

# Introduction:

Iqra Academy is an Independent Community Girls' School, catering for 11-16 year olds. It is the only Girl's School with an Islamic ethos in the County.

It is an Islamic faith school that caters for both Muslims and other faith students.

The Academy is run by the Peterborough Muslim Education Trust - a charitable organisation.

Iqra Academy is a high performing Girls School that provides high quality education to prepare all students for life and the world of work.

"They are very well prepared for life in modern Britain." Ofsted June 2022.

Iqra Academy is currently Self-Evaluated as 'Good' in Leadership & Management and Quality of Education and 'Outstanding' in Personal Development and Behaviour & Attitudes.

## Why choose to be at Iqra Academy:

1. **High Quality Teaching** – with highly qualified and experienced teachers delivering a curriculum that is broad and ambitious.
2. **Outstanding GCSE Results** – where 100% of Students achieve five or more GCSE passes and 86% achieve nine or more passes.
3. **All Girls School with an Islamic Ethos** – that creates a safe environment where the girls faith, intellectual and physical confidence can grow.
4. **Small Class Sizes** – where students get the attention they need from teachers and are encouraged to take part in discussions and driven to express their opinions.
5. **Attendance & Behaviour** – high attendance and culture of learning where low level disruption is rare and where there is no bullying.
6. **Outstanding Personal Development** – where students have a voice and opportunities to develop their skills, talents and character, to prepare them for life and work.

Iqra Academy is an All Girls School with an Islamic Ethos, which includes daily worship and a deep understanding of their social and religious responsibilities, enabling students to have the highest moral standards.

## Student Testimonials:

**Shaimaa** - "When I came to the School as a refugee from Lebanon, I felt very welcome and everyone helped me with my English. I had lots of friends at Iqra Academy and it

helped me to settle in to Peterborough and to School life at Iqra Academy. I had lots of opportunities at School from being part of the Football team and the Combined Cadet Force to representing Iqra Academy at the Global Student Leadership Conference in Holland.

I loved it at Iqra Academy and will be eternally grateful to the school.

I am currently studying Architecture at De Montfort University, Leicester.”

**Maya** – “I came to England from Jordan, I spent five years in Jordan as a refugee from Syria. I now live here in Peterborough, England, as a proud citizen.

I loved being at Iqra Academy, where there were so many opportunities. I became fluent in English and successfully achieved all my GCSE’s. I played Football for the School in matches across the country and we won National Titles. I trained with the Peterborough Athletics club and joined the Schools Combined Cadet Force, where I gained the ‘Best Cadet Award.’

I am currently studying Business at Westminster University, London.”

### **School Student Feedback Summary Report:**

**The Curriculum and Good Teachers were highlighted by all year groups. In addition, certain subjects such as Science, English and Islamiyat were given special mention by four of the five years. Student Leadership and Enrichment activities also warranted special praise by three of the Student years. School Trips and Lunches, appeared in what is going well for the students in three of the five years.**

#### **Across the School;**

**I feel Safe at Iqra Academy? 100% Agree.**

**My**

**English Tutor is helping me to improve? 100% Agree**

**The**

**Academy is allowing me to develop my personal skills and abilities? 86% Agree.**

### **Our Mission, Vision and Values:**

Our aim at Iqra Academy is to enable our pupils to develop a sense of self-value and self-respect as British Muslims and help them to become valued and responsible members of mainstream society.

The academy’s main objective is to establish an impressive centre for learning where pupils can receive a balanced education in an Islamic environment that will promote their spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development.

It is hoped that this will prepare them to enter into the practical world as confident and educated Muslim women, with a strong faith and good moral values.

To seek the pleasure of Allah (swt) by providing Islamic education for the children of the community, in accordance with the Noble Qur'an and Sunnah of our Beloved Prophet (saw).

To provide excellent full time academic and Islamic education for the Muslim children in Peterborough under the Islamic ethos regardless of nationality or status.

To provide a caring, safe and well-ordered environment for girls to develop their educational skills and practice Islam.

## **School Vision:**

PMET's vision is to raise the next generation of Muslims and Muslimahs, with a deep understanding of their social and religious responsibilities. Enabling them to be human beings of the highest moral standards benefiting society locally, nationally and internationally. Our students should leave our establishments with all the tools required to be integrated and valued members of British society, being economically productive and socially responsible.

## **School Values:**

**I – Integrity** – To promote honesty, uphold strong moral and ethical principles.

**Q – Quality** – To strive for academic achievement and excellence.

**R – Respect** – To respect and care, treating all others as you wish to be treated.

**A – Aspiration** – To aspire to be the best, inspiring others.

## **Our Curriculum**

### **Curriculum Aims:**

- To provide rich and varied contexts for pupils to acquire, develop and apply a broad range of knowledge, understanding and skills, to encourage a love of learning and a desire for lifelong learning.

- To encourage the best possible progress and the highest academic achievement for all, by setting suitable learning challenges and fully recognizing the diverse learning needs of each of our pupils.
- To personalise our curriculum ensuring it is flexible and appropriate, preparing pupils for the challenges of a fast-changing world, and their futures as workers and citizens.
- To develop literacy, numeracy and competence in the use of information technology;
- To develop self-esteem, self-worth and self-confidence
- To promote pupils' self-esteem and emotional well-being through our curriculum, offering opportunities for pupils to develop their knowledge, understanding and appreciation of their own and different beliefs and cultures.

### **Iqra Academy Curriculum Statement of Intent:**

- Our young people are well-prepared for the next stage of their life as global contributors with clear moral purpose.
- Through the experience of a broad range of entitlement opportunities for their personal, social, cultural and academic progress they develop a set of skills underpinned by their own authentic values.
- Individuals possess a strong body of transferable core knowledge which they can articulate effectively, drawing upon a wide vocabulary.

### **Our Curriculum is evaluated through Intent – Implementation – Impact;**

- The curriculum is a framework for setting out the aims of a programme of education, including the knowledge and understanding to be gained at each stage.
- For translating that framework over time into a structure and narrative, within an institutional context.
- For evaluating what knowledge and skills pupils have gained against expectations.

### **GCSE Qualifications;**

At Iqra Academy we offer the National Curriculum, our Core subjects are English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, Science Double Award (or Triple Science), Religious Studies and Islamic Studies. We then offer a broad range of options to meet the needs of individual students, namely;

Psychology GCSE  
Art GCSE  
History GCSE  
Geography GCSE  
Languages on offer;  
    Urdu GCSE, Arabic GCSE, French GCSE/ Spanish GCSE  
Food Technology GCSE OR NCFC  
Citizenship GCSE  
BTEC in Sport (level 1 and Level 2)  
BTEC in Health and Social Care (Level 1 and Level 2)  
BTEC in Public Services Level 1 and Level 2  
Computer Science

Iqra Academy continues to produce outstanding GCSE results. These results help to prepare our students for life and work and to be outstanding British Citizens of the future.

100% of Students achieved 5+ GCSE passes at grade 4+.  
86% of Students achieved 9+ GCSE passes at grade 4+.  
64% of Students achieved higher passes in both Maths and English at grade 5+.  
This is well above the National average of 45% and the City of Peterborough average of 36%.  
100% of Students went on to study in Further Education.

As a Community School, Parents and members of the Community are of fundamental importance, to support the schools drive for improvement. The Schools Parents Forum 'Friends of Iqra,' recent feedback included;

**The Principal is providing strong Leadership** – 100% agree (90% strongly agree).  
**The School ensures my Child is well looked after** – 100% agree (90% strongly agree).  
**My daughter feels safe at School** – 100% agree (90%strongly agree).

## High Quality Education:

Our Principal Dr Michael Wright, was named 'Head teacher of the Year' at the National Interfaith Schools Education Awards sponsored by AMS UK. Mr Tom Wright collected the National 'Health & Well-Being' School Award for Iqra Academy and Governors and teachers received National recognition after being shortlisted for the following National Awards;

Teacher of the Year – Nasiba Zaib, Pastoral Care – Rehana Kauser, Educational Support – Eishrat Sultana, 3FF Interfaith – Zufie Ahmed, Community Outreach – Saqib Rehman and Transformational Leader – Tariq Nawaz.

This is testimony to how far Iqra Academy has moved forward and reflects on the hard work of all Students, Parents, teachers, Governors and Community Friends of Iqra Academy.

As part of our School's Curriculum development cycle, all Teachers undergo a Graded Lesson Observation. Areas of Good Practice and Areas for Improvement are identified and recorded. These are collated centrally and inform Staff Continuous Professional Development and Sharing Good Practice sessions. We maintain a CPD log for all staff of internal and external input into Sharing Good Practice sessions.

We record individuals Areas of Good practice and Areas for Improvement at the Teachers Annual Appraisals and Probation Reviews, where we discuss how these areas can be taken forward. Staff Development is one and practicing through Peer Observations is another.

Teachers also utilize and action feedback from Students feedback forms on Teachers. These feedback forms also contribute to the teacher's reflections and targets set in their Appraisal and Probation reviews.

Iqra Academy has developed its own Professional Learning and Development Teacher Mentoring programme. All teachers in training and new to the School have been allocated a Mentor, have completed a PLD Audit and PLD Mentoring Log, to identify and address areas for improvement.

The School's values, 'Integrity, Quality, Respect and Aspiration,' are important threads that run through all aspects of School life. (Ofsted 2022).

## **Where Girls learn without limits:**

Iqra Academy has a progress 8 score of +1.60, which is considerably higher than the National average of -0.03. A score of +1.00 means that students are achieving one grade higher in each qualification than other similar students nationally.

For attainment, Iqra's score of 56.4 is well above the National average of 46.2 and a Peterborough City average of 42.8.

Iqra Academy achieved outstanding GCSE results, with 100% of Students achieving 5+ GCSE passes at grade 4+ and 86% of students achieving 9+ GCSE passes at grade 4+. For students achieving higher grades in both Mathematics and English GCSE, Iqra Academy 64% is well above the National average of 45% and the Peterborough City average of 36%.

Iqra's School Attendance of 95.0% is well above the National average of 93.2%. Students behave well, low level disruption is rare and there is no bullying in the School. (Ofsted 2022).

This year, Doctoral Researchers in Science from world renowned Cambridge University carried out their Research at Iqra Academy, which included them working with Student focus groups and observing and teaching some Science lessons.

At Iqra Academy, students experience high quality lessons which enable them to make rapid progress in their learning and to help them achieve challenging personal targets.

Her Majesty's Inspectors in their Ofsted report (June 2022) concluded that "Pupils thrive at this School. Adults have high expectations and pupils work hard and are ambitious in what they want to achieve." Inspectors added "Leaders have designed a curriculum that is broad and ambitious. Low level disruption is rare and there is no bullying at the school."

Inspectors praised the leadership of teaching, learning and assessment, describing it as being "highly effective."

Iqra Academy celebrated after being shortlisted for the Sankore University Award for 'Excellence in Education' at The Muslim News National Annual Awards for Excellence, which took place in central London with guest speaker and presenter Sadiq Khan, Mayor of London.

## **Islamic Department**

At Iqra Academy our Islamic department is entrusted to prepare, develop and deliver a curriculum and environment that does nurture the most valuable asset of our community, our children, our future.

Our dedicated Islamic team produce students who are ready to meet the challenges of an ever-changing social landscape equipping them with the high moral and ethical excellence taught by Islam.

Our team is built up of UK Islamic Graduates who have excelled within the traditional sciences and have successfully sort and gained Ijaazah (permission) from renowned institutions from around the world. Our team is supported by the Ulama Education Group of Peterborough.

Our highly dedicated team have a passion for educating with a strong proven track history in the teaching field.

The core principals of Islam are used to develop the students to have a deep appreciation of their faith and use its universal lessons to serve their communities. Display excellent character and become part of every aspect of our society as leaders, leaders who will shape society for the better.

### **Iqra Academy provides the following the Islamic subjects:**

Quranic Studies: Appreciate the full value and enormity of the Quran.

Tajweed: The knowledge and application of the rules of recitation of the holy Quran.

Hadith Studies: Learn and put into practice how Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon) lived his life.

Islamic History: Appreciate the history behind the development of Islam.

Islamic Studies: a look at the tenants of Islam, including but not limited to beliefs, pillars, manners and conduct.

Students also get the opportunity to undertake projects relating to community service and charity.

### **Admissions**

We are now enrolling students for year 7-11. Anyone interested in enrolling their daughter at Iqra Academy must obtain an application form, which must be filled in and sent to the Administration Office. In year transfers are also considered and an application form must be filled in.

Selection criteria: We currently only accept female students in years 7-11, after a successful interview and with an agreement with parents that fees will be paid.



The school will consider any female to join throughout the year due to exceptional circumstances. The senior management team will assess each case on its merits.

## **Over-subscription criteria**

We are currently not an over-subscribed school. If the school should be over-subscribed the following criteria will be applied:

1. Children where in recognised professional opinion (a letter from a GP, Consultant, Educational Psychologist or Social Worker explaining why the child cannot attend any school other than the Academy) shows that circumstances present a particularly strong case for taking in a child.
2. A child with a sibling currently attending the Academy and who will continue to do so after the date of admission.
3. Proximity of a child's home to the Academy.

## **Fees**

Iqra Academy is a private institution with no local authority or government grants supporting it. This academy is for everyone and is funded by the community. The running of the academy depends on fees and voluntary contributions

Fees are set annually, with a view of keeping the price as low as possible. The fees can be paid in advance, annually or monthly installments by standing order. Methods of payment will be agreed at the interview.

## **Student Leadership**

The Student Leadership team goes from strength to strength and presented at the 'Schools of Tomorrow' National forum in Leicester and continues with SoT student research into Leadership. They have also developed their own 'RESPECT' campaign and supported the National 'PREVENT' programme being delivered in school. The Student Leadership team ran the successful 'Better Reading Support Initiative' to support pupils at local Primary Schools. Iqra Students have developed a Soup kitchen and provide food and overnight accommodation at the School for the Cities homeless and needy. Our Student Leaders also attended the Student Leadership International Conference held in Holland. Student leaders sit on the Global School Alliance Student Council, where they have gained the 'Bronze Award' for their International work.

## **Extra-curricular**

Iqra Academy was judged to be 'Outstanding' in Personal Development, providing students with outstanding opportunities to grow as active, healthy and engaged citizens, preparing them for the future. (Ofsted 2022).

Enrichment through extracurricular activities are a key feature at Iqra, The School has its own 'Enrichment Charter' and runs weekly after-school clubs for our Football and Cricket Academies, where we also compete nationally.

Iqra Academy Students won the prestigious National 'Young Writers Creative Writing Competition' and as a result have had their entries published. This annual writing competition is in its 32<sup>nd</sup> year and received in excess of 10,000 entries this year.

The establishment of a Combined Cadet Force provides a disciplined organisation in the school, so that our students develop powers of leadership. The CCF training promotes the qualities of responsibility, self-reliance, resourcefulness, endurance and perseverance.

### **Iqra Academy Crowned National Champions:**

Iqra Academy All-conquering School Football team are the reigning Muslim Schools National Champions, having won the Title Six times in the last Seven years.

The School also competes in the English Schools FA County League and in the Peterborough & District Schools League, both of which they have previously won. They also won the Interfaith Midlands Schools Cup, the first ever Muslim school to do so. Iqra Academy has shared its success through a number of outreach programmes and is the recipient of the FA Community Award for Best Inclusive Project.

In the last two years, the School was shortlisted by the 'Muslim News' readers for their 'Excellence in Sport' at the Annual National Awards in London. This year, the team were presented with a Civic Sports Award from the City of Peterborough.

### **Who's who at Iqra Academy:**

Moulana Tariq Nawaz – CEO and Head of Iqra Board

Mr Saqib Rehman – Proprietor and Board Member

Mr Waqqas Rehman – Board Member

Mr Yousaf Ismail – Board Member

Mrs Julie Taylor – Board Member

Mr Scott Hudson – Board Member

## **Dr Michael Wright** – Executive Principal –

Michael has Chaired the School Leadership team at Iqra Academy since 2016. Michael is also Chair of the Education Committee of the Muslim Council of Peterborough, which organises the Peterborough City Annual Education Awards and is Chair of the Association of Muslim Schools for the East Midlands, UK.

Michael sits on the Head Teachers group of the Peterborough Partnership of Secondary Schools and is a Trustee and Director of the Thomas Deacon Education Trust.

Michael was named “Head Teacher of the Year” at the National Interfaith Annual School Awards by the Association of Muslim Schools UK. Michael was the winner of the ‘Caring Neighbour’ Award at the Pride in Peterborough Annual Awards.

Michael is a former British Police Detective and holds a PhD in Law and a Level 5 qualification in Operational Management. He holds a Master’s Degree in Leadership through the University of Hertfordshire and a teaching qualification through the London Institute.

Michael has held senior roles at Cambridge Regional College and North Hertfordshire College and led Teacher Training Departments, which included an inspection team, sharing good practice with schools and colleges across the UK, Brazil, Saudi Arabia and Greece.

Michael was recognised as a dynamic leader when he was appointed as Executive Director of Education to the London 2012 Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG). Michael brought together Schools, Colleges and Universities across Great Britain, to provide thousands of appropriately trained and qualified Security, Stewarding, Hospitality and Volunteer workforce for London 2012, Wimbledon, British Grand Prix, Premiership Football, festivals, carnivals and the Royal Wedding of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge. The work brought together UK educational institutions on a scale that was previously unheard of and provided a unique bridge from education to employment.

Michael has worked for the Brazilian Olympic Public Authority in managing a Training Pilot Programme for the Rio 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games. He also advised the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games on Education and Employer Engagement.

Michael was the Vice Dean at Lincoln College International in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia where he set up three new Academic Colleges of Excellence.

Michael is a keen sportsman and holds National Coaching Qualifications in Rugby, Football, Tennis, Badminton and Weight Lifting.

Michael was Director of Youth Football at Cambridge United Football Club and at Iqra has successfully Managed the School Football Team to Six Muslim Schools National Titles.

## **Mrs Nasiba Zaib** – Deputy Principal and Head of Mathematics –

Nasiba is currently the Deputy Head teacher at Iqra Academy, she was part of the planning committee for Iqra Academy and has been an instrumental figure from inception. Nasiba has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Accounting and Finance which was followed by a Postgraduate Certificate in Education in Mathematics and

subsequently her National Professional Qualification in Senior Leadership. Her exceptional skills in teaching have allowed her to become a Senior Leader in Education for Mathematics across Cambridgeshire. Furthermore, she is serving as a professional mentor for trainee teachers across Peterborough. Nasiba has always been a strong campaigner for education and empowerment, instilling the belief that education can change the lives of future generations. She has a specialist interest in female education nurturing young minds to thrive both academically and personally. Nasiba leads by example being a great role model for both staff and pupils. Under her leadership as the curriculum lead, the school has thrived and achieved exceptional GCSE results year upon year. This dedication has also been acknowledged by Ofsted.

Sahdia Zafar – SLT, Computer Science & Safeguarding Lead  
Shapla Koli – SLT, Citizenship & Behaviour Lead  
Mehroona Malik – Head of Science  
Mr Usama Javed Mirza - Science  
Nicola Day – Head of English  
Navidda Jabeen – English & Citizenship  
Jabeen Maqbool – SENCO  
Shazia Ahmad – Examinations Officer & Psychology  
Yasmeen Bugti – TA SEND  
Fatma Boztemir – Mathematics  
Saimo Bano – Mathematics & Science  
Rania Desouky – Mathematics  
Khadija Usman – Head of Islamic Studies  
Neelam Bachani – Head of Religious Education  
Abigail Ortiz-Bodden – Head of ICT  
Tafseer Hussain – Head of Health & Social Care  
Manawar Sultana – Head of Urdu  
Wessam Nagy – Head of Arabic  
Safiah Perveen – Art  
Fouzia Sultana & Fatema Karimina– PE & Duke of Edinburgh Award.  
Eishrat Sultana – Admin & Teaching Assistant  
Jessica Marsden - School Nurse  
Arouj Taufail – Careers Lead & SEND  
Fakhra Naheed – School Office Manager