



# WELCOME PACK

TEACHING ASSISTANT

Cumbria  
Academy  
for Autism

## WELCOME FROM THE HEAD

### POST: Teaching Assistant

**This post will commence: Sept 2021**

Thank you for your interest in working at Cumbria Academy for Autism (CAA). I would like to take this opportunity to tell you all a little about our unique school and to highlight the significance of getting the right staff appointed. Cumbria Academy for Autism is a new, aspirational special free-school. It serves the boroughs of Allerdale and Copeland in West Cumbria, providing a unique educational experience for up to 56 students between the ages of 4 to 19 years old. We deliver high quality education and intervention in a learning environment which will enable ASC children to achieve their full potential in their future lives. We are passionate about improving the life chances of children and young people with autism in West Cumbria. After three years of planning and applications the Academy was given approval by the DfE, with local authority support, and opened in September 2019. Now officially open, we are continuing to grow in pupil and staff numbers over a period of three years.

I was recruited to lead the School development and I am seeking passionate and experienced staff to lead in the delivery of personalised learning for the pupils within their care. This is a genuine opportunity to help define and establish an emerging specialist ASC school for Primary, Secondary and Post 16 pupils. I want to find people who will work collaboratively with me and the senior leadership team in meeting our shared vision and values for everyone within the School. You are applying for a support role but the skills knowledge and passion that you bring will help shape the future of the whole trust, we want a staff team that will quickly establish and develop CAA as a centre of excellence for autism learning.

We are looking for genuine and caring people who will have a positive contribution towards an open and trusting culture, who can bring a collaborative and 'can do' solution-focused attitude and who



know that the only way to achieve excellence is to maintain and motivate high-performing teams across the school. The successful candidates will demonstrate their enthusiasm, drive and dedication to make CAA a school that can guarantee to maximise pupil progress, social and academic, through achievement and an outstanding learning experience.

If you feel you can meet the needs of all our students without limitation and are excited to support CAA in its post opening phase, then we look forward to hearing from you.

Please submit your completed applications to Liza Ewing, Business Manager via email: [l.ewing@cumbriaacademyforautism.org.uk](mailto:l.ewing@cumbriaacademyforautism.org.uk) Postal applications will be accepted (marked Private and Confidential) however, please ensure your application arrives in time for the closing date and postage is correctly applied as we will not be able to retrieve underpaid items.

For further information and an informal discussion please email me:  
[r.aindow@cumbriaacademyforautism.org.uk](mailto:r.aindow@cumbriaacademyforautism.org.uk)

Interviews will take place week commencing 21<sup>st</sup> June 2021.

We look forward to receiving your application.

**Richard Aindow** Headteacher.

## CREATING LIFE CHANGING OPPORTUNITIES

### Our Vision

Cumbria Academy for Autism is passionate about our vision to form a special free school in West Cumbria which creates life changing opportunities for our students and this is reflected in our mission and vision statements:

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*“To provide children and young people with autism in the Cumbria, the opportunity to reach their full potential in life by preparing them for adulthood, so they may lead fulfilled, happy and purposeful lives.”*

*“Be the best version of you.”*

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Our values strongly underpin our vision, as they hold ‘**AUTISM**’ at the very core of the school; they ensure our students are always central to every decision we make and everything that we do:

- A** **Ambition**
  - For every student, every member of staff and for the school;
  - Believing each individual with autism has the opportunity to make a positive difference in this world;
  - Setting challenging goals for students, staff and the school to ensure continuous progress;
  - To offer a wide range of academic and ‘life-skills’ qualifications for our students, reflecting the differing needs of our diverse cohort.
- U** **Understanding**
  - Recognising everyone needs compassion, empathy and patience, promoting tolerance and acceptance.
- T** **Tenacity**
  - To be determined and resilient in character; we will expect this of our staff and develop this in our students.
- I** **Inspiration**
  - Being a positive and empowering school that encourages and celebrates success in all individuals and respectfully promotes autism in the wider community;
- S** **Support**
  - To be a ‘centre of excellence’ where knowledge and learning is disseminated throughout the locality, with satellites for learning and sharing knowledge, ultimately improving the lives of those with autism.
  - For our students, their families, our staff and our community;
  - Forging links with local schools, academies, colleges and organisations to share knowledge, resources and information with mutual benefit;

- To work closely with our students to ensure all outcomes are in line with their aspirations for the future, whilst supporting their transitions into adulthood.

#### **M Morality**

- Creating respectful, honest students with strong British values, to enable them to become respectable adults and good citizens.

### **Our Students**

Our students are the ultimate reason for CAA, they are the essential core of our school and consequently their needs are at the centre of all that we do. The school will cater for children and young people with a primary diagnosis of Autism and cognitive profiles which range from those with mild/moderate learning disabilities through to gifted and talented learners.

The majority of our students will be drawn from the Whitehaven/Workington/Cockermouth area of Cumbria which is the more populated region on the border of the boroughs of Copeland and Allerdale. CAA's designated catchment area is all of Copeland and Allerdale, and as such will draw students from the more rural areas to the north and south. Young people from other areas of Cumbria and further afield may be offered places if directed by the LA.

### **Our Curriculum**



The curriculum at Cumbria Academy for Autism is designed to deliver improved life outcomes for children and young people with Autism and thus create 'life changing opportunity' as set out in our vision for the school. It will prepare students for adulthood by offering them a learning experience which explicitly teaches valuable life skills alongside core academic elements of learning.

We are proud of the broad and balanced curriculum that we propose. We will have a strong emphasis on Life Skills and preparation for Adulthood and life beyond education. We will provide pupils with academic and vocational skills suitable to their ability through individually tailored learning experiences. For more information about our academic, therapeutic and Life Skills curriculum please see our website.

The curriculum will have an academic focus but will be supplemented by high levels of intervention and therapy. It will be teacher led with significant input and guidance on the delivery of learning for each child from in-house professionals and therapists, who will continuously assess, monitor and evaluate the performance of every student ensuring that their Individual Education Plans (IEPs) reflect their individual requirements and are constantly relevant, effective and current.

### **Our Staff Team**

Our aim is to recruit energetic and dedicated teachers, support staff, therapists and leaders to CAA's team. The governing body is well established and determined to recruit the highest standard of professionals to establish a strong, successful team who will improve outcomes for every individual student.

### **Our Facilities**

Despite our size, relative to that of a mainstream setting, we are planning to have a wealth of provision available to our learners. Extensive learning facilities, combined with therapy areas and

a multitude of engaging outdoor spaces, will ensure we offer our students the very best learning environment. All areas of the school will be autism friendly spaces and will be designed to link fully with our curriculum model.



### **Our Governors**

The Governing Body is accountable to CAA Trust Board. We are a Single Trust Academy and therefore not directly aligned with any other Academies or Free Schools. The main focus of our Governing Body is to support and work with our Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team. Our Governors are committed, knowledgeable and active in their support for the school.

### **Our Partnerships**

To ensure the best opportunities for all our students we have strong relationships with a number of partner schools, both locally and nationally. We also work closely with West Cumbria Alternate Provision Hub and The University of Cumbria.

### **Our Website**

Our website ([www.cumbriaacademyforautism.co.uk](http://www.cumbriaacademyforautism.co.uk)) gives an insight into the life of the school and is used widely by parents and other stakeholders. Please have a look before making an application.

### **Our Location**

CAA is located in the Lillyhall area of West Cumbria, just to the east of Workington. Access is via the A595, the main north-south route in West Cumbria. The school address is Branthwaite Road, Workington, CA14 4SS.

### **Key School facts and Statistics:**

Type of School	Special Free School
Age range	4-19 years
Number of students	32-56
Number of teachers	5-12
Number of STA/HLTA	10-25
Pupil Premium Students	Tbc
EHCP/Statemented Students	32-56