



Irlam and Cadishead Academy

The best in everyone™

Part of United Learning

Resilience
Respect
Enthusiasm
Ambition



Prospectus

Welcme to Irlam and Cadishead Academy

It is a privilege to lead our academy and the exceptional young people, dedicated staff and supportive families who make our community so special. As part of United Learning, we are committed to bringing out the best in everyone through our guiding mantra: **Everyone Excellent Every Day.**

We are proud of our journey and the achievements of our students, including our strongest GCSE results to date. These successes reflect our high expectations, expert teaching and unwavering commitment to ensuring every child feels valued, challenged and supported.

At Irlam and Cadishead Academy, students benefit from an ambitious curriculum, exceptional pastoral care and a wide range of enrichment opportunities that help them develop confidence, character and a love of learning. We want every young person to leave us equipped with the knowledge, skills and ambition to thrive in the future.

I warmly invite you to visit our academy and experience for yourself the caring, ambitious and inclusive community that makes Irlam and Cadishead Academy such a wonderful place to learn and grow.

With very best wishes,

Mr C Leader
Principal



Ofsted

Irlam and Cadishead Academy received its Ofsted inspection on the 28th and 29th February 2024 and was graded 'Good' in all areas.

The report noted that there is a culture of "high expectations" and a "calm atmosphere" at the school and that students are "happy in this tight-knit school community" and enjoy "strong relationships" with staff.

We are delighted to see the progress of the school in recent years recognised and validated by Ofsted. A copy of the report can be found on our website.



Our Ethos & Values

Everyone Excellent Every Day

At Irlam and Cadishead Academy, we believe excellence is a daily commitment. Through high expectations, ambition, kindness and continuous improvement, we encourage every member of our community to strive for their personal best every day.

As part of United Learning, we are dedicated to bringing out the best in everyone. By combining academic achievement with strong character development, we equip our students with the knowledge, confidence and values they need to succeed in school and beyond.

Our Vision

Where every child belongs, every experience inspires, and every learner thrives. We are committed to creating a safe, inclusive and inspiring environment where every student feels valued and supported. Through exceptional learning experiences and unwavering belief in every child's potential, we empower our learners to achieve their very best and leave our academy ready to make a positive difference in the world.

Our Values



Resilience

Resilience to keep going even when we face challenges, setbacks or disappointments.



Respect

Respect for ourselves and others in all that we do.



Enthusiasm

Enthusiasm to seek opportunity, find what is good and pursue talents and interests.



Ambition

Ambition to achieve the best for ourselves and others.



Determination

Determination to overcome obstacles and reach success.



United Learning
The best in everyone™

We seek to improve the life chances of all the children and young people we serve and make it our mission to bring out the best in everyone - students, staff, parents and the wider community.

10 Reasons to Choose Irlam & Cadishead Academy

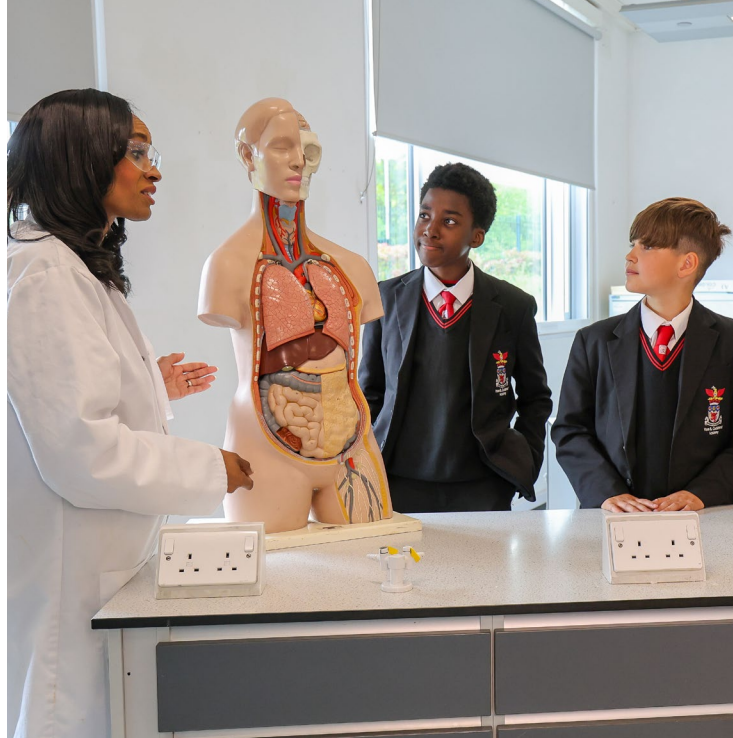
Irlam and Cadishead Academy is a popular 11 to 16 school based in Irlam, Salford, and is part of United Learning Trust, the most well-established multi-academy trust in the UK.

The key features of our school are:

1. Your child will be welcomed, cared for, and encouraged to achieve their absolute best.
2. Academically, we will bring out the best in your child, thanks to our inspirational teaching and a challenging and rigorous curriculum.
3. We achieve excellent results, improving year-on-year, and students make progress at all levels.
4. With a relentless focus on high standards of behaviour, your child will learn disruption-free, in a calm, happy and safe environment.
5. We are experts in Education with Character and offer an amazing range of enrichment, sports and leadership opportunities through our Aspire programme so your child can develop important life skills to succeed when they leave school.
6. We have a culture of reward and celebration allowing your child to develop their confidence and self-belief.
7. We prepare all our students with our post-16 careers programme to enter some of the best colleges, universities, and professions, with advantageous links to further education providers, apprenticeship providers and employers.
8. We know that a successful transition into Year 7 starts early through positive relationships with our local primary schools and offer an engaging, nurturing programme to prepare your students for the next stage of their education.
9. The school benefits from being part of the United Learning Trust, a prestigious group of schools, and we also have partnerships with a range of local, national and international organisations.
10. We prepare our students to take their rightful place in the world, encouraging them to be respectful, enthusiastic, ambitious and determined.

**No
Phone
School**

We are also a proud 'no-phone school', with every student using secure phone pouches. This creates a focused, distraction-free environment where students can fully engage in learning, sport, and enrichment activities.



Our Curriculum

At Irlam and Cadishead Academy, our aim is to provide an excellent education for all our students; an education which brings out the best in all of them. Our curriculum reflects our values of Resilience, Respect, Enthusiasm, Ambition, and Determination and has been designed to be cohesive, rigorous, and academically challenging. It is sequenced carefully to allow the acquisition of 'powerful knowledge' which will allow all students to be successful in education and later life. We want students to see themselves in our curriculum; to maximise their cognitive development, develop the whole person and their talents and ultimately become active and economically self-sufficient citizens.

Annual Assessments and Reporting

Assessment at Irlam and Cadishead Academy supports our culture of high expectations and ambition. The majority of assessment takes place formatively in lessons through regular checking of understanding, which is used to move learning

forward. Formal assessments are used at key points in the year, usually January and June, to identify gaps in knowledge and to inform next steps in learning. You will be provided with a summary report after these assessments which will show both students' attainment and their progress compared to their peers.

Teaching and Learning

The quality of teaching and learning in every lesson, every day is hugely important to us at the academy. We have high expectations of every student and it is our responsibility to provide them with the support, guidance, and challenge they need to succeed.

We have a simple approach to teaching and learning that we believe supports this. Every lesson falls within the following ICA lesson structure:

The ICA Lesson

Retrieval Practice

5-7 minute self-marked/whiteboard 'recall' activity based on prior learning

Teach, Check, Practice

A sequence of teaching that allows students to be guided through mastery of new content.

Teach – students actively listen as they are presented with new information by the teacher. This may involve modelling of ideas or how to answer specific questions.

Check – all students are checked for understanding. This may be through cold call questioning, turn and talk discussions or whole class use of mini whiteboards.

Practice – students are given time to independently practice application of the new content before reviewing their work and making any improvements.

Review

A final task which combines the content of the lesson into one consolidating task.

Homework Timetable

For Year 7, 8 and 9:

Monday	Science
Tuesday	Maths
Thursday	Y7 & 8 Only Scholar Programme
Friday	Y7 & 8 Scholar Programme

Homework will be set on Arbor, Sparx Maths and Sparx Science.

Grammar Scholars Programme

The Grammar Scholars Programme is a prestigious pathway for high-achieving students, offering a grammar school-style experience through academic excellence, enrichment and leadership development. Scholars benefit from enhanced learning opportunities designed to help them thrive at the country's leading universities.

NEW
Grammar Scholars
Programme
September 2027



Education with Character

We are proud of our commitment to delivering an outstanding Education with Character. Through our Aspire programme, students develop character, compassion and resilience alongside academic success. We encourage students to contribute to the academy community, embrace new challenges and persevere in the face of difficulty, preparing them for success in education, work and life. Aspire encompasses: Aspire Careers, Aspire Days and Educational Visits, Aspire Enrichment, Aspire House Competition and Aspire Student Leadership.

ASPIRE Enrichment

We provide a wide range of opportunities designed to help students become confident, well-rounded and ambitious individuals. Students can choose from more than 70 lunchtime and after-school clubs, including sport, STEM, the arts and a variety of special interests. Opportunities include football, rugby, netball, basketball, athletics, dance, darts, pool, MMA and many more. Participation helps students develop new skills, build friendships and grow in confidence, teamwork and resilience, while gaining experiences that help them stand out in future applications and interviews.

Aspire Days and Educational Visits

Students benefit from a wide range of experiences beyond the classroom, including educational visits, university trips, inspirational guest speakers and opportunities to collaborate with peers across United Learning schools. Visits include colleges and universities, castles, museums and art galleries, while students may also have the opportunity to take part in residential and international visits such as PGL, Iceland, Madrid and New York. Three Aspire Days are held each year and are tailored to the needs and interests of each year group, helping students broaden their horizons and explore future pathways.

Sport

Sport plays a significant role in academy life, with more than 200 fixtures taking place each year and over 10 sports clubs available weekly.



Through partnerships with organisations including the Manchester United Foundation and Salford Red Devils, as well as strong links with local clubs such as Irlam FC, Cadishead Rhinos and Irlam Darts Academy, students benefit from high-quality coaching, regular competition and clear pathways to develop their sporting talents at every level.

Committees

- House Committee
- Eco Committee
- Community Committee
- Literacy Committee

Aspire Careers

Irlam and Cadishead Academy is dedicated to ensuring our students have meaningful encounters at school which prepare them for their working lives. Careers education is delivered across all subject areas as well as PSHE. Our bespoke careers programme runs throughout all key stages and focuses on Further Education and Higher Education destinations and raising aspirations at KS3. Students experience a range of careers related activities designed to expand their horizons and give them the life skills to succeed in their future careers.



These include:

Form time activities | Enrichment days | Careers fairs | University visits | Mock interviews | College visits | Employer events | University mentoring | Inspirational guest speakers | Presentations from colleges/apprenticeship providers/employers. We have a designated careers department with a full time qualified L6 Careers Adviser and Senior Leader for Careers.

Aspire House System

When students attend their transition days at Irlam and Cadishead Academy, they are assigned to a House.

We have four distinct Houses - Dragon, Griffin, Kelpie and Phoenix - all named after mythical creatures which were chosen by the students. These Houses become our students' families within our school community and students compete to earn House points by living our RREAD values and through House challenges and competitions which we hold weekly and half-termly.

Each House has a Head of House who is a member of staff. The Head of Houses work together to organise and lead house activities. Our students can become House Captains who lead the other students in their respective houses. To achieve these positions, they apply and are then selected by their peers through a democratic vote. Each house is affiliated with a charity and houses fundraise throughout the year.

The 4 Houses chosen charities...

Dragon (Red – Jamie Horrocks Trust)

Griffin (Purple – Mind)

Kelpie (Green – RSPCA)

Phoenix (Orange – Shelter)



**Record
Results
AGAIN!
2026**

Did you know?

In 2026, our students achieved 86% 4+ and 66% 5+ in Sports Studies!

SEND Vision & Aims

At Irlam and Cadishead Academy, we believe every child deserves to feel valued, included and successful. We are committed to helping all students achieve their full potential by providing the support, encouragement and opportunities they need to thrive both in and beyond the classroom.

We celebrate each student's individual strengths, talents and interests and work closely with families to ensure that every young person feels confident, supported and able to succeed.

Our SEND provision is based on a graduated approach, with high-quality teaching at the heart of everything we do. Through Inclusion Plans, personalised support and targeted

interventions, we ensure that students can access learning, overcome barriers and make positive progress.

We work in partnership with parents, carers and a range of specialist services, including Speech and Language Therapy, Occupational Therapy, CAMHS and Educational Psychology, to provide the right support at the right time. Regular reviews help us celebrate achievements, monitor progress and adapt provision to meet changing needs.

By working together, we aim to ensure that every student is known, understood and empowered to achieve their ambitions, developing the confidence, independence and skills needed for a successful future.



Pastoral and Safeguarding

We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all of our students. This responsibility necessitates a child protection policy and robust procedures. Our Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy can be found on our website.

Where there are concerns about a child's welfare the school will contact appropriate agencies, share information with them and work in partnership with them. Concerns will be discussed with the family if it will not place the child at risk of significant harm. The child's view will also be considered in deciding whether to inform the family in some circumstances, particularly where the child is sufficiently mature to make informed judgements. The interest of the child is paramount.



Irlam and Cadishead Academy's SENCo

(Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator) is

Mrs Lisa Hren.

Celebrating Success

At Irlam and Cadishead Academy, we have a positive culture. We focus on the positive behaviour and praise, celebrate and reward students for demonstrating these behaviours. Developing a positive learning environment and good learning habits are rooted in United Learning and Irlam and Cadishead Academy's values of Resilience, Respect, Enthusiasm, Ambition and Determination. Students who make good choices around positive learning behaviour will be recognised, rewarded and celebrated. Students will receive rewards in several ways:

- Achievement points (Merits) are given daily in lessons by teachers for students demonstrating our values and have an excellent attitude to their learning.
- They are provided with weekly merits for 100% attendance, punctuality, being organised and having the correct equipment.
- Students can also receive merits throughout each day for demonstrating the Academy Values of Resilience, Respect, Enthusiasm, Ambition and Determination.

ICA Charter

Merits feed into the ICA Charter, which identifies the expectations we have of students to encourage them to contribute to the Academy community. This includes attending after-school Aspire programmes, having excellent attendance and punctuality, avoiding consequences such as homework detentions and RFI, as well as engaging in enrichment and career and leadership opportunities.

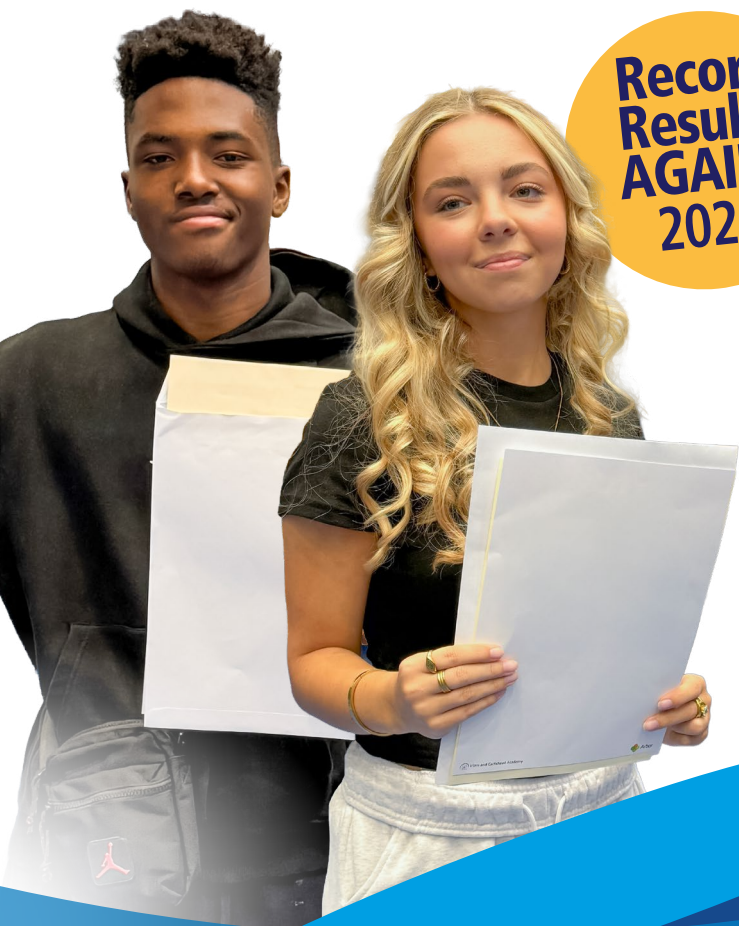
Students who reach Bronze, Silver, or Gold on the ICA Charter earn rewards and prizes along the way. As well as enjoying treats like ice creams and pizza, they'll get the chance to take part in awesome reward trips and activities, including days out at Blackpool Pleasure Beach and Alton Towers, plus fun experiences like Laser Quest and cinema experiences with friends.

Other Reward Opportunities

- Students who have 100% weekly attendance will receive a ticket to enter our attendance prize draw. Gift Cards, varying from £50 to £10, are up for grabs when the raffle is drawn weekly, at the end of each term and a special draw at the end of the year.
- Every lesson, one student is selected by the class teacher and rewarded with a Golden Ticket to recognise their effort and attitude to learning. Each week, special prizes are handed out to any students who have received a Golden Ticket.
- We host a rewards assembly each half term for each year group where students receive certificates and badges for subject recognition, values awards and Aspire attendance.
- At the end of each full-term, badges will be awarded for a full term of 100% attendance, subject recognition, aspire badges, values and charter badges.
- Awards Evenings – students who have excelled in their subject or have gone above and beyond in demonstrating our values are celebrated in annual Awards Evening and Sports Awards Evening.

**Record
Results
AGAIN!
2026**

- Improvement in Attainment 8 for **3 years running!**
- **English 82% 4+ and 62% 5+ - 2nd highest in all of Salford, Best in the North for United Learning!**
- **Geography 84% 4+ and 61% 5+ Best in the North for United Learning!**
- **Engineering 94% 4+ and 61% 5+ Best in United Learning!**
- **Catering 94% 4+ and 71% 5+ Best in the North for United Learning!**



Admissions & Transition

Applications for a place at Irlam and Cadishead Academy should be made via the Salford City Council website. The deadline for applying for a Year 7 place is usually on or around October 31st each year. Further information can be found on the secondary school admissions page of the Salford City Council website.



Register for your School Place

Scan the QR code to find out more!



The transition from primary to secondary school is a very exciting time, but this big leap can also be daunting for both children and their families. At Irlam and Cadishead Academy, our aim is to make this process as enjoyable as possible for everyone involved, and have developed our Step Up to Irlam and Cadishead Academy transition programme to support this.

In Year 4 and Year 5 we offer a range of transition days, curriculum workshops and familiarisation events to help children make new friends and experience different subjects and activities.

In Year 6, our programme becomes more tailored to support both children and parents with their transition to our academy. 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.

We offer extra transition days to vulnerable students who have been identified by their current primary school and the ICA inclusion team, ensuring that these vulnerable students have the extra support they require to make the transition to secondary school successful.

All key dates and information can be found on our school website. For any further information, please email transitions@irlamandcadishead.org.uk.



What Our Parents Say About Transition at ICA...

“ I have never seen anything like what this school is doing [for transition]. My daughter has already made friends from other schools and feels confident around the school. ”

“ The transition offer is exceptionally good; the children have so many opportunities available to increase their confidence before attending the school. The Step Up days in Year 4 and 5 are also a great building block, providing early links to the high school. The most important element for my son has been the Thursday transition club, where he has met other children who will be attending in Year 7 whilst enjoying fun activities at the school. ”

“ ICA has been generous in offering their time to help children adapt to a new school setting and mingle with peers. More so than any other school that we know of. I have compared notes with friends and colleagues, and no other parents have seen this amount of support from their children's new secondary school. ICA has done a stunning transition process. ”

“ What has worked well is the communication from the school before the transition, including information about routines, expectations, and key dates. The induction and transition days helped my child become familiar with the school environment, meet teachers, and make new friends, which reduced anxiety and increased confidence before starting secondary school. Staff have been supportive and approachable, making the transition feel well organised and welcoming. ”



Book a Tour

We are proud of our Irlam and Cadishead Academy community and welcome you to visit the academy. If you would like to learn more about us, we would be delighted to offer you a school tour during or after the school day.





Irlam & Cadishead Academy

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