available in the world of work.





Our pupils will be set challenging but achievable learning targets which will be carefully monitored and, where necessary, appropriate support and help given.

### **A place where everyone is known and belongs...**

At Hope Academy we invest strongly in the care, welfare and happiness of our community.

To ensure outstanding support and care, we have adopted a Schools within Schools model of organisation, which creates a sense of family and belonging.

The Academy will be divided into five separate schools of 270 pupils. Each school is further divided into three houses of 90 pupils who, in turn, will be placed in four family/tutor groups of around 22 pupils. Our tutor groups will be of mixed ages, helping to foster a sense of family and support.



Each school will be led by staff teams which will focus on the day-to-day welfare needs of pupils and carefully monitor their academic progress.

Alongside first class care and support, the Schools within Schools approach offers excellent opportunities for pupils to participate in a range of activities, and develop their leadership and team-building skills.

We have developed a forward-looking curriculum that is innovative, personalised and global in scope. It is designed to prepare our young people for the world in which they will live.

### Curriculum

In Year 7, pupils will be placed in one of the five schools and experience a curriculum which reflects our vision to create a 'small school feel', while maintaining the advantages of a large school in terms of our range of expertise, subjects and resources available.

This approach includes a home base for students, where teachers come to the pupils, reducing the need for constant movement around the school. Pupils will, of course, move around to access to a wide range of specialist facilities including science, PE and art.

### Key Stage 3

Pupils follow a broad range of subjects based on the national curriculum, including religious education. A competency-based curriculum has also been designed, to make sure pupils have the opportunity to develop key skills – such as learning to learn, problem solving and thinking skills – alongside their subject-based curriculum.

### Languages

The Academy will formally offer French and Spanish as modern foreign languages. All pupils will follow one of these languages on entry, with the option of selecting a second language in Year 8. Pupils will also have a range of options through our enrichment programme, where an extra 50-minute and two hour period will be set aside for chosen activities.

### Technology

Throughout Key Stage 3 pupils will experience a range of technology subjects, including food, resistant materials, graphics and textiles.

### Key Stage 4

At Hope Academy we believe in stage, rather than age – basing education on a pupil's ability rather than age. This means that many of our students will be able to progress to follow GCSE /Level 2 programmes in Year 9, rather than waiting until Year 10. Students will begin a range of core subjects including English, maths, sciences and ICT in Year 9, before adding a range of further subjects at the start of Year 10.

All pupils will follow a GCSE in Religious Education.

Many pupils will also have the option of starting A level studies in Year 11, or look to improve their grades if necessary.

Fundamentally, we offer a wide, flexible range of subjects and pathways for pupils, making sure everyone has their needs and aspirations met.



## Homework and Independent Learning

At Hope Academy we understand that school is not the only place young people learn.

Young people study and learn in many different ways today – we live in a knowledge-based society where information is easily accessible. We believe the work and learning that young people experience outside school makes a significant contribution to developing the skills all school-leavers need in a rapidly changing world.

At Hope Academy we are committed to providing high quality homework, which includes planned assignments in the form of a series of independent learning projects provided across the school year.

Alongside knowledge and understanding, we look to develop a range of values and social skills in our pupils, and provide a real opportunity for parents to engage and support their children in their learning.

We will provide 24-hour access through our virtual learning environment to a wide range of resources and support.

## Home/School Contact

We place a high priority on communication with parents. Regular reports and early contact when difficulties occur will be the cornerstone of our approach. There will be a full programme of parental consultation meetings which will be well publicised and we encourage all parents to attend. Written reports from each subject area will be sent annually with interim reports in between. You are invited to contact the school at any time if you have concerns regarding your son or daughter.

## Charity and Community Work

The Academy is committed to undertaking a range of charity and volunteer work locally and globally. This could be through links with Liverpool Hope University's registered charity, Global Hope, which supports the Academy's themes of service to others and encouragement of sustainability. Or it could involve providing support for local aged and/or needy members of the community.



Hope Academy is committed to educational inclusion and welcomes applications from pupils with learning difficulties or disabilities. The Academy has been designed to ensure all pupils have access to a wide range of educational provision.

### **Enrichment Activities**

At Hope Academy we will offer pupils an outstanding range of enrichment activities.

This will include one 50-minute compulsory activity (between 3.05 and 3.55 pm) and a two-hour voluntary activity each week. Pupils can select from a wide range of activities including sport, dance, drama, music, instrumental tuition, photography, languages and activities designed to learn further about the Academy's specialism. Extra sport and performing arts provision will also be offered every Saturday morning.

### **Exceptional Pupils**

At Hope Academy we believe all of our pupils should be challenged and stretched. Pupils who are outstanding either in terms of their academic ability, or a talent such as sport, music or drama, will find their needs met here. Special provision – including fast tracking to early examinations, a widening or deepening of pupil learning and mentoring – will ensure their potential is met.

### **International Learning Experiences and Exchanges**

We believe that participation and engagement in a wide range of international experience contributes highly to the personal development of our pupils and encourages understanding of how they can help others around the world. We will engage in several holiday and exchange visits each year to destinations around the world.

### **Students with Learning Difficulties or Disabilities**

Hope Academy is committed to educational inclusion and welcomes applications from pupils with learning difficulties or disabilities. The Academy has been designed to ensure all pupils have access to a wide range of educational provision.

The Academy complies with the Special Educational Needs Code of Practice. Support will be provided according to individual need – this may include a range of support, including part time attendance at the learning support centre, in class support from teaching assistants or provision in small groups.

Hope Academy is committed to working in partnership with outside agencies and works positively and effectively with special needs services and specialist support groups to make sure pupils have access to extensive and appropriate help.

Applications will be subject only to the admissions criteria, but will regard the relevant guidance issued by the Secretary of State to maintained schools.





## Innovative Learning Spaces

Hope Academy's building is one of the most sustainable and highly specified education buildings in the country.

Wind turbines provide off-peak electricity, the heating and hot water is to be generated by renewable sources on site and 20% of the building and 70% of the external landscaping will be made from recycled materials.

The main features include:

- An innovative science suite of laboratories and flexible learning areas
- An outstanding technology suite that includes a graphics and product design studio, food technology room and specialised resistant materials area for design and technology students
- Our learning support suite
- Five modern foreign language laboratories with the very latest interpretation equipment.
- Superb performing arts facilities, including a drama suite and dance studios, and a music suite which includes a recording studio
- Fully-equipped art and design area includes a textiles suite, 3D/ceramics suite, digital art studio, media studio and outdoor art terrace
- Cutting-edge ICT equipment, including a wireless network, high-speed internet, a 24-hour school through remote access to resources and support, and laptops for all Year 7 pupils
- Outdoor classrooms
- Lake with outdoor gardens

In addition, pupils will have access to the physical resources of Liverpool Hope University, e.g. advanced laboratories, theatre and field centre.

Our brand new, state-of-the-art building and facilities are the result of £33 million of investment. We compare well not just locally or nationally, but with the best in Europe.

### Faith Space

A piece of inspirational artwork has been created at the main entrance to the Academy. As well as a welcoming statement, it will also give a strong sense of identity to the Faith Space.

The inspiration for the design was the Hope Garden which will be planted directly outside the Faith Space. Created by architectural glass artist, Kate Maestrii, the design for the window reflects the colours and patterns of the plants that will be growing there. The colour palette for the stained glass reflects the blues and greens of the flowers and plants, and the patterns are taken from the shapes created by the stems and branches of the trees, bushes and grass. Throughout the year the window will represent a rich and lush landscape full of colour, growth and hope.



Faith Space



Drama Studio



Lake with Gardens



Learning Resource Centre



Art & Design Studios

Hope Academy prides itself on outstanding sports facilities. These include a wide range of sports pitches, tennis courts and all-weather pitches, as well as a sports hall and activity studios. We also benefit from a sports and leisure centre on our campus, where we are able to access additional facilities on site, including a swimming pool.



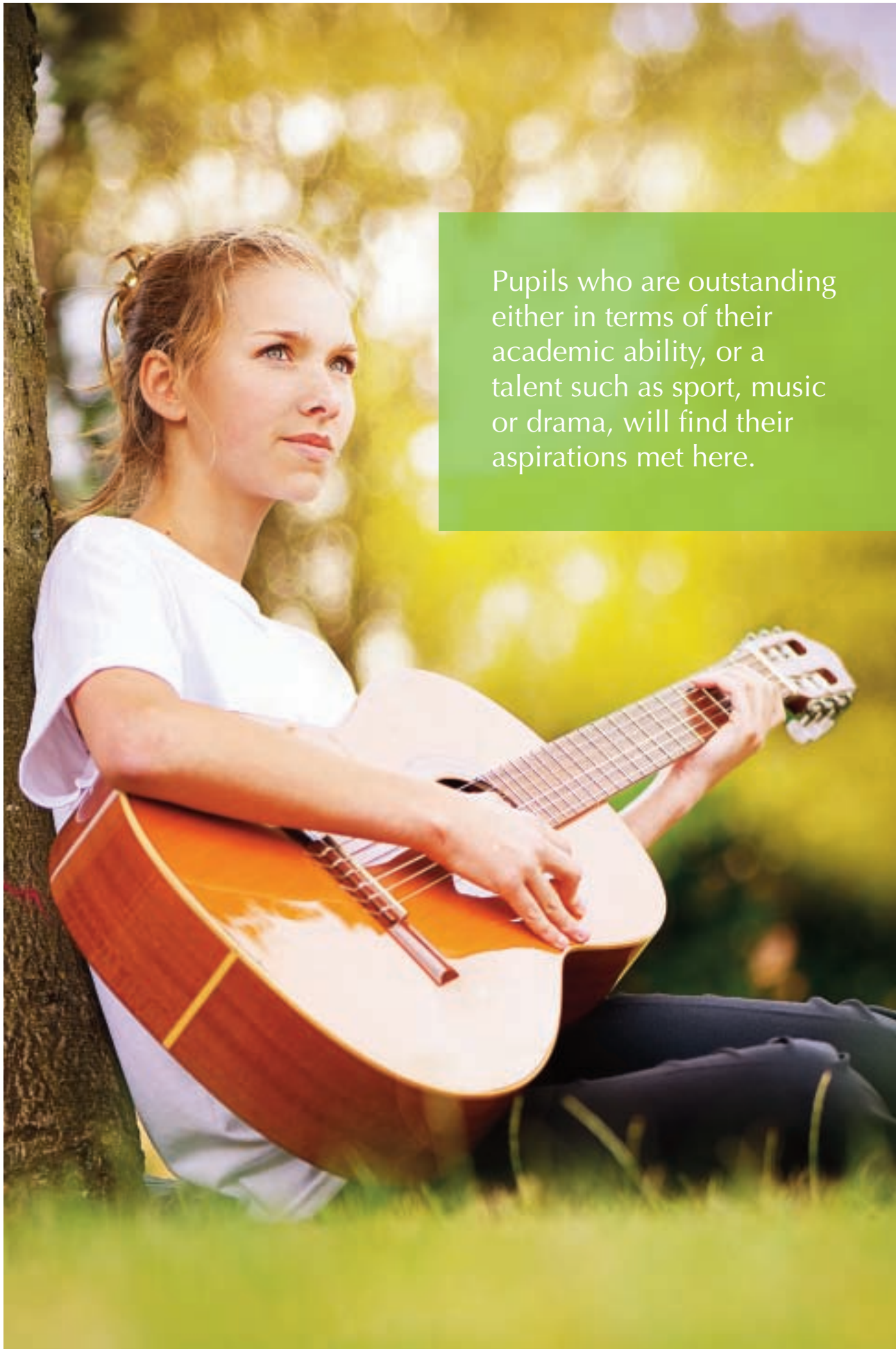
We look to develop a physical awareness, competence and skilled achievement in sport in all pupils at Hope Academy. We also foster its enjoyment, and develop awareness of the social benefits and healthy lifestyle gained from participation in sport.

All pupils at Hope Academy will undertake two hours of PE-related activity each week. In addition, at Key Stage 4 pupils will be able to follow accelerated programmes in GCSE PE or sports studies.

There will be wide-ranging opportunities for all pupils to be involved in sporting activities and be chosen to play sport at house, school and whole Academy level.

The outstanding sport and performing arts facilities will also be able to be accessed by the community.





Pupils who are outstanding either in terms of their academic ability, or a talent such as sport, music or drama, will find their aspirations met here.

Hope Academy is a joint Catholic and Church of England Academy, which welcomes students of all faiths, and none.

The support, care and education of your child are our only priority, creating an education for them, which is distinctive, outstanding and individually tailored.

To apply for a place in September 2011 you will need to state Hope Academy as a preference on your home Local Authority Common Application Form.

Further information on our admissions procedures and policy can be found at [www.hopeacademy.org.uk](http://www.hopeacademy.org.uk)

For further information or queries please contact:

The Admissions Secretary  
Hope Academy  
c/o Newton-le-Willows Community High School  
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[www.hopeacademy.org.uk](http://www.hopeacademy.org.uk)

