Working with Us
Welcome

- The John Wallis Church of England Academy, which opened in September 2010, is a leading Academy in Ashford, Kent. In 2011 we opened our new Sixth Form and in 2012 a neighbouring Primary School became part of our 3-19 Academy. We are passionate in our belief that every child and young person should have the opportunity to realise their full potential; to be encouraged to raise their aspirations; and to have the opportunity to learn in an environment that is safe, inspired and guided by the key Christian values of respect, truth, trust, integrity and love.

- Ofsted reported that there is an “unstinting focus on driving standards to ensure that progress is both rapid and sustainable”.

- Our new £8.6m building programme was completed in September 2014 and staff and students now have the opportunity to work, learn and develop in new state of the art buildings. These facilities will have an impact on raising standards and supporting us in our journey from being a “Good” school (Ofsted 2014) to becoming an outstanding school. Plans are also in progress to build a new Primary building so that our Primary pupils will also be taught in new, state of the art facilities.

- In 2014 our Academy was the top non-selective school in Kent for value-added in GCSE performance. In the National GCSE league tables we were 7th in the country out of similar schools.

Mr John McParland
Principal
“The John Wallis Academy has one of the best working environments I have worked in, and teaching the students has been one of the most rewarding things I have done in my life…… I have nothing but praise for Mr John McParland in his consistent approach with students and staff, being high expectations, high standards, and high aspirations” (School Direct Teacher)
A Place of Learning for All

The John Wallis Academy is an Academy for pupils and students of all abilities. We offer a full curriculum that also includes expanded vocational subjects, enabling students to develop creatively through art, music, drama and dance, physically through competitive sport and physical recreation and spiritually through religious, moral and citizenship education.

The Academy provides an outstanding learning environment that ensures:

- a wealth of opportunities for pupils and students to achieve their full potential, with a curriculum that engenders a love of learning
- high attainment, helping pupils and students to become qualified, skilled and adaptable
- a personalised learning approach, offering outstanding tutorial support
- high expectations of all its pupils and students, irrespective of their of ability or needs
- a strong ethos of security, care and warmth for one another increasing students’ self esteem and confidence
- providing stepping stones to and from the community it serves.
**Our Sponsors:**

All our sponsors are deeply committed to improving the life chances of the young people in our community, and work together with The John Wallis Academy and other local schools and business partners to help realise these aspirations and develop opportunities for all. Our sponsors include:

**Diocese of Canterbury**
As our lead sponsor, the Diocese is committed to the education and care of young people and has a long history of involvement in schools and a track record of high standards.

**Benenden**
Benenden is a high achieving local independent school for girls with a long tradition of academic success. Through partnerships with the staff at the Academy and through student mentoring programmes, both schools work together to strengthen teaching, learning and attainment.

**Christ Church University (CCCU)**
CCCU is a modern, friendly university with a reputation for academic excellence and, in particular, in teacher training. We work closely with CCCU in many aspects of our comprehensive staff CPD programme, providing excellent opportunities for all staff within the Academy.

**Kent County Council (KCC)**
KCC continues to support The John Wallis Academy as the maintaining education authority. KCC is rated nationally as an excellent authority, and is regarded as innovative and forward thinking. KCC have cited our NQT programme as being “Outstanding”.
“Ofsted 2014 judged the 3-19 Academy to be a ‘Good’ school, where students behave well, feel safe and where all groups of students are achieving well.” Ofsted 2014
The Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools (SIAS - Section 48) judged the 3-19 Academy to be “Outstanding” and “an inclusive and loving Christian community”
“Outstanding” Newly Qualified Teacher and Trainee Teacher Programme (Kent County Council NQT Induction Team January 2015)

Our Trainee Teacher & NQT programme is proud to offer bespoke training, support and guidance for every teacher that is training, or newly qualified into teaching. There is a comprehensive system of mentoring that works in conjunction with direct support offered by the Senior Leadership Team as well as weekly training that covers a whole host of topics to help teachers develop further. New members of staff comment frequently on how well they feel supported. The Academy enables trainee teachers and NQTs to make good progress during their first year of teaching with many becoming outstanding classroom practitioners. NQTs also enjoy making valuable contributions to the wider Academy community and relish the opportunity to build relationships with our pupils and students through extra curricular provision which is often led by an NQT.

Induction Summary (KCC January 2015): “The school has an excellent induction/CPD programme for NQTs. This should be held up as an example of good practice for other schools. The CPD programme is bespoke to each cohort of NQTs and takes into account the needs of each individual NQT. It is responsive to the way in which their needs change across the academic year. The induction tutor, Alison Monkley, has put a wide variety of strategies in place to monitor and support all of the NQTs throughout their induction. All staff involved in induction receive training and support to enable them to carry out this role effectively. Mr McParland is closely involved in the NQTs induction year and the NQTs report that he and the school’s SLT are readily accessible for support and advice.”

Mrs Alison Monkley
NQT Induction Leader
Staff Testimonials

Miss R Hackling – Teach First Teacher:
“Coming to work at the Academy was a seamless process, I felt supported all the way through. Before I even arrived in Ashford the Academy was in regular contact with me, supported my search for housing and even helped me find furnishings. My first day in Ashford the Academy Chaplain showed me around the area and made me feel part of a team and right at home before work had begun.

All staff were welcoming and helped me find my feet, Mr McParland made sure to introduce all of the new staff to everyone so that they knew to look out for us and help us settle in.

As for the training, I received input from primary and secondary teachers, senior leadership team members, a social worker and inclusion leader, an educational psychologist, a SEN specialist teacher and many other professionals from a variety of backgrounds with a wealth of experience.

All of this input, alongside support, lesson observations and performance management, has made me a confident practitioner; equipped with the skills I need to succeed and support the pupils and staff of the Academy.”

Miss H Coleridge – Teach First Teacher:
“In September 2013, I began teaching at The John Wallis Academy as part of the Teach First scheme. Having graduated from university in July of that year, I had then spent my summer training in Canterbury and Warwick with other participants. Teaching a relatively full timetable while completing my PGCE was challenging, but incredible support from my school mentor Stephen Scales, my departmental colleagues and my university tutors and mentors, meant that I was able to constantly reflect upon and improve my teaching practice. I built very strong relationships with many students and I think that has been the highlight of my teaching career thus far at The John Wallis Academy: helping the students to progress and watching them grow and mature into impressive young people who invariably have a wonderful sense of fun.”
Staff Testimonials

Mrs K Dearsly – School Direct Teacher:

“Having completed some teacher training in Australia, I came to the UK with teaching as my new career. I have worked at different types of schools from West Sussex, Surrey and in Kent. Finally I arrived at the John Wallis Academy to begin a School Direct training post. From day one the support in getting me onto the course has been second to none. I am really enjoying my studies with the University and the Science Team support has made it all possible to get through some of the tough times, with juggling time for marking, lesson planning, observations, and the work required for the course. The John Wallis Academy has one of the best working environments I have worked in, and teaching the students has been one of the most rewarding things I have done in my life, and to be paid for this, I could not ask for anything better. I have nothing but praise for Mr John McParland in his consistent approach with students and staff, being high expectations, high standards, and high aspirations. He is also one of the most approachable principal’s I have come across and is heavily involved in the training programmes in a supportive role. I am really enjoying my time here and I look forward to many more years with the Academy.”

Miss E Donnelly – Joined as an NQT in September 2011

“I completed a BEd degree in St. Mary’s University College, Belfast, but was aware that teaching jobs in Northern Ireland are very scarce. I began to seek employment in Kent, England; and was successful at interview at The John Wallis Academy, Ashford, Kent. I have been working here for the past four years. During this time, I have gained invaluable experience; experience that would take much longer to gain if I had been working in Ireland. I was successful in the completion of my NQT year and the support I was given in developing and growing as a teaching professional was outstanding. I was very fortunate to become Head of Key Stage Four Mathematics at the end of my second year, a post that I thoroughly enjoy. This has given me opportunities to train further in different aspects of assessment and raising attainment, and represent the academy at the PIXL schools conferences in London. Staff and students are extremely friendly and helpful; and with an ever-growing Irish community, I am delighted that I decided to begin and develop my teaching career in Kent.”
Ashford is situated in the heart of Kent, the “Garden of England”.

England's oldest county is steeped in rich history. Perfectly positioned on the south east coast, Kent is a county like no other. From amazing architecture and castles to superb shopping and scenery, this is a county with something for everyone.

As the closest point to mainland Europe (21 miles at the nearest point to be exact!), Kent is also well placed for visiting the continent.
Leisure time

Things to do in Ashford

- Where tradition and modern technology combine in the heart of the Kent countryside lies a place with a history dating back over 1000 years. Within easy reach of main travel destinations both in the UK and Europe, Ashford, with its mixture of historic buildings, pubs, restaurants, street cafes, green spaces and a lively nightlife, is one of the fastest developing towns in the UK.

- The Academy’s Retail Academy partner, the McArthur Glen Ashford Designer Outlet, has over 80 stores with a wide range of brands such as Lacoste, Ted Baker, Guess and Levi’s with up to 60% off with upcoming development to increase to double its current size with a £60m development of the outlet which is currently at planning stages and will make it the top Designer Outlet in Europe.

- Ashford is located on the High Speed train line which means that London is only 38 minutes away, and Paris only 2 hours away.

- Ashford has a wide selection of restaurants, cafes, takeaways and home delivery establishments both in and around Ashford, along with some great pubs and bars.

- Ashford is a short distance away from the historic and cultural City of Canterbury.