

Prospectus

2023/24

Academy 
Alternative provision online

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Welcome to A21

Academy21 – the UK’s leading online Alternative Provision

Thank you for taking the time to learn more about Academy21. We have developed our high-quality, cost-effective alternative provision in direct response to the needs of local authorities, schools, and the young people we support.

Through flexible programmes and excellent teaching we bring a balance of pastoral support, academic challenge, and educational engagement to students with a broad spectrum of needs.

We can help your students with EBSA and anxiety, pupils who are disengaged or at risk of exclusion, vulnerable young people, those with chronic medical needs, and the many more learners facing their own unique challenges. Our wide range of flexible programmes are designed to help you with your specific needs, from day six provision to GCSE Rescue courses to long-term support. With Academy21’s personalised approach, we’re proud to say that every partner gets the right solution, and every student is given the opportunity to progress and thrive.

We hope this prospectus serves as a helpful guide to understanding Academy21 and answers any initial questions you may have about our provision. We pride ourselves on working collaboratively with our partners, so please reach out to our team to discuss your specific needs.



**Alessandro Capozzi
& Clare Brokenshire**

Executive Head & Head of Academy21

Academy21 – High-quality online AP for pupils in England & Wales

Academy21 is proud to be the UK's leading provider of live, online, alternative provision.

Each year we work with hundreds of schools and thousands of learners across more than 130 local authority areas. Established in 2012, we have a strong track record of supporting vulnerable learners from years 7 to 11.

Through our services we bring students with behavioural, medical and mental health needs a pathway to achieve strong recognised outcomes.

Our provision is:

- Personalised to individual students' needs
- Flexible and suitable for long- and short-term requirements
- Supportive; our teachers are experienced in delivering AP for students that may have high levels of anxiety or may have disengaged from learning
- Academically focused with a broad and balanced curriculum for Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 pupils
- Delivered live through our custom-built platform by qualified and experienced teachers
- Supported with user-friendly portals, which give access to resources, recordings and a wide range of reports for mentors

An **inspired** school

Inspired Online Schools

Academy21 is proud to be an Inspired Online School.

Inspired Online Schools are part of Inspired Education, an international group of leading, premium schools. With over 80,000 students in over 111 schools across 24 countries. Inspired Education utilises best educational practices from every corner of the globe to ensure each student receives a first-class learning experience, from Kindergarten to Year 13. This strong foundation and extensive network is part of what makes Academy21 unwavering in our growth and resilience, empowering us to deliver the very best for years to come.

Combining time-honoured teaching practices with modern and innovative techniques, Inspired cultivates a more dynamic, powerful form of education. As an Inspired Online School, Academy21 brings you the same top-tier teaching quality this group is known for. Backed by high levels of training and support, our team of skilled and experienced educators uphold the highest standards.



King's InterHigh

Provided by fellow Inspired Online School King's InterHigh, Academy21 customers enjoy access to Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 5 curricula for their students.

With over 15 years of experience delivering unparalleled virtual education, King's InterHigh is a fully online school for students aged seven to 19. Together, Academy21 and King's InterHigh provide high-quality online education to more than 7,500 learners each year.

Working together with King's InterHigh, we bring your Key Stage 5 students a vast range of A Level subjects. Key Stage 2 pupils, meanwhile, can be accommodated with a warm learning environment and enriching curriculum.

The delivery of King's InterHigh classes is different to the alternative provision we offer at Academy21. As such, each placement should be assessed on a case-by-case basis to ensure that we can meet the needs of each individual student.

Your Partnership Manager is on hand to advise on the differences between Academy21 and King's InterHigh, including which approach will be best suited for your students.

“I started studying at Academy21 in February of year ten and the benefits were pretty much immediate for me.

My attendance went up to 100%. I was interacting with classmates and with teachers, either via the chat or verbally, and that was really nice to be able to get back into the more social aspects.

Academy21 meant that I was able to get the core GCSEs that I needed so that I was able to move on with my education and eventually, go on to university and get my degree. I know that I wouldn't have been able to do it without the foundation that Academy21 gave me. They gave me hope back into my education and a drive to continue forward with it.”

Katy

Former Academy21 student



Why choose Academy21?

We are committed to providing all the young people we support with a fresh relationship with learning.

Our services and the achievements we work towards are all grounded in our school ethos based on eight core principles:

01.

Personalisation

Every student is an individual, so we provide:

- Provision tailored to individual needs
- A pathway to each students' academic goals
- A range of opportunities in line with mainstream schooling
- Access to Inspired AI for tailored, independent practice activity, personalised feedback and engaging tasks matched to each learner's needs

03.

Safety

Safety is of the utmost importance, so we provide:

- A comprehensive and proactive approach to safeguarding for vulnerable young people
- Quality assurance from numerous local authority commissioning processes
- Secure online reporting systems, with technical cloud infrastructure built to ISO 27001 standards

02.

Flexibility

Your needs can change from week to week, so we provide:

- Quick and efficient changes at no additional cost
- Provision that flexes up and down as needed
- Short, medium, and long-term support options

04.

Transparency

A 360° view of the student is essential, so we provide:

- A comprehensive, 24/7 online reporting system tracking all student data, from real-time attendance and engagement to detailed cohort reports
- Regular assessments and progress monitoring from unit topic reviews through to final examinations
- A balance of greater quality, progression and outcomes with lesser costs

Over **4,500 students** from more than **800 different schools** and establishments across **145 local authority** areas supported in the latest academic year.

24/7
student data & tracking

360°
monitoring available

05.

Partnership

We view you as our partner, so we create:

- Partnerships that place the learner at the centre
- Honest, transparent, direct communication with you
- Proactive work with all stakeholders for the best possible student outcomes

07.

Wellbeing

Many of our students face challenges, so we provide:

- Tutorials for each student with regular wellbeing check-ins and progress monitoring
- Wellbeing packages for fully rounded support with workshops around anxiety, exam confidence, and more
- Study Skills courses to help build a range of strategies for coping with time management, revision, exams, digital skills and building resilience

06.

Quality

Excellent teaching and learning is transformative, so we provide:

- Strong academic leadership
- Teachers with extensive mainstream, SEN, AP, and online experience
- Integrated and holistic pedagogy focusing on knowledge, skills, and learning outcomes

08.

Value

Your budget is under increasing pressure, so we provide:

- Great value, with changes at no additional cost
- Flexible pricing models that adjust with your needs
- We offer weekly Pay As You Go (PAYG), half termly, termly and annual purchase options with no minimum purchase or advanced purchase of credits required.

Benefits of Online AP for schools and other organisations

Organisation and Administration

Online AP can be used to support learners at any time in the academic year. Students can join part way through a year and continue their studies. Academy21 manages the enrolment process and builds timetables for each learner to suit their needs.

Continuity of Provision

Online AP can be implemented as a short-term solution or can be used to support pupils for much longer periods of time. Some students in particular need the stability that this type of solution can offer while experiencing periods of change or upheaval in their personal lives.

Standard of Teaching

No matter where a student is based, they are able to access the same high-quality content. All students, regardless of location, attend classes delivered by experienced, fully qualified teachers who are subject specialists. This consistency of quality can be particularly useful for larger organisations who use Academy21 for pupils that would usually attend different schools, in different locations.

Flexible Support

Online AP can fit in around school timetables and be tailored to suit individual learners' needs. Ongoing monitoring and reporting, as well as regular communication with a designated member of staff in the education setting means that provision can be adapted as needed.

Reporting and Monitoring

Schools and Local Authorities can keep track of their AP students via online reporting and monitoring systems. Data can be easily accessed relating to attendance, engagement and progress.

A Partnered Approach

Online AP is often used as a solution for pupils to remain on their school roll and still feel part of the school community. Working together with Academy21 ensures that pupils continue to receive academic support while away from the school grounds. In many cases, this partnership approach can aid the reintegration of the learner back into mainstream education.

For more information about online alternative provision, or to download our full report visit:
academy21.co.uk/benefits-online-alternative-provision/



Teaching & Learning

Our highly flexible service is tailored to the specific needs of our clients and students.

Learners can seamlessly transition between our short, medium, and long-term programmes of support as needed.



Qualified and experienced teachers

- Led by Clare Brokenshire, Head of Academy 21 and Alessandro Capozzi, our Executive Head
- Highly qualified, subject specialist teachers with mainstream schooling experience
- Safe recruitment and selection processes (single central register available on request); our safer recruitment and safeguarding policies can be found online at academy21.co.uk/safeguarding-and-child-protection/

Progress reporting

- Weekly interventions to close learning gaps, with one-on-one and small group sessions available
- Regular assessments and extension activities, submitted and stored through our online systems
- Differentiated instruction based on teacher analysis of assessment outcomes
- Progress reports available to view at any time online

Virtual classrooms and lesson libraries

- Classes held on Adobe Connect, an industry-leading online platform
- Students communicate by talking, typing, and writing on virtual whiteboards and in dedicated chat pods with their teachers
- Engaging lesson content differentiated to each individual's abilities and needs
- Full content lesson library available 24/7 to support learning and aid exams revision

Inspired AI

- Our Inspired AI platform provides tailored activities to extend students beyond their current level and provide real time feedback
- Live lessons are complemented with pathways of short, engaging tasks that adapt to the needs of the learner
- All students have access to a fully supported, personalised programme of work which is novel and challenging
- Working through tasks gives students a sense of accomplishment while in-built diagnostic assessments inform our teaching

Unique partnerships with mentors

At Academy21, we pride ourselves on building excellent relationships with mentors. Representing their respective schools or local authorities, mentors are the link between their students and Academy21. Mentors monitor their students' progress through our user-friendly portals, propelling their students towards success with daily support. Your partnership manager will provide more information about the role of mentors.

8 Ways to use Academy21 to support your students

01.

Meeting 6th Day Requirements

Our 6-week fixed timetable for Key Stage 3 and 4 students can be rapidly implemented to support interim and short stay provision from day six onwards.

Students will be fast-tracked into an automatic timetable, joining classes in our existing Key Stage 3, GCSE, functional skills or entry level science groups.

Our rapid enrolment process can be completed swiftly so students can start learning as quickly as the following day. If needed, our staff are available to discuss your requirements with you directly.

Students are immediately allocated to the relevant subject groups and are able to continue with their education very quickly.

02.

Fixed-term or permanent exclusions

We recognise that local authorities must arrange suitable full-time education for excluded students from the sixth day onwards. Our short stay school meets all the requirements of day six provision, supporting students through to their governing body hearing.

Transitioning to longer-term provision

Our short stay school does not require any long-term commitment, but all Academy21 services can be scaled up or down based on your requirements.

If a student's exclusion is upheld by the governing body (or they are otherwise in need of further support), we can provide a seamless transition to medium and long-term alternative provision.

"Online alternative provision offers a solution which provides a sustainable and impactful way to support the most vulnerable learners – regardless of the stage or duration of support – and helps to improve lifelong prospects for all."

Clare Brokenshire



03.

Capacity and placement issues

Our short stay school is a flexible solution for local authorities with school capacity gaps. Academy21 alleviates the strain with temporary provision for young people awaiting permanent or physical school placements, ensuring they receive consistent education while they wait.

04.

Long-term provision

From long-term medical conditions to permanent exclusions to challenges reintegrating at school, there are various reasons why your student may need a longer-term solution. No matter the cause, we offer a robust and well-rounded education for students in need of long-term provision.

Academy21 has courses designed to run over one year for Key Stage 3 pupils and one to two years for Key Stage 4 pupils. These programmes include a balanced range of subjects, preparing students for further study, GCSEs, or Functional Skills qualifications. With a comprehensive and stable learning environment, we support students to make strong academic progress for as long as they're with us.

“I want to thank all Academy21 staff for the excellent lessons you’ve given my daughter. It has made an amazing difference to Katy by helping her study again and be able to realise her potential.”

Linda, parent of Academy21 student

05.

Early intervention

Online alternative provision is a particularly effective tool for early intervention, reaching students before they become completely disengaged from their learning. With Academy21, students get the environment and support they need to maintain a consistent schedule, develop positive learning habits, and stay engaged — reducing the risk of exclusion and long-term avoidance.

Our accessibility allows schools to adopt a staged approach to intervention and reintegration. To start, you may choose to have your students attend online classes from home, in a stable learning environment. As they progress, students can then transition to taking their Academy21 classes at school, in a supervised location on-site. This gradual reintegration into full-time mainstream classes helps to keep pupils re-engaged in the long term.

06.

Short term provision as respite

We support schools in using Academy21 as a form of respite for anxious young people struggling with attendance or engagement.

Since the pandemic, we have seen an increasing number of pupils join us due to high levels of anxiety. Many had fallen into patterns of emotionally based school avoidance (EBSA), while others became increasingly overwhelmed by school, resulting in disruptive behaviours.

With a safe and supportive online environment, these students don’t have to miss out on large portions of their education. Pupils can continue learning and making academic progress at Academy21, all while building confidence, routines, and health habits. Setting these foundations in place, we work with schools to provide a pathway to mainstream school reintegration.

Read more about how we can help tackle the increasing attendance issues that schools are facing at: academy21.co.uk/help-absent-learners-back-into-school/

07.

GCSE Rescue

Academy21 GCSE Rescue is a lifeline for Year 11 students who may have missed significant portions of their education. With GCSE Rescue programmes in maths, English, and science, these pupils can catch up with missed learning and prepare for their exams in a short space of time.

Students can join our popular GCSE Rescue programmes at any time, with classes running right up to exams. The earlier pupils join, the more time they’ll have to work towards their target grades.

Classes in each subject run once per day, and learning is maximised to fit the short time frame. Pupils reinforce their understanding with independent work after each class, preparing for exams with revision sessions, regular assessments, extensive question practice, and mock examinations.

08.

GCSE Resits

Post-16 students who want to achieve or improve GCSE grades can attend Academy21 and prepare for re-sits in a safe online environment. This is an excellent opportunity for those who have missed out on crucial components of their Key Stage 4 studies. We welcome students up to the age of 19 to join our groups and make their goals happen.

Our online environment gives students the flexibility to complete their GCSE studies while continuing with further learning or vocational studies. For many, this also eliminates the pressure and stigma associated with attending in-person classes alongside younger peers. Students will get to address gaps in their knowledge, strengthen their understanding of key concepts, and develop the skills that will help them excel in their summer exams.



Making a World of Difference: Greenwood School Case Study

The Challenge

Three years ago, Greenwood started working with Academy21. They were looking for high-quality learning provisions to support students who were unable to access traditional learning for various reasons.

Greenwood supports students who have behaviour issues, while others are finding school too overwhelming and perhaps feeling unsafe in their setting. Some learners are unwell, physically or mentally. There are also pupils with special educational needs (SEN), perhaps with education and health care plans (EHCPs) who are awaiting placements in special schools. Some students have disengaged with education altogether and have an attendance rate of zero per cent.

Easy-to-access learning yet personalised opportunities in the core subjects were needed for all these pupils; a provision that could support children's mental health and wellbeing and build back their confidence in education.

Implementing Academy21

In Tom's words, "Implementing the Academy21 provision for learners is incredibly easy!"

Most of the students at Greenwood school access their learning from home, with Greenwood providing laptops for those who need them. Each learner is assigned a key worker, who liaises with the parents and students to assist them with getting started. These key workers visit weekly to check on the learners' wellbeing, their engagement levels, and the pitch of the lessons, as well as exploring the barriers the students have in accessing mainstream education.

Tom and Michelle say that flexibility and good communication are key to the successful implementation of online alternative provision. Students' needs change, and their learning programme needs to adapt to those changes.

Academy21 has been able to get students set up with online learning programmes at lightning speed – in some cases, overnight – to get children back into education.

Michelle tells us that a student experiencing high levels of anxiety might re-engage with education by initially participating in only one of their four weekly sessions. As their confidence grows, the number of lessons per week can be increased. Overtime, a student may also add in a second or third subject as well.

Modifying the level at which a student is working is another real strength that Tom and Michelle cite about Academy21. A student who is referred to Greenwood's GOLP programme may not have the most accurate attainment data, meaning adjustments are needed to pitch learning appropriately.

Real Impact

The legacy of the lockdown and the impacts of COVID-19 continue to be an issue. The number of children and young people who experience Emotionally Based School Avoidance (EBSA) has dramatically risen, and offsite learning provision is in greater demand than ever before. As Tom states,

"A lot of learners lost a lot of learning time and are comfortable at home now, so it's not an easy cycle to break. Academy21 provision reinstates routines children have missed; it gives children a timetable and some structure, providing a school-like experience even if they are unable to be in school."

In some cases, the positive impact of alternative provision is immediate. One Year 11 pupil with significant medical needs which prevent him from attending school has been able to get back on track with his studies after just a few weeks. He can complete learning online at times that fit around medical appointments, and he was delighted to learn that his goals of passing his GCSEs can still be achieved.

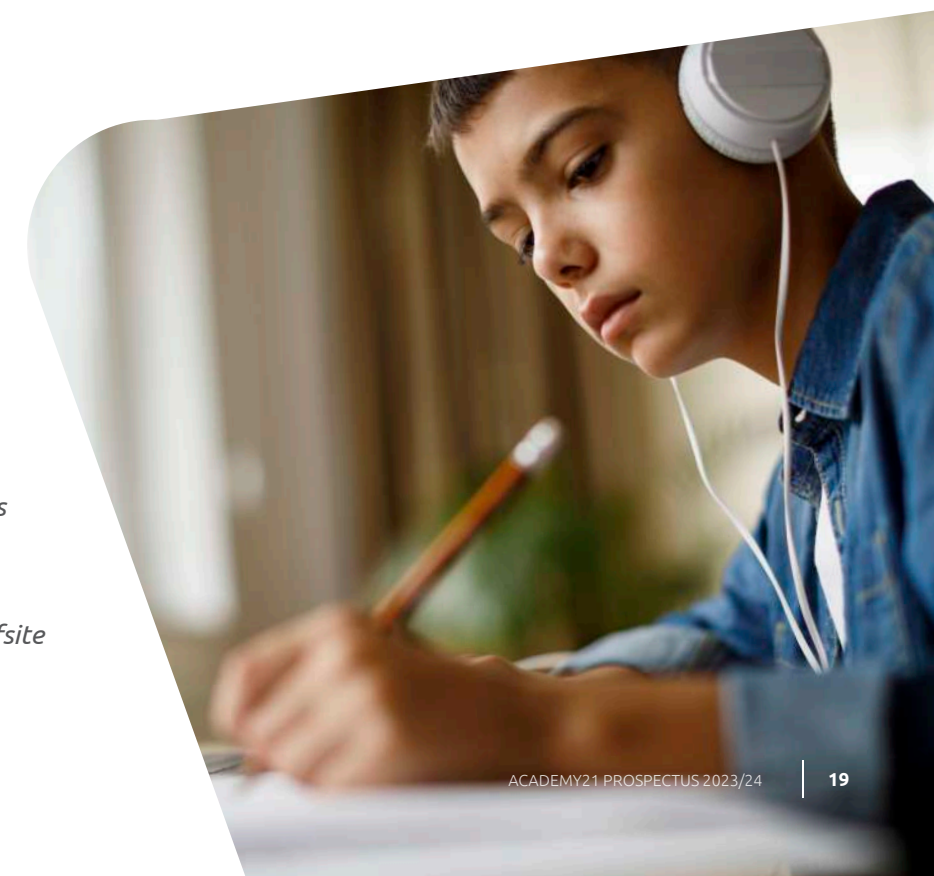
Another learner who had been out of education for a long time made great strides in his maths progress using Academy21. He moved up two maths classes. Tom adds that this made a huge difference to his overall outlook on his education.

"Academy21 has been a lifesaver for our learners. When we have visited learners in their homes, we've seen how grateful they are for the support and the opportunities that have been opened up for them."

Learning with Academy21 directly impacts Greenwood and its feeder schools' attendance figures, particularly for EBSA pupils. A six-week cycle of lessons for a child who isn't attending school at all can be a total game-changer. Routines are re-established and the student is often then able to go back to school full-time.

Greenwood also use Academy21 as a reintegration tool. For a child who's been out of school for several months, it can reinstate the routines and mindsets necessary to prepare them for moving back into school.

Tom is the assistant headteacher at Greenwood School in Southampton. He has responsibility for learning outside of the classroom, which includes overseeing alternative provisions. Tom works closely with Michelle, who leads their GOLP programme (Greenwood Offsite Learning Provision) using Academy21.



Why We Continue to Use Academy21

Quality of Teaching and Learning

The teachers build a great rapport with the learners; students at Greenwood often comment on how friendly the teachers are, how they check on their wellbeing and progress and how they make them feel at ease during the online sessions.

Reporting and Monitoring

The lesson-by-lesson feedback from Academy21 teachers about students and weekly reports provide Tom and his team with information about students' engagement levels and attainment. The half-termly reports are detailed and informative. Michelle shares these with the feeder schools, and together they can assess progress and plan the next steps for individuals.

Mental Health and Wellbeing

The positive impact on the wellbeing of the individuals who are supported by Academy21 is clear to Tom and his team.

"Academy21 builds confidence where there was no confidence. It builds back positive relationships with teachers, as well. Students are aware that their Academy21 teacher genuinely cares about them."

Tom also tells us that Academy21 opens up possibilities for learners but also helps change the mindsets of some parents. Parents may be disengaged with education, too and may have lost faith in their child being able to achieve academically.

Working alongside Academy21, Greenwood School is changing mindsets, opening doors, and restoring self-belief in their learners.

"We can't speak highly enough about what Academy21 are able to offer."

To read the full case study and see more examples of how Greenwood works with Academy21 visit:

academy21.co.uk/greenwood-school-case-study/





Our provision: courses for Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4

At Academy21, we understand the diverse needs of Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 learners.

From small class sizes to one to one tutorials, we bring students a learning environment that supports them to achieve their best.

When you partner with Academy21, we work with you to create a tailored approach for your specific needs. We provide an innovative and easy-to-use platform, comprehensive monitoring and reporting, and flexible provision that works for you and your students.

Whichever form of provision you choose, Academy21 offers:

Flexible, high-quality learning

- Access with just a computer, headset, and broadband connection
- Small class sizes (up to 15 students) for close attention
- Customisable timetables tailored to fit each learner
- Classes 5 days a week; four 40-minute classes per subject, delivered Monday to Thursday as standard, with the option of adding additional consolidation classes on Fridays
- 38-week academic calendar

Academic and wellbeing support

- One to one tutorials each term for each subject to support wellbeing and academic needs
- PSHE classes available on Fridays

Online platforms

- Student portal with access to classes, timetables, tutorials, class recordings, and additional lesson content to enhance progress
- Mentor portal with course information, tier groups and exam codes, tutorial bookings, and comprehensive attendance and engagement reports

“For us, Academy21 has been invaluable in giving children instant access to education, regardless of their location.

For those students with anxiety who are unable to leave the house, the remote learning functionality facilitates these needs without compromising their learning, particularly for core subjects like maths, English, or science.”

Vale of Glamorgan Council

Key Stage 3 Curriculum

Our Key Stage 3 programme is designed to re-engage young people with the world of education in preparation for GCSEs.

At Key Stage 3, we provide a balanced curriculum offer for Years 7, 8, and 9 with a range of courses in essential subjects. Available at two levels, our Skillsbuilder programmes provide students with the knowledge and understanding they'll need for future study. Students who complete our Skillsbuilder 1 course are ready to follow Skillsbuilder 2, which ensures students will be 'GCSE ready' at the end of the programme.

Alongside maths, English, and science, pupils can study PSHE, Digital Skills, and humanities and citizenship.

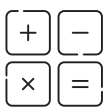
Key Stage 3 - Course List				
Key Stage 3 Skills Builder Courses	Duration	Subject	Specification	Hours per week
	1 or 2 Years	Maths	National curriculum	2 hours 40 mins
	1 or 2 Years	English	National curriculum	2 hours 40 mins
	1 or 2 Years	Science	National curriculum	2 hours 40 mins
	1 or 2 Years	Humanities/ Citizenship	National curriculum	2 hours 40 mins
	1 or 2 Years	Digital Functional Skills	Edexcel	2 hours 40 mins
	1 Year	PSHE	National curriculum	40 mins

Our Key Stage 3 Skillsbuilder Courses



English

This course develops essential and effective skills in reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Throughout the course, students will have the opportunity to read a range of exciting and challenging materials, both for critical purposes and for enjoyment.



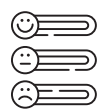
Maths

This course provides excellent preparation for the rigours of GCSE Maths in all areas, especially in numbers and algebra. It is ideal for students who have missed a significant percentage of their mathematical education and those who find maths challenging.



Science

This course introduces students to all major content areas across the Key Stage 3 National Curriculum for science, with biology, chemistry, and physics units distributed throughout the year.



PSHE

This course covers key materials pertinent to Key Stage 3 students on study skills, cyber safety, emotional and physical wellbeing, positive relationships, personal finance, mindfulness, and bullying.



Digital Skills

The Digital Functional Skills course will be available at Level 1. The course will cover five areas of study: using devices and handling information; creating and editing; communicating; making transactions; ensuring online safety. The course aims to equip students with the necessary skills to enable them to interact with the digital world at work and in their daily lives.



Humanities & Citizenship

This combined course develops skills in investigation, analysis, interpretation, evaluation, and communication. Students will develop an understanding of change and continuity over time as well as an appreciation of cultural and societal development. Covering a variety of topics, this course assists in preparing students for GCSE History and Citizenship Studies.

Key Stage 4 Curriculum

Our Key Stage 4 programme supports students through their GCSE years as they work to achieve exam goals and prepare for future education or careers.

At Key Stage 4, we support our students to build confidence while learning the skills and knowledge they'll need for examination success.

At Academy21, we offer courses of varying lengths to suit students in all circumstances, although students can join us at any point in the year. Many of our GCSEs are available as one or two year courses. One year courses are ideal for students in need of accelerated or condensed study, while two year courses offer them a greater opportunity to develop skills of analysis and study topics in more depth.

In skills-based subjects such as maths and English, students on our two year courses will get to explore key skills and topics in different ways, giving them multiple opportunities for in-depth study and practice of a wide variety of exam questions. In knowledge-based courses, meanwhile, studying over two years allows learners to study each topic in greater depth. We recommend that all students take their science GCSEs over two years, as Paper 1 topics are studied in Year 10 and Paper 2 topics are studied in Paper 2. Nevertheless, pupils who do join us for Year 11 only will have the chance to address knowledge gaps in end-of-year revision lessons.

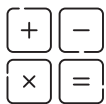
In line with Progress 8 measures, we supplement our core subject curriculum with GCSEs in History, English Literature, and Citizenship Studies. Students who cannot access GCSEs have the option to take skills-based certificates in science, English, digital skills (ICT) and maths.

We also welcome post-16 students who have missed out on Key Stage 4 study or need to resit core subjects.



Key Stage 4 - Course List				
	Subject	Specification	Duration	Level
GCSE	Maths	AQA 8300	1 or 2 years	9 - 1
		Edexcel 1MA1	Year 11 Only	
		WJEC Mathematics and Numeracy CBAC (Foundation Tier)	Year 11 Only	D - G
	English Language	AQA 8700	1 or 2 years	9 - 1
		WJEC 3700	Year 11 Only	A - G
	English Literature	AQA 8702	1 or 2 years	9 - 1
	Combined Science	Combined Science (Trilogy) AQA 8464	1 or 2 years	9 - 1
	Triple Science	Biology AQA 8461	Year 11 Only	9 - 5
		Chemistry AQA 8462		
		Physics AQA 8463		
Entry Level	Science	WJEC 3430 601/8236/2	Year 11 Only	A - G
	History	AQA 8145	1 or 2 years	9 - 1
	Citizenship Studies	AQA 8100	1 Year	9 - 1
	Everyday Science	WJEC 6430QC 601/8295/7	Year 11 Only	EL
	ICT	OCR J836	1 or 2 Years	L1/L2
Functional Skills	Mathematics	Edexcel Level 1 500/8906/7	38 Weeks	1
	English	Edexcel Level 1 603/4289/4	12 Weeks	1
	English	Edexcel Level 2 603/4290/0	12 Weeks	2
	Digital Skills (ICT)	Edexcel Level 1	18 Weeks	1
Rescue Year 11 GCSE	Maths	AQA 8300 Edexcel 1MA1	19 Weeks	4 - 1
	Science	AQA 8464	20 Weeks	9 - 1
	English Language	AQA 8700	19 Weeks	4 - 1
Non-accredited	PSHE	National	1 Year	N/A
	Study Skills Workshops	N/A	12 Weeks	N/A
	Wellbeing Workshops	N/A	6 Weeks	N/A

Key Stage 4 - GCSE Curriculum



Maths

All Key Stage 4 students are put into GCSE groups which prepare them for their specific exam board entries (AQA, Edexcel, or WJEC). These GCSE courses enable students to engage with, explore, enjoy, and succeed in maths, equipping them with skills for the future. Students are grouped according to stage rather than age so that each student is able to reach their potential.

The groups are colour-coded: Indigo is a pre-GCSE group, which less able Year 10s may join to build confidence in maths before tackling topics at GCSE level. Following this, Blue and Green groups are foundation level for Year 10s and Orange group is for Year 10s expected to be entered for the higher paper. All Year 11 students are placed in groups which match their level: Foundation for students working at grades 1-3; Foundation Plus for students working at grades 4-5; Higher for students working at grades 6-9. Students are able to move between groups if necessary.



English Language

The course is designed to meet the requirements of the AQA 8700 course and covers the essential skills. We are also able to offer WJEC specific groups. The course covers important and fulfilling content that gives students the confidence and literacy skills they'll need for all future pathways.

Providing the highest standard of knowledge and understanding, this course is a strong foundation for further academic and vocational study as well as employment. With this qualification students can progress to a full range of courses in further and higher education including Level 3 courses in English, Drama and Theatre Studies. The assessment of the oracy component for WJEC cannot be offered at Academy21 and must be assessed elsewhere.



English Literature

Academy21 delivers the AQA 8702 reformed GCSE (9-1) specification for English Literature. Complementing English Language studies, GCSE English Literature enriches cultural awareness, creativity, and literary understanding through the study of heritage texts. Completing this course, students will have a solid foundation for progression to careers or future study, including Level 3 courses in English, Drama, and Theatre Studies. Students are encouraged to join this course in Year 10 and follow an in-depth study of the texts over 2 years as they would in mainstream school. This will enhance their skills of analysis and provide opportunities to read around the set texts so that they appreciate the context in which the work was written. Alternatively, students can complete this course in 1 year: this programme is a more condensed version but provides ample opportunity for students to familiarise themselves with the set texts and practice exam questions to prepare for success at GCSE level.



History

The course follows the AQA 8145 Specification. It enables students to study different aspects of the past so they can consider key issues, understand what drives change and how the past influences the present. Learners develop skills by studying a range of historical evidence and will debate and learn how to present and support their views. Students can study this course in depth over 2 years from Year 10 to Year 11 or they can opt to complete a condensed version of the GCSE in one year. The 2 year course is in line with the length of time students would spend at mainstream school and provides opportunities for students to research various historical events in detail. Additionally, the extended course enhances their understanding of how to analyse a range of historical sources, which will lead to success at GCSE level.



Combined Science (Dual Award) - Two Years

Academy21 offers Combined (Dual Award) Science as well as a 'Triple Top- Up' course for individual sciences. There are a range of pathways available to cater to individual student needs. Required practicals are embedded throughout the courses and will be delivered via video and interactive simulation software. This ensures all students are properly prepared for their practical examinations.

Course content - Year 10

Biology – Cell Biology; Organisation; Infection and response; Bio-energetics

Chemistry – Atomic structure and the periodic table; Bonding, structure and the properties of matter; Quantitative chemistry; Chemical changes; Energy changes

Physics – Energy; Electricity; Particle model of matter; Atomic structure

Course content - Year 11

Biology – Homeostasis and response; Inheritance, variation and evolution; Ecology

Chemistry – The rate and extent of chemical change; Organic chemistry; Chemical analysis; Chemistry of the atmosphere; Using resources (some aspects of this topic addressed in Year 10 also)

Physics – Forces; Waves; Magnetism and electromagnetism

Revision – review of Year 10 & Year 11 content and exam preparation

Combined Science is available as a Higher or Foundation tier course with tiered examinations. Students joining in Year 11 may choose to enrol in both the Year 10 and Year 11 courses if they have significant learning gaps.



“Without Academy21 many of our vulnerable kids would have left school with absolutely nothing!

Instead, they were able to continue to engage with learning and leave with GCSEs. Rather than punishing these vulnerable students, with Academy21 we have been able to intervene and get to the root of their individual problems. As you can imagine, parents are so grateful for this opportunity to reignite their child’s passion for education and give them hope of a positive future. Of course, Ofsted loves it too!”

Nathalie Ehlinger

Manager, Abbeyfield School in Chippenham

Key Stage 4 - 1 Year Courses

We offer various Key Stage 4 courses which can be completed in one year. These are particularly useful for Year 11s who have missed large chunks of their education but need to gain some qualifications.



Everyday Science

This course is available for Year 10 students who have the option to sit the WJEC Entry Level in Science qualification at the end of the first year of the course. Designed for students aiming to achieve grades 1 to 3 in Combined Science, this course is suitable for students with significant learning gaps who still wish to progress in science education.



Triple Top-Up Science

Students who wish to study separate GCSEs in biology, chemistry, and physics can take our “Triple Top-Up” course alongside Combined Science. These daily science classes teach the additional content needed for each individual science GCSE.

This course is designed for Year 11 students and is only available at the Higher tier. Academically engaged Year 10 students will have the option to pursue the “Triple Top-Up” course in their second year of GCSE study.



WJEC Courses for Year 11 Students

The following WJEC GCSE courses can be taken in one year by Year 11s only: English Language WJEC 3700, Maths and Numeracy WJEC cbac (Foundation Tier) and Science WJEC 3430 (students must already have covered Units 1,2 and 3 in Year 10).



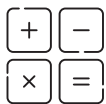
Citizenship Studies

The course follows the AQA 8100 Specification. It enables students to gain a deeper knowledge of democracy, government and law, and develop skills to create sustained and reasoned arguments, present various viewpoints and plan practical citizenship actions to benefit society. Students will also gain the ability to recognise bias, critically evaluate argument, weigh evidence and look for alternative interpretations and sources of evidence, all of which are essential skills valued by higher education and employers. Students of GCSE Citizenship studies learn the value of becoming thoughtful, active citizens.

Key Stage 4 - Functional Skills Courses

Functional Skills qualifications teach young people the skills they'll need to operate confidently, independently, and effectively in their education, work, and everyday life.

Assessments must be arranged outside of Academy 21. Exam centre assessments are available at various times throughout the year, while on-screen assessments can be completed at any time through the exam centre(s).



Functional Skills Maths

This Level 1 Pearson Edexcel course develops skills in:

- **Representing:** Selecting the information and functions to model a situation
- **Analysing:** Processing and using mathematics
- **Interpreting:** Understanding and communication results

Academy21 is not responsible for the entering of students for the tests or for the arrangement of the assessments.



Functional Skills English

This combined Level 1 and Level 2 Edexcel course is designed to develop understanding and learn skills in:

- **Speaking, listening, and communication:** Formal and informal
- **Discussions and exchanges**
- **Reading and comprehension:** The ability to read and understand a range of texts, comparing and gathering information from different sources
- **Writing:** Communicate information, ideas, and opinions through a range of written texts

Students can be entered for the external examination at any point during the year. The assessment of the speaking, listening and communication component cannot be offered at Academy21 and must be assessed elsewhere.



Digital Skills

The Digital Functional Skills course will be available at Level 1. The course will cover five areas of study: using devices and handling information; creating and editing; communicating; making transactions; ensuring online safety. The course aims to equip students with the necessary skills to enable them to interact with the digital world at work and in their daily lives.



Cambridge National IT

The Cambridge National in Information Technologies brings students' knowledge of the digital environment and builds confidence in ICT.

Students learn about data management issues, developing practical skills by planning and creating an integrated technological solution to communicate information. This course complements GCSE and vocational learning and helps to prepare students for further study.

This qualification consists of three units:

- **IT in the Digital World:** Assessed by exam
- **Data Manipulation Using Spreadsheets:** Non-examination assessment
- **Using Augmented Reality to Present Information:** Non-examination assessment

Key Stage 4 - Non-accredited Curriculum



PSHE

Taught over one lesson per week, this course provides Key Stage 4 students with an essential understanding of relationships, love, safe sex, emotional and physical wellbeing, drugs, alcohol, and cyber safety.



Completing the Online Education Journey with Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 5 Provision at King's InterHigh

Academy21 is proud to offer inclusive provision from Key Stage 2 to Key Stage 5.

Together with our sister school, King's InterHigh, we can accommodate children and young people with a diverse range of requirements, including SEN and existing EHCPs when our service meets their needs.

Delivered by King's InterHigh, our Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 5 provision comes with the same high level of service Academy21 is known for. Academy21 handles all aspects of student enrolment and contracts, and you will receive support from your Partnership Manager and Regional Customer Administrator for a seamless experience.

For Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 5 we offer:

- Access with just a computer, headset and broadband connection
- Classes timetabled from Monday to Friday
- 24/7 access to class recordings
- Highly qualified teachers with experience delivering age-tailored online learning
- 35-week academic calendar
- Online platforms
- Student portal with access to classes, timetables, tutorials, class recordings, and additional lesson content to enhance progress



Key Stage 2 Curriculum

The Key Stage 2 curriculum combines a broad foundation of academic learning with the flexibility to meet each young learners’ needs.

At Key Stage 2, we support students to develop into independent, inquisitive learners. Pupils are taught in small class groups with a single teacher, following a typical primary school model. Through quality teaching and guided discovery, each young person works towards the highest possible attainment, setting the foundation they’ll need to transition to secondary education.

We teach the core curriculum subjects, following the National Curriculum for English, maths, science, and humanities. Students also receive regular, age-appropriate homework to solidify their learning and hone their study skills.

Key Stage 2 - Year 6 Course List		
Subject	Lesson Length (mins)	Total Lesson Time (mins)
English	40 mins	160 mins
Maths	40 mins	160 mins
Science	40 mins	120 mins
Humanities	40 mins	80 mins
STEM	40 mins	40 mins
French/Spanish	40 mins	80 mins
Creative Media	40 mins	80 mins
Learning to Learn	30 mins	30 mins
Assembly	30 mins	30 mins
PSHE/Circle Time	30 mins	30 mins
Total		810 mins

*subjects and contact time may vary for younger age groups, speak to your partnership manager for more information.

Key Stage 5 Curriculum

With a broad range of A-Levels to choose from, the Key Stage 5 curriculum empowers students to follow their passions and gain a solid foundation for a variety of higher education, training, and career paths.

At Key Stage 5, we offer a versatile programme tailored to each student’s unique needs. Pupils can select any combination of subjects and even blend online provision with in-person learning at a local college. Our approach combines independent learning with close progress monitoring, helping students work towards the best possible A-Level exam outcomes.

Students learn in interactive, seminar-style lessons that mirror mainstream college and sixth form teaching, with around three hours of contact time per subject per week. These live lessons are complemented by regular homework and independent study to solidify understanding. Students also get 24/7 access to lesson content and recordings, keeping their learning on-track and providing invaluable exam revision resources.

Our dedicated Key Stage 5 pastoral team works to promote each student’s wellbeing, offering Information, Advice, and Guidance (IAG) on study, training, and career programmes — including university applications. Rounding out their academic journeys, students also have access to a common room and a wide range of online clubs, promoting social engagement and encouraging their whole development.

Our courses

The following subjects are taught at AS and A-Level. Speak to your partnership manager for further details on each option.

- Biology
 - Business
 - Chemistry
 - Classical Civilisation
 - Computer Science
 - Economics
 - English Language
- English Literature
 - French
 - Further Mathematics
 - Geography
 - German
 - History
 - Law
- Maths
 - Media Studies
 - Physics
 - Politics
 - Psychology
 - Sociology
 - Spanish

The Virtual Classroom

The Academy21 virtual classroom is easy to use and designed for the best online learning experience.

In classes, students can interact with their teacher, classmates, and lesson content in a variety of ways. A headset and microphone are required so students can speak, hear, and fully engage with the class. All communication is then recorded and saved for child protection purposes.

Students receive a dedicated username and password for secure access to all lessons as well as a personalised dashboard. Through the student dashboard, students can view their timetable, watch lesson library content, and submit extension activities. We also provide students with a number of tools to support learning, all controlled by a teacher for safety and security.



All communication is saved by the teacher for child protection purposes.

File Pod

The file pod enables our teacher to provide useful files to download for a lesson task or extra information.

Interactive Whiteboard

The main window is a whiteboard, where students can interact directly with activities and use a variety of tools as directed by their teacher.

Q & A

The Q & A pod is where student questions and answers can only be seen by the student and teacher.

Students require a headset and microphone so they can hear and speak with the group and their teacher.

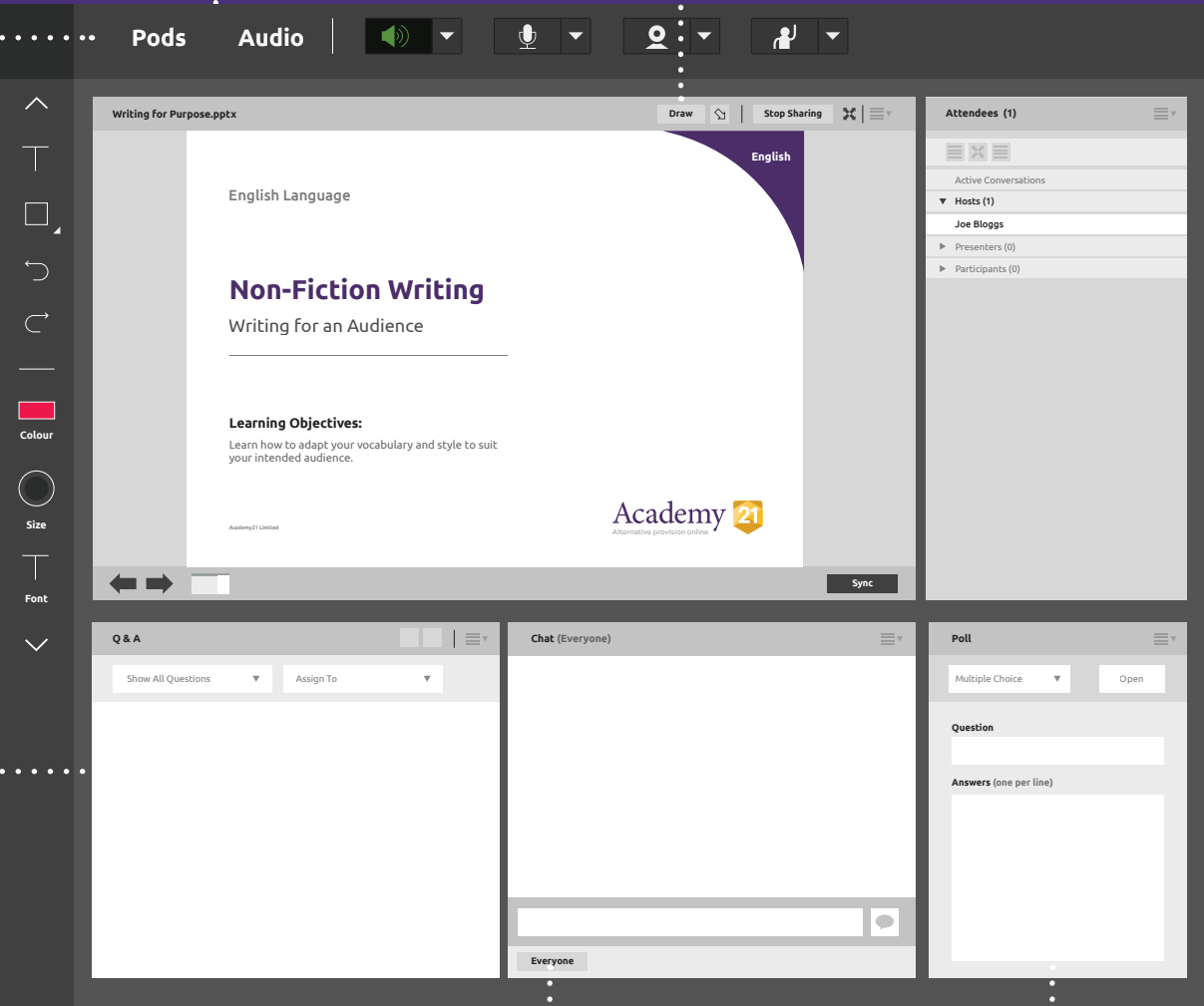
Using the Classroom

Menu Bar

The menu bar allows students to use their mic, raise their hand, use a green tick to agree, a red cross to disagree, a red line to step away as well as icons to indicate that they're laughing or applauding.

Draw

By selecting 'Draw', the students will see tools such as a writing pen and a highlighter for use on the whiteboard. They can also circle areas of the whiteboard when asked.



Chat Pod

The chat pod is where students type in answers or questions for everyone to see.

Poll Pod

The poll pod is a quick poll which everyone can answer – only the teacher can see the individual responses. The web links pod is where a teacher can send students to a useful website.

Reporting – attendance and engagement

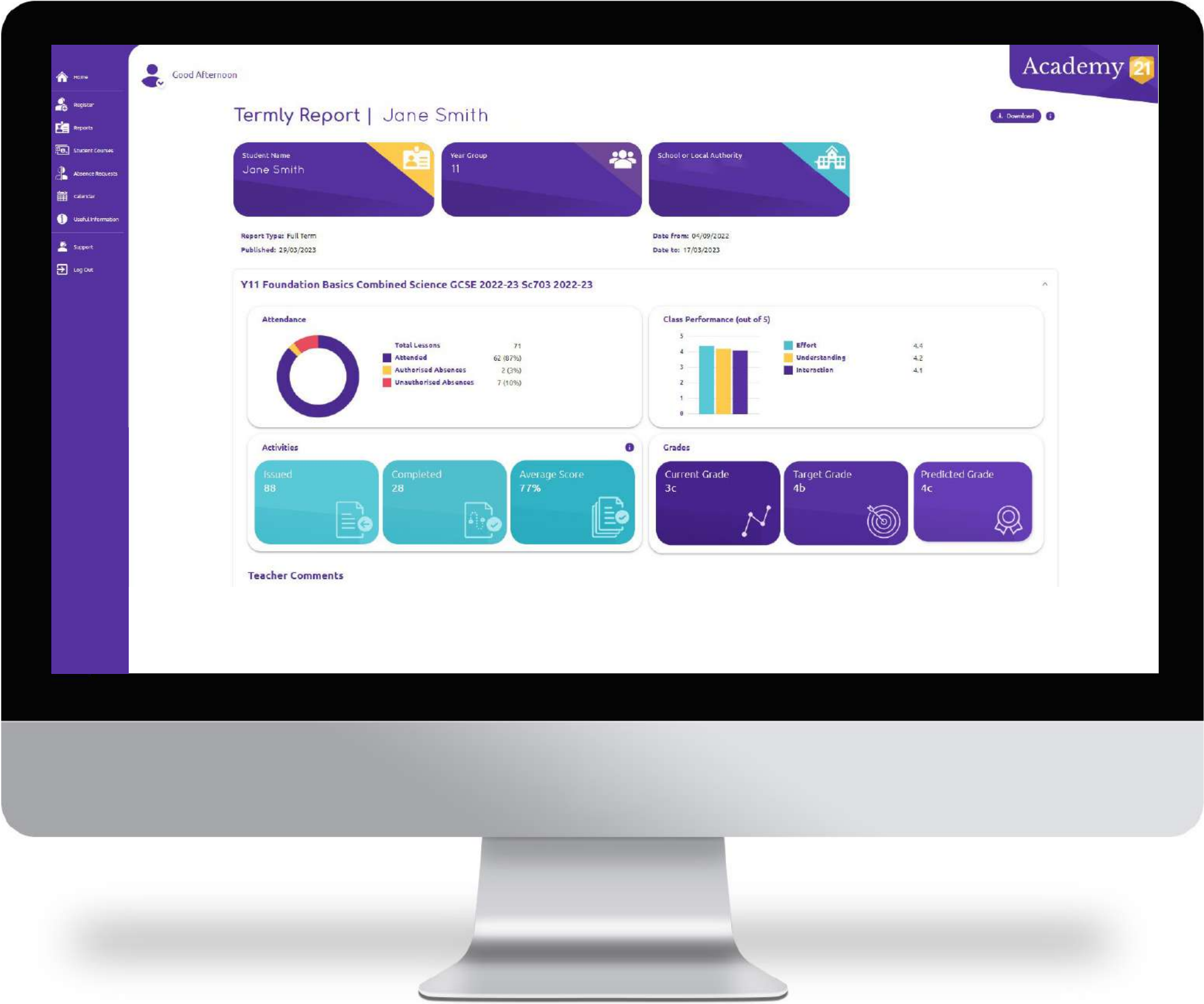
Attendance and Engagement

At Academy21, we work closely with you to devise the best tailored approach to support each pupil's development.

When you enrol a student with us, you'll get to set the student's attendance and engagement expectations that we'll monitor and report on. We encourage learning mentors to set realistic targets to suit each student's situation — whether that's increased attendance, more engagement in lessons, or regular homework completion.

Then, we provide all the monitoring and reporting you'll need to track their progress. Teachers record each learner's effort, understanding, and interaction (EUI) levels every lesson. You'll get access to all of this, plus attendance information, on a lesson-by-lesson basis through the Mentor Portal — plus weekly attendance reports and termly academic reports with teacher comments.

With EUI scores, Learning Mentors can establish appropriate and attainable goals and gauge how well students are working towards them over time. We encourage mentors to monitor the EUI data regularly and to use it to motivate and encourage their learners to make small incremental gains towards their overall goals. In this way, schools can use this data to ensure every learner makes the personal progress they're aiming for, be that achieving qualifications, improving attendance, or reintegrating into mainstream education.





“Our students find the lessons very easy to access and to understand.

The lessons are shorter than our normal classroom lessons which certainly aids the concentration and effort our students are putting in. The teachers are very supportive.

Our students are progressing well.

The reports for the students attendance, effort, understanding and interaction are easily accessible at the end of each day for each subject. I pull off weekly reports for each of my students. The data is easy to understand. Staff from Academy 21 will always respond if you have a query about any of the data/information.

Term reports are also given which include comments from the teachers taking the classes. These are very helpful to see how a particular student is progressing.”

Debbie Needham

Alternative Provision Instructor
Malmesbury School, Wiltshire

Commissioning Academy21 for your students

To discover how we can tailor Academy21 to your organisation's needs, get in touch with us.

Our dedicated team of Partnership and Account Managers work closely with the schools and local authorities in their regions. Together with our team of Regional Client Administrators (RCA), they are on hand to provide you with customer support from start to finish.

We are dedicated to providing the highest levels of service and the most efficient onboarding process for every customer, enrolling new students in as little as two working days.

Next steps - what to expect

01. When you're ready to get started, contact our team -- call 01438 535 001 or visit: academy21.co.uk/contact
02. You'll be connected with your regional Partnership Manager, who can discuss your needs in detail, provide you with a bespoke quote, and arrange online or in-person training sessions if you so choose. Our Partnership Managers work with you to ensure the best fit for you and your students.
03. Once you accept a quote and an account is up and running, you'll fill out an online enrolment form for your student(s). We'll also connect you with your RCA, who will become your personal point of contact for all your onboarding needs.
04. Finally, you will receive two setup emails: one which shows you how to access your mentor portal, and one with login information to share with your student(s). Please note that the customer support team only communicates with mentors, and never directly with students.
05. You're all set!
Remember, your Regional Client Administrator will be on hand to help you make the most of Academy21. They'll handle tasks such as:
 - Adding additional teachers or support staff from your organisation to your account
 - Making changes to contracts
 - Adding new students
 - Support with systems access.

The Academy21 customer service helpline is also available during working hours for any urgent needs.

For best practice tips and advice on how to get the most out of Academy21 provision, visit: academy21.co.uk/8-routes-to-success-with-academy21/



Key Stage	Course type / qualification	Subject	Specification	Provision Model
Key Stage 2	N/A	English, Maths, Science, STEM, Humanities, Modern Foreign Languages. Please ask your Partnership manager for more details.	National Curriculum	King's InterHigh
Key Stage 3	Skills Builder Courses	Maths	National Curriculum	Academy21
		English		
		Science		
		Humanities & Citizenship		
		PSHE		
		Digital Functional Skills	Edexcel	
Key Stage 4	GCSE	Mathematics	AQA 8300, Edexcel 1MA1, WJEC Mathematics and Numeracy cbac (Foundation Tier)	Academy21
		English Language	AQA 8700 WJEC 3700	
		English Literature	AQA 8702	
		Combined Science	Combined Science (Trilogy) AQA 8464	
		Triple Science	Biology AQA 8461	
			Chemistry AQA 8462	
			Physics AQA 8463	
		Science	WJEC 3430 601/8236/2	
		Citizenship Studies	AQA8100	
		History	AQA 8145	
	Entry Level	Everyday Science	WJEC 6430QC 601/8295/7	
	Functional Skills	Mathematics	Edexcel Level 1 500/8906/7	
		English	Edexcel Level 1 603/4289/4	
		English	Edexcel Level 2 603/4290/0	
		Cambridge Nationals IT - Level 1	OCR	
		Cambridge Nationals IT - Level 2	OCR	
		Digital Skills - Level 1	Edexcel	
	Year 11 GCSE Rescue	Maths	AQA 8300, Edexcel 1MA1	
		English Language	Edexcel 1EN0, AQA 8700	
		Science	AQA 8464	
	Non-accredited	PSHE	N/A	
		Study Skills Workshops	N/A	
		Wellbeing Workshops	N/A	
Key Stage 5	A-Levels	Choice of over 20 subjects – see page kingsinterhigh.co.uk/a-levels-online/	AQA/Cambridge International/Edexcel/OCR	King's InterHigh



To get in touch, call us on
01438 535001 or visit:
academy21.co.uk/contact

If you are interested in finding out more about Academy21 and our alternative education provision, or wish to discuss the individual needs of your pupil(s), then please contact our friendly team.

Academy 
Alternative provision online