Henlow
Church of England Academy

‘I have come that they may have life,
and have it to the full’
John 10:10



2026 - 2027 Prospectus

Your Future at Henlow

Henlow Church of England Academy is at the forefront of the move towards primary/secondary in Central Bedfordshire, with GCSE results we are proud of in 2024, 2025 and 2026. We began life in 1976 as a middle school and are now fully established as a thriving secondary school. The journey has been an incredible one for our community and we invite you to come and join us as you take your next steps.



The surrounding countryside has always been a wonderful feature of our setting but the buildings themselves have been transformed in recent years. If you have visited before, be prepared for a few surprises, including a brand new 2 storey building with a four court sports hall, large classrooms and incredible science laboratories. However, it may be the transformation of the original buildings that takes your breath away - the old gym has become an auditorium, a food technology suite and graphics facilities impress upstairs and the new library (Henlow Hub) dominates the centre of the school. I hope the descriptions and photographs convince you to come and visit to see the incredible developments for yourself.

As a secondary school we now have superb facilities and offer a curriculum full of possibilities designed to develop the interests of our young people. As they progress throughout the school they begin selecting which areas they wish to pursue further in Years 7 and 8. They have an increased choice alongside a community option in Year 9 and ultimately those subjects they wish to focus on at GCSE/BTEC level. Our commitment in our curriculum and staffing matches the investment in our new buildings. Staff, parents, and most of all students are proud of our recent GCSE/BTEC results. These achievements reflect a collective determination to develop the potential of each individual. Their successes can be viewed on our website www.henlowacademy.co.uk.

We have focussed on the uplifting ways in which Henlow Church of England Academy has changed as it has become a secondary school but our final points draw attention to what hasn't changed. As a community our ambition is driven by our ethos - every young person deserves to enjoy their learning by receiving the right blend of nurture and challenge. A genuine warmth and sense of community defines our approach and underpins all aspects of Henlow life. As teenagers make important decisions about the person that they ultimately want to become, we build positive relationships with them and ensure that they are supported to be the fully rounded person they hope to be.

Henlow Academy proudly stands as the founding member of the Poppy Hill Multi Academy Trust, which now includes Meppershall Academy. We cultivate robust partnerships within our trust, with our feeder primary schools, the Diocese of St Albans, and a broad network of community and charity organisations.

The Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) report, published in March 2025, offers true insight into our academy, affirming that "Henlow Church of England Academy is living up to its foundation as a Church school and is enabling pupils and adults to flourish". This positive evaluation is consistently validated by our Ofsted inspections, where we have maintained a 'Good' rating. In our latest Ofsted inspection in April 2025, the school achieved 'Good' judgments across all areas, including the quality of education, behaviour and attitudes, personal development, and leadership and management. The report notably highlighted our success in balancing holistic growth with academic success, stating, "Pupils benefit from a curriculum which allows them to develop personally as well as achieve academically".

We encourage you to come and meet us and experience life at Henlow.



Naomi Chalkley
Head of School

Caren Earp
Executive Head Teacher
& Trust CEO





Excellence in Achievement

Lessons at Henlow Academy are dynamic and thought-provoking, encouraging students to think beyond the boundaries of traditional academic success. We value intellectual curiosity and creativity equally - whether it's a powerful musical performance, a bold piece of art, a compelling essay, or the solution to a complex mathematical problem. Rigour and a genuine love of learning lie at the heart of our approach.

At Henlow Academy, our vibrant house system - made up of five distinct houses - thrives all the way through to Year 11. Students develop a strong sense of pride and belonging within their house, embracing the friendly competition of sports, activities, and school-wide events.

Leadership is nurtured throughout every stage of school life. Through roles such as Prefects and House Captains, students are encouraged to step forward, take responsibility, and develop the confidence and skills essential for life beyond the classroom.

"Students respond with a deep sense of loyalty to the school and a commitment to making it a place they feel proud of."
SIAMS - 2025



Our Curriculum Year 7~9

In addition to the core academic curriculum, students at Henlow Academy benefit from a unique opportunity to shape their own learning journey through our innovative Options Programme. In Years 7 and 8, pupils choose from a diverse range of elective subjects designed to stretch and challenge, spark new interests, and develop skills for future careers. These electives also serve to broaden students' horizons and enrich their overall educational experience. To explore the full list of electives available in Years 7 and 8, please visit our website at www.henlowacademy.co.uk.

In Year 9, students continue to deepen their knowledge across the traditional English Baccalaureate subjects - English, Maths, Science, Languages, Geography, History, and Computer Science - while also engaging in a broad mix of foundation subjects that provide a well-rounded preparation for Key Stage 4.

Year 9 also introduces The Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award, offering students valuable experiences beyond the classroom and helping to build confidence, teamwork, and resilience.

As a Church of England school with a strong community ethos, we believe in the value of a holistic education with Religious Education and a Modern Foreign Language remaining a core part of the Year 9 curriculum, ensuring all students continue to develop both cultural understanding and spiritual awareness.

ATHLETICS MUSIC TECHNOLOGY ILLUSTRATION
FILM AND MEDIA FIRST AID
POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY GARDENING
THEATRE MAKE-UP GAMES DEVELOPMENT CREATIVE WRITING
1940'S BRITAIN STRENGTH & CONDITIONING
FURTHER MATHS POP UP STORY BOOK FOOTBALL
TRAMPOLINING NEW ZEALAND:CULTURE & LANGUAGE
FOOD BASICS & STYLING BAND PRACTICE
CRITICAL THINKING SPANISH EMBROIDERY



Our Curriculum Year 10 & 11

Key Stage 4 at Henlow Academy offers a carefully balanced combination of core subjects and optional choices, enabling students to design a personalised programme that supports their individual needs, interests, and future ambitions.

The core curriculum includes English Literature, English Language, Mathematics, Combined Science (Trilogy), Religious Education, Core PE and Games, and Personal, Social, Health, and Careers Education (PSHCE).

Alongside these compulsory subjects, students choose four additional options from a broad and diverse range. These include (but are not limited to): Triple Science, Computer Science, Geography, History, French, Art, Business, Drama, Music, PE, and Psychology. Full details of our GCSE subject offerings can be found on our website: www.henlowacademy.co.uk.

Where appropriate, additional support is available through practical learning opportunities focused on literacy, numeracy, and financial education, such as money management.

We also place value on our rich and varied extra-curricular programme, which includes opportunities in sport, music, drama, and more—supporting students' personal development and enriching their overall school experience.

"Pupils benefit from a curriculum which allows them to develop personally as well as achieve academically."
Ofsted - April 2025

"The innovative approach to the curriculum means that, alongside traditional subjects, students can pursue existing interests and develop new ones."
SIAMS - March 2025

We’re a Team

At Henlow Academy, we actively encourage all students to lead healthy, active lifestyles - whether through competitive sport or recreational participation. Our excellent facilities support this aim and include a large sports hall, 2G MUGA, tennis and netball courts, a fitness gym, trampolines, table tennis tables, and extensive green spaces for a wide variety of sporting activities.

Core PE offers students a broad and engaging curriculum delivered across our impressive sports grounds and facilities. Lessons are led by specialist teachers and coaches, ensuring high-quality instruction and support.

Students take part in a wide range of sports and physical activities, with the goal of fostering enjoyment, confidence, and a commitment to lifelong physical activity. As students progress through the school, they benefit from greater choice - starting with electives in Key Stage 3 and continuing with games and option lessons in Key Stage 4.

For those pursuing qualifications in sport, we offer both GCSE Physical Education and BTEC Sport. These courses provide a strong foundation in the knowledge, skills, and values needed to enhance personal performance, while also promoting a deep understanding of the benefits of physical health, fitness, and well-being.

Partnerships for Learning

At Henlow Church of England Academy, we are proud to have a dedicated and experienced team of tutors, led by our committed Heads of Year. Their primary role is to support students' pastoral needs and guide them through the day-to-day routines of school life. Our deep understanding of our students and ability to provide the right support at the right time have been recognised as a key strength by both Ofsted and SIAMS.

We are deeply invested in helping students live life to the full - offering care, encouragement, and nurture where needed, while maintaining high expectations and a strong culture of challenge and achievement.

Our students are at the heart of everything we do. They embody Henlow's values and set the standard for future generations. We celebrate each student as a unique individual with their own strengths, talents, and personality - and we remain committed to providing outstanding teaching, pastoral care, and support for all.

"School policies and practice create a culture where members of the school community are confident that they are valued. This means that adults and students feel that their voices are heard and that they will be supported in difficult times."

SIAMS - March 2025





Personal Development

At Henlow, our core values are designed to support not only our students' academic progress and achievement, but also their creative, spiritual, and moral development. We believe that a truly exceptional education nurtures the whole person. That's why we encourage our students to be open-minded, curious, and reflective about the wider world - and to understand their place and responsibilities within it.

Our senior students play a vital role in school life. As role models and leaders, they set the tone for our community, guiding younger pupils and representing the school's ethos and values with pride. Through their leadership, commitment, and ambition, they demonstrate that they are the driving force behind both their personal success and that of the wider student body. Charity initiatives, cultural enrichment, school productions, and sporting events are all central to our vibrant school life.

We are also proud to be recognised for the outstanding support we provide to students with additional needs. Purpose-built SEND areas within the school create a calm and nurturing environment, where students receive the tailored support they need to unlock their full potential.

Our goal is simple but powerful: to guide our students - your children - into becoming confident, compassionate, and well-rounded individuals. We are here to help them flourish, thrive, and live their lives to the fullest.

"They are proud of their responsibilities, such as being prefects and pupil librarians. In these roles, pupils contribute positively to the school community, while building leadership and teamwork skills."
Ofsted - 2025

Beyond the Classroom

Extra-curricular life at Henlow is thriving, with exceptionally high levels of student participation across all year groups. We are proud to offer over 75 different clubs throughout the year, providing a wide range of opportunities for students to explore their interests, develop new skills, and connect with others beyond the classroom.

Our sports programme continues to go from strength to strength. Building on the achievements of our Key Stage 3 teams, we support and encourage continued participation into Key Stage 4, where our teams proudly represent Henlow in a range of competitive fixtures.

Our excellent facilities - including a state-of-the-art four-court sports hall and 2G MUGA - provide the perfect environment to host a variety of sports and training activities.

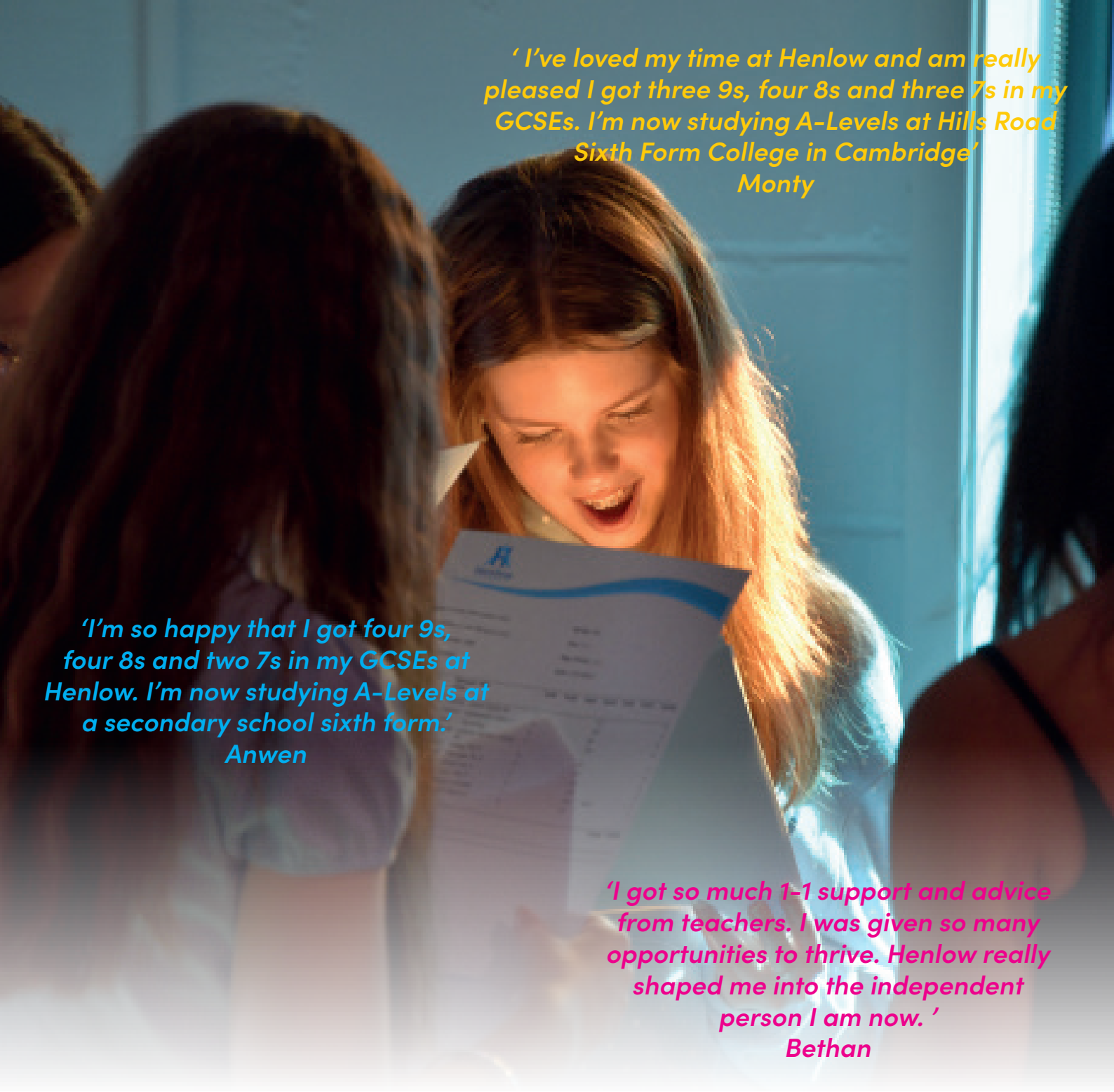
Students also enjoy a dedicated Sports Awards Evening, which celebrates both individual accomplishments and team successes. Beyond the classroom, students have the opportunity to take part in exciting experiences such as our ski trip, a visit to Disneyland Paris, exhilarating outdoor water adventures, and much more! These experiences are carefully designed to build confidence, foster independence, and create lasting memories that contribute to students' personal growth and sense of achievement.

Building for Tomorrow

At Henlow, we believe the learning environment plays a vital role in our students' growth and success. Set within beautiful parkland, our unique school is home to a vibrant community of enthusiastic pupils, dedicated and inspiring staff, and knowledgeable, supportive governors.

Since 2017, our site has undergone significant development, now boasting state-of-the-art science laboratories, a modern food technology suite, a specialist graphics room, and high-specification general teaching spaces. These are complemented by a four-court sports hall and a Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA), all of which contribute to a dynamic and inspiring setting where students and staff can thrive.





‘ I’ve loved my time at Henlow and am really pleased I got three 9s, four 8s and three 7s in my GCSEs. I’m now studying A-Levels at Hills Road Sixth Form College in Cambridge’
Monty

‘I’m so happy that I got four 9s, four 8s and two 7s in my GCSEs at Henlow. I’m now studying A-Levels at a secondary school sixth form.’
Anwen

‘I got so much 1-1 support and advice from teachers. I was given so many opportunities to thrive. Henlow really shaped me into the independent person I am now. ’
Bethan

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POPPY HILL
CHURCH OF ENGLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

Henlow Church of England Academy is part of Poppy Hill Church of England Multi Academy Trust