



ISAAC NEWTON  
ACADEMY

FOR ENTRY SEPTEMBER 2012

AN **ark** SCHOOL



Love  
Aubrey  
Suzanne LaFleur

MICHAEL  
ROSEN'S  
AZ  
The Best Children's Books

TAKESHITA

Tales of  
Terror

PHILIP  
REEVE  
FEVER  
CRUMB



# Chair of Governors' message

Thank you for your interest in Isaac Newton Academy.

We expect to complete the construction of the academy early in the summer of 2012. Our Principal, Rachel Macfarlane, is recruiting her team and refining the curriculum. And most importantly, our first cohort of students, supported by their families, arrives next autumn. Ultimately it is their – *your* – energy, interests and ambition that will give life to Isaac Newton Academy and make it great.

The foundation for a vibrant learning community is in place. Our school building is designed to meet our goal of providing a small school experience to a large student body. We have the guidance and support of ARK Schools, one of the UK's leading operators of academies. We have an accomplished Principal whose previous school, Walthamstow School for Girls, was ranked Outstanding by OFSTED throughout her time as its Headteacher. We are clear about our mission: to equip students with the knowledge, love of learning and character necessary for success at university and beyond.

As a father of four young children, I understand how important it is to choose the right school. For some parents, opting for one that is yet to open is not an easy decision. My hope is that the pages that follow will inspire you to learn more about us, whether by attending one of our information events or contacting us by email or phone. Isaac Newton Academy will be a great school and we invite you to join us in making it so.

**Gerard Griffin**  
**Chair of Governors**





# Principal's welcome

I am delighted to introduce you to Isaac Newton Academy, a brand new, purpose-built school in Ilford. Our prospectus should give you a flavour of this exciting educational opportunity for your son or daughter. I would also encourage you to browse our website to find out more.

Isaac Newton Academy will be a non-denominational, non-selective school, welcoming girls and boys from all backgrounds from the local community. The school will open with just 180 Year 7 students in September 2012. Each year it will welcome another cohort of pupils until it has 1250 11–18 year olds in 2018 (including a sixth form of 350). The first Year 7 cohort will have the unique experience of being the founding year group of the school. They will receive close individual attention as the only students for the first year. From 2013 onwards they will be offered a range of leadership opportunities as the oldest students and role models.

The opportunity to create a new school from nothing is a rare and golden one. I feel extremely privileged and excited to have been appointed as Isaac Newton Academy's Principal. I am committed to providing an inspirational and life-enhancing educational experience for all the young people who attend the academy and shall work tirelessly to ensure that each and every student is supported and stretched to reach their full potential. I bring 22 years of experience of working in London schools (including nine years as Headteacher of two contrasting schools) to the post. Most recently I have been Head of Walthamstow School for Girls. This is a multi-cultural comprehensive community school in the London Borough of Waltham Forest. It has a long record of excellence and sharing expertise with other schools as a National Support School and now a Teaching School.

I very much look forward to meeting you and to working with you and your sons and daughters to create a truly great school.

**Rachel Macfarlane**  
**Principal**



# ARK Schools

Isaac Newton Academy (INA) will be run by ARK Schools, an academy operator with an excellent track record, which already has a network of eleven academies in London, Birmingham and Portsmouth. ARK's vision is to create a group of outstanding schools for local children that deliver high achievement for all of their pupils. Its secondary schools have achieved an average annual improvement in the GCSE pass rate of 11 percentage points since becoming ARK academies. ARK Schools prioritises six key principles across their academies:

- High expectations
- Exemplary behaviour
- Excellent teaching
- More time for learning
- Depth before breadth
- Small schools

ARK Schools is part of ARK, an international children's charity whose purpose is to transform children's lives. ARK runs health, child welfare and educational programmes in Southern Africa, Eastern Europe, India and the UK.

# Our vision

Isaac Newton Academy will equip students with the knowledge, love of learning and character necessary for success at university and beyond.

We will:

- Set clear, ambitious goals, and rigorously monitor our progress in achieving them
- Offer a curriculum emphasising core academic subjects, while providing the facilities and specialist staff to meet and stimulate a wider range of interests
- Employ an approach to teaching that instils knowledge, understanding, and a desire to learn
- Ensure that all students, teachers, staff and parents commit fully to making Isaac Newton Academy a vibrant learning community.



# Ambitious goals and rigorous monitoring



*“If I am anything, I have made myself so by hard work.”*

We have uncompromising aspirations for all our pupils. We intend that every student will leave the academy with excellent qualifications, real choices and the option to continue their studies at a top university. Our aim is that 90% of our students achieve at least 5 GCSEs, including English and Maths, at A\*-C, with a clear emphasis on A\*, A and B grades. We recognise that this is an ambitious goal, but we have exceptionally high expectations of our students and staff.

To reach high levels of achievement we know that hard work and commitment from everyone at Isaac Newton Academy – students, staff, parents and carers – will be essential. We will work with our students’ families to ensure that together we provide the right support and challenge for every child to achieve their goals.

We are recruiting high calibre teaching and support staff who share our ethos of high expectations and no excuses and we will prioritise their ongoing training and development.

Isaac Newton Academy will take a systematic approach to assessment, establishing baselines, tracking students frequently and using regular diagnostic assessments. Each student will have an assessment profile and clear progress path. Each unit of study will have clear learning objectives. Progress will be shared regularly with students and their families so that appropriate support and challenge can be planned and provided.

We will regularly and rigorously evaluate and assess all that we do as staff to provide a first class education for our students, and strive constantly to improve the quality of teaching and educational provision.



# The curriculum

Our guiding principle in designing the Isaac Newton curriculum is “depth before breadth”. First and foremost, it is essential that students master core academic subjects. In the early years, this means that students can expect a focus on literacy and numeracy. The curriculum will centre on the essential academic subjects, including maths, English, sciences, the humanities and languages. At the same time, with a specialism in music and with first class sporting, arts and technological facilities, the school will encourage students to expand their horizons, develop a wide range of skills and talents and have fun.

## **Specialisms – maths and music**

All ARK schools specialise in mathematics. High standards of numeracy are important in every walk of life, so we support and coach pupils to ensure that all can become confident mathematicians, at ease with both its theoretical and practical applications.

ARK Schools runs a network-wide music programme to support teachers and music departments in building a culture of participation, celebration and success in music making. This will assist Isaac Newton Academy in developing its own programme of music activities, events and initiatives to inspire and involve pupils at the academy and offer opportunities to the wider Redbridge community. ARK will work with local organisations such as the Redbridge Music Service to offer a full range of opportunities for students to learn from expert teachers and performers.

## **Extra-curricular opportunities**

ARK places a great deal of emphasis on extra-curricular activities as well as on the academic content of the curriculum, and the enrichment and aspiration that such opportunities provide. To enable our pupils to gain as much as they can from the wide range of opportunities on offer, Isaac Newton Academy will have a school day that is longer than at a typical secondary school. The school day will run from 8.30am until 4pm with after school activities until 6pm. All staff and students will participate in extra-curricular activities.

We are committed to developing extended school activities and building strong links with external organisations. We intend to host community and adult education classes too.

# Knowledge through understanding

We wish to encourage intellectual curiosity and a life-long love of learning. We want our students to have imaginative, questioning and active minds. Wherever possible, students will work with teachers and each other through collective discussion, debate, problem-solving and experimentation. We know that active engagement in lessons makes learning more enjoyable, deepens understanding and leads to greater examination success.

Students requiring additional support will find it in small “nurture groups”. Meanwhile, all students will be encouraged to learn beyond the classroom and will find staff keen to provide them with challenging assignments, additional reading from a well-stocked library and after hours activities and clubs mentored by academy staff.



*“Vast oceans of truth lie all undiscovered before me.”*

# A vibrant learning community



*“If I have  
seen further,  
it is by  
standing  
on the  
shoulders of  
giants.”*

Isaac Newton Academy will be the centre of a stimulating, supportive community committed to learning and high academic achievement. This community will be based upon core values of mutual respect, personal discipline, and an unwavering commitment on the part of all community members to do whatever it takes to excel.

## **Mutual respect**

The school will insist that differing views, interests, abilities, backgrounds and outlooks be honoured; that the authority of staff be acknowledged; and the particular needs, contributions, talents and interests of students be nurtured and developed.

## **Personal discipline**

A clear code of conduct will be enforced. Teachers will expect hard work and good behaviour from their pupils. Students, in turn, can expect inspirational teaching every day.

Mutual respect and personal discipline will be key to the success of Isaac Newton Academy. We are committed to doing whatever it takes to equip our students with the knowledge, skills, love of learning and character necessary for success. We will expect the same level of commitment from our students and their families. More than any other principle or goal, this spirit of accepting no excuses for anything short of success and our collaborative commitment to achieving the best possible outcomes will define Isaac Newton Academy and the education that its students receive.

# Buildings and facilities

Isaac Newton Academy has been built as part of the Building Schools for the Future programme, procured in partnership with Redbridge Council.

The specially designed buildings will provide a stimulating, inspiring, inclusive and ordered learning environment with excellent facilities in all curriculum areas. These will include:

- Top quality science laboratories
- A full size sports hall
- A suite of music and drama recital, performance and practice rooms
- State of the art technology, food, art and textiles workshops.

The modern facilities will be available for the community to use outside school hours.

We believe that the academy will represent the best of public building in Redbridge and inspire local people as well as its students. It has been designed to facilitate learning, to meet the needs of a 21st century curriculum and to provide opportunities for adult, family and community classes.



*“We build too many walls and not enough bridges.”*

# How to apply for a place at Isaac Newton Academy

Admissions open in September 2011. Parents of children in Year 6 will receive a secondary transfer pack from the local authority. If you do not receive an application pack, please contact your child's primary school or the Redbridge Admissions Service. You will also be able to apply online at the Redbridge Admissions Service at [http://www.redbridge.gov.uk/cms/education\\_and\\_young\\_people/school\\_support\\_information/applications\\_and\\_admissions/apply\\_to\\_secondary\\_school.aspx](http://www.redbridge.gov.uk/cms/education_and_young_people/school_support_information/applications_and_admissions/apply_to_secondary_school.aspx)

Applications must be received by the Redbridge Admissions Service by the closing date of 31 October 2011. Redbridge advises that applications should reach them by 21 October.

## **Admissions criteria**

Isaac Newton Academy will be a non-selective school for local children. If the academy is oversubscribed, priority will be given to students with statements of special educational needs, where the academy is named on the statement. The remaining places will then be offered in the following order of priority:

- Children who are in public care
- (From September 2013 onwards) Children who have a sibling who already attends the school and who will continue to do so on the date of admission (for this purpose "sibling" means a whole, half or step-brother or sister resident at the same address)
- Children who live closest to the school, by straight line distance from the main entrance of the academy to the main entrance to the child's home.

The academy will keep a waiting list which will be used to fill casual vacancies occurring if students leave during the year, or withdraw from a place that has been offered.



**Contact us:**  
**Rachel Macfarlane, Principal**

*Until September 2012:*  
**Isaac Newton Academy**  
**c/o ARK Schools**  
**65 Kingsway**  
**London**  
**WCB 6TD**  
**020 3116 0717**

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**[info@isaacnewtonacademy.org](mailto:info@isaacnewtonacademy.org)**

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