

MAKING EXCELLENCE A HABIT



MARITIME
ACADEMY



Welcome to Maritime Academy, a brand-new secondary school in Strood.

As a student at Maritime, your child will be a pioneer, leading the way for future students and building the foundations of our school's history.

Our unique Academy is built on an ethos of excellence: our aim is to 'Make Excellence a Habit' for every one of our students. Students at Maritime Academy are encouraged to be their best selves, recognise their potential, and aim high. We offer an inclusive and safe environment for all, which equips them with the tools, knowledge, and habits they need to excel in life beyond school. Our mission is to develop our students into lifelong learners, with skills that are transferable and highly sought after by employers, setting them up for success in later life.

Maritime Academy is proud to be part of the Thinking Schools Academy Trust's Strood Hub, which comprises of All Faiths Children's Academy, Cedar Children's Academy, and The Gordon Children's Academy. While children who already attend a Thinking School will be familiar with our unique cognitive approach to education, it is a very exciting proposition for students from outside the trust to join our family and embark on a new learning journey.

Maritime Academy offers a first-class education with a curriculum filled with a variety of opportunities for every student to explore their talents and pursue their passions. From lunchtime clubs and school trips to sports and Arts opportunities, our Academy offers a broad and enriching curriculum which transforms life chances.

Welcome from our Principal

I am delighted to welcome you to Maritime Academy and thrilled to be leading this new secondary school and to be offering an outstanding learning environment where children receive an education with a curriculum designed to develop critical thinkers and lifelong learners, brimming with self-confidence and an excellent array of skills.

At Maritime, our mission is to offer a unique opportunity to learn in a modern setting with traditional values. Our school ensures that students are confident, respectful, and responsible young people who are able to face the challenges of modern society. We believe that through our traditional ethos and values, we have created an environment where students have respect for where they learn, who they learn with and who they are as unique, aspirational young people.

We expect the highest standards of academic performance and personal excellence from our students, so that every student is able to be their best self and shape their success. Our goal is to foster a belief in every young person that they can be who they choose to be, and we will provide the very best academic and pastoral support to ensure they reach their true potential.

Joining a brand-new school offers an exciting opportunity to our students, as they will help to shape the Maritime Academy's foundations. We look forward to sharing this experience with our young people, as we build a culture of high aspiration, high expectation and success together.

We will embark on our voyage as a 'Good in all areas' school following our first Ofsted inspection in May 2025 and a Thinking School having gained the prestigious Thinking accreditation from the University of Exeter. Our curriculum will reflect this through its cognitive framework designed to shape the attitudes, habits and mind-set of all our students, developing them into inquisitive, self-confident, and creative young adults. The leadership team at Maritime will not only ensure the highest quality of education, safety, and student wellbeing: as the school grows, we will continue to recruit a team of diligent, hard-working, and enthusiastic teachers who share our school values to keep our students passionate about learning.

We thank you for your time and interest in our Academy and look forward to working in partnership and support of one another in our mission to cultivate excellence from every student.



Matt Evans
Principal

Proud to be Medway

Maritime Academy is proud to exist and thrive in Medway. It is a fascinating and diverse place steeped in history with a rich military and maritime heritage. Medway takes its name from its river, and over centuries, the river has played a major role in the history and development of the area: we therefore wanted to recognise this within our school ethos and culture.

The identity of Maritime Academy reflects our links to Medway's history. The building brick work and wooden cladding of our new building were chosen specifically to reflect the industrial heritage of the area, while our logo represents a modern trident.

The trident as a symbol is linked with many aspects of history, however, we adopted the link from Britannia and how Medway has supported the naval endeavours of our country throughout time. The trident has been used to symbolise strength, pride, and unity, three values we embody as a school.

During the groundwork of our site, we made an archaeological discovery of regional significance. A Roman cemetery was located on our site, with skeletons, cremation pots and other fascinating artefacts found during the excavation of the site.

In addition, an extremely rare discovery of a Neanderthal Axe was located on the site. Estimated to date somewhere between 250,000 – 320,000 years old, this archaeological treasure is of national significance across the UK and Ireland.

As a school, this is a unique opportunity to connect with our local history and educate our students on the rich past that came before us. We have integrated this historical discovery into our curriculum so our students can explore the heritage of Frindsbury and beyond.





MARITIME
ACADEMY

MAKING EXCELLENCE A HABIT

ARE WHAT WE REPEATEDLY DO, EXCELLENCE THEREFORE, IS NOT AN ACT
ARISTOTLE





Part of The Thinking Schools Academy Trust

The Maritime Academy is part of The Thinking Schools Academy Trust, a multi-academy trust that believes that every young person deserves the best opportunities in life, regardless of their individual circumstances.

The trust comprises of both primary and secondary schools across Medway, Kent, Portsmouth, Torbay, and Plymouth, and shares an ethos of excellence through a whole school integration of cognitive education.

As a trust, we strongly believe that providing a unique cognitive education and developing our young people into adaptable and resilient thinkers is the best way to transform their life chances and equip them for the future. It is through this approach that we work to “make learning irresistible”.

A Thinking School is unique in its focus on teaching students the tools they need to become lifelong learners, and to develop the best possible habits for success in school and beyond. Thinking Schools provide educational communities which unite students and staff in learning how to think reflectively, critically and creatively.

A Thinking School is more than just a title: to be officially recognised as a Thinking School, a school must undergo external assessment and accreditation from Exeter University, a journey which Maritime Academy is proud to have successfully completed.

Transforming Life Chances

All schools in the Thinking Schools Academy Trust share a common goal: to transform the life chances for every student. Opportunities are a right, not a privilege, and we work to ensure that all our students have the support they need to be their best selves and develop the skills they need to achieve this.

“Maritime Academy is a truly aspirational educational community dedicated to the promotion of lifelong learning. It has carefully developed and nurtured its core values so that they permeate throughout the entire school and beyond.”

- Thinking Schools @ Exeter report

Our Ethos

Making Excellence a Habit

Aristotle was an ancient Greek philosopher. His views shaped scholarship, and he has been called 'the father of logic', amongst other titles. A quote attributed to Aristotle is, "We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, therefore, is not an act, but a habit."

We want our students to be their best self: in order to achieve this, they need to develop effective habits across school life. Excellence requires determination to develop the skills needed to be an effective learner. To achieve excellence in all areas of school, our students will understand how thinking tools and effective habits can transform their life chances and enable them to shape their success.

Habits are those automatic responses to cues and at Maritime Academy we expect our students to develop the skills and understanding to foster those positive habits linked to our Maritime Mandates. These mandates reduce cognitive load for all students and develop a consistent learning environment.

"The schools is a welcoming and inclusive environment, where 'excellence' is a habit."

- Ofsted Report, May 2025







Our Values

Strength

Students at Maritime Academy will demonstrate strength in character. They will take responsibility for their actions and develop the skills of resilience, initiative, tenacity, integrity, and morality to take safe risks and be courageous.

Our students will be determined, demonstrating commitment and perseverance to overcome challenges to achieving success and being their best selves.

We encourage our students to have the courage to show strength in all they do in our community and be brave to make mistakes on the way to success. Maritime Academy aims for our students to recognise strength in others and celebrate progress for all.



Our Values

Pride

Students at Maritime Academy will demonstrate pride in attending a Thinking School. They will illustrate pride in their aspirations, achievements, personal qualities and the contributions they make to the school and wider community.

Our students will have a strong connection to our school, representing our values and ethos through their excellent habits and impeccable conduct.

It is essential for any school to create a culture where all students and staff are proud to be part of their community. When students have pride in their school it gives them a sense of ownership which in turn creates positive behaviours.

Every young person in our community deserves to have the best opportunities at life regardless of their individual circumstances.







Our Values

Unity

Students at Maritime Academy will be united as a community to support each other. They will demonstrate respect for where they learn, who they learn with, and who they are as unique, aspirational young people. All students will hold a united responsibility and commitment to sustainability. Our students will ensure that our school is a calm and purposeful environment where everyone can learn and flourish.

We want our students to collaborate, communicate effectively with each other, and create strong bonds of trust and friendship. The Galley, where our students receive their break and lunch time meals, has a unique

layout, in which students sit in their Fleet groups and dine as a community. The art of conversation and socialisation is an important skill for students to master, and our unique lunch structure supports the development of these lifelong tools.

Unity is an essential value when building a cohesive and successful learning environment, but this value of unity ripples wider than the school gates. The unity between families, home and school is fundamental to building those positive relationships where all can work together with a common goal to achieve their best.



Primary Transition

The transition from primary school to secondary school is one of the biggest changes our children will have ever experienced, but it is also one of the most exciting.

Children's primary education is the essential foundation needed to support their ability to embark on a new and exciting journey into secondary education. We believe in a 'through-education model' with a core understanding of children's early learning in Reception classrooms right through to shaping them into young adults ready for the world of work, further study or University. At Maritime, we value children's primary school learning and aim to build on their success throughout Key Stage 3 and beyond.

Moving to secondary school offers children exciting exposure to opportunities to learn and immerse themselves in new experiences, as well as the chance to develop important social skills by making new friends and taking part in different activities. Our students are encouraged and supported to step out of their comfort zones and embrace new and different situations.

During the transition process, we work with our local primary schools to prepare our students for their move to secondary education. We will provide them with resources, visits, and a transition day, to ensure that their voyage to Maritime is as smooth-sailing as possible.







Sixth Form

Providing a wealth of opportunities is essential in enabling students to become masters of their own destiny.

As such, Maritime Academy will be offering a Sixth Form education to students looking to further challenge themselves academically through the pursuit of Post 16 qualifications.

Maritime Academy will wholly support this and will offer a Sixth Form education in a school environment with which students are comfortable and familiar. Maritime Academy will open to prospective Sixth Form students from September 2027.



Our Curriculum

Our curriculum is built on our 5 'Waves' of Learning. Our students will benefit from a strong culture of high expectations and aspirations throughout the Academy, based on:

Academic Excellence:

Ensuring our students are supported to excel in all areas of the curriculum to achieve the highest standards of academic outcomes and personal development.

Independent Learning:

Ensuring our students are able to make informed choices and take responsibility for their achievements and success. They use the tools available to them to actively engage in learning and work hard to be their best self.

Meta-Cognitive Thinking:

Ensuring students can think about their own thinking by planning, monitoring and assessing their own understanding and performance. They have critical awareness of their thinking and how to develop themselves as effective learners.

Retrieval:

Ensuring that our students are able to effectively rehearse and recall the essential knowledge that they need to know and understand from our curriculum.

Maritime Habits:

Ensuring our students develop effective habits of learning and personal conduct to establish a calm and purpose community.

At Maritime Academy, selected students may follow our Accelerate Pathway. Students in this pathway follow a structured curriculum that focuses on achieving rapid progress through an accelerated pace of learning. We will work closely with our Medway Trust grammar schools, The Rochester Grammar School and Holcombe Grammar School, to shape our curriculum and help students think about their aspirations and further education.





- (A) Ask/Answer Questions
 - (N) Never Interrupt
 - (T) Track the Teacher
 - (S) Sentences
 - (H) Hands
 - (A) Articulate
 - (P) Project
 - (E) Eye contact
 - (S) Sir/Miss
 - (T) Thank you
 - (E) Excuse me
 - (P) Please
 - (S) Smile
- STRENGTH - PRIDE - UNITY



Our Fleets

As part of our commitment to establishing a school that celebrates Medway's rich naval heritage, our Fleets (Houses) are named after famous ships that were built in Frindsbury, close to where our new school building will be located.

Students at Maritime Academy are divided into six Fleets named after historic ships; Cordelia, Euphrates, Mulgrave, Pioneer, Reynard, and Shannon. These Fleets provide opportunities for students to compete in Fleet competitions throughout the year. Students can earn merits for their Fleet, with the winning Fleet rewarded each term.

Each individual Fleet group will be united, building strong relationships and camaraderie with their peers and Fleet Captains. There will be many opportunities for Fleet competitions and, as the school grows, to work with students from the same Fleet within different year groups to learn from each other, united as a team to showcase 'Excellence as a Habit'.

"Pupils relish the wider opportunities that are available. They are proud to hold a range of leadership roles, such as 'Fleet Admiral', 'Warrant Officer', or as a member of pupil parliament."

- Ofsted Report, May 2025



Personal Development

Personal Development at Maritime Academy epitomises our aspiration for all pupils to 'Be their Best Self', aiming to enrich the lives of all our students, providing them with opportunities to ensure they are ready for modern Britain when they complete their school voyage.

We follow a nationally accredited curriculum for PSHE, that builds upon their experience in primary school. Our students report they enjoy their learning in PSHE which equips them with skills to celebrate individuality and diversity in a safe learning environment.

'We Are One' events are Trust-wide events, providing our students with the opportunity to be part of the wider community within our Trust, to collaborate with like-minded peers from other Trust schools, and to be inspired by their peers. Events include Black History

Month, Sustainability events and a celebration of our students talents in our TSArTs week to name a few. These provide excellent opportunities for our pupils to connect throughout the academic year and have their engagement celebrated.

Our students are our future, and therefore creating opportunities for our future leaders to develop their leadership skills is essential. At Maritime Academy we have a multitude of opportunities for pupils to develop these attributes. We have a number of roles within the Fleets, such as Fleet Admiral, Watch Leader, and Engineering Officer, which are voted for within Parliament Hustings at the beginning of the academic year. These prestigious roles require commitment, confidence and resilience and involve representation of Maritime Academy at external events such as Open Evenings, catering meetings and Trust Parliament events. We are extremely proud of our representatives, who take the lead in steering their Fleet to success.







Enrichment – Horizon

Enrichment is an essential part of our school life at Maritime Academy. Our Horizon curriculum runs every Friday, and enables every single student to engage in a whole host of exciting and skill-building enrichment opportunities.

Examples of choices for students includes Coding, Boxing, Anatomy Art, STEM club, Creative writing, Japanese, and Unity and Diversity. Student voice of Horizon is overwhelmingly positive, with students emphasising how much they enjoy this aspect of their school voyage. Enrichment at Maritime Academy extends further than our Horizon curriculum, with the engagement of sports fixtures where our carefully selected teams represent the school in different sports. Furthermore, we are thrilled to be offering the Duke of Edinburgh Award for our Year 9 pupils, which is

already proving an extremely popular choice amongst our students. This programme aims to empower young people, supporting them as they learn new skills, overcome obstacles and build confidence and resilience and we look forward to supporting pupils in their endeavours to obtain this prestigious award.

Community lunch is an aspect of our school life that demonstrates Unity. Fleets sit together at lunchtime as a 'Family'. Every day, students are provided with a topical discussion topic, that supports the Theme of the Week, and endorses Fundamental British Values or Protected Characteristics. Students discuss this topic within their Fleets, feedback their discussions to the rest of the community who they are sharing lunch with. Students recognise that this helps support them to improve their confidence and their resilience.



One:One Devices and Digital Learning

We believe that learning does not just happen within the classroom: it transcends the uniform and the textbook and stays with students long after they leave school.

From day one of Year 7, students at the Maritime Academy will all receive a One:One device, so that they can benefit from a curriculum that has been developed with digital learning at its core. Learning with One:One devices is about investing in the right equipment, using modern learning techniques, offering a blended approach, teaching vital skills and trusting students to work and learn as adults.

As a Thinking School, we are proud of our cognitive approach to education; we put an understanding of how the brain learns at the heart of all that we do. Our One:One digital 5 'Sails' to Success strategy supports students by:

- Reducing cognitive load
- Developing good digital citizens
- Supporting retrieval via the use of Apps and new technologies
- Scaffolding learning for students with SEND
- Improving leadership opportunities

All our One:One devices are state-of-the-art, come pre-installed with the Microsoft Office suite and internet security, and are updated regularly to keep your child safe online. Your child's device will be a learning resource they can call their own. They will use their device to learn, to store information and refer back when revising, as well as to develop an understanding of digital platforms and how we use them to develop and grow.

We use software designed to encourage instant feedback between students, parents and teachers, taking the classic handwritten 'note' further, with feedback that can be shared as audio or video messages.

Our One:One device scheme is about future-proofing your child for careers that may not even exist yet, and ensuring that they leave secondary education with the right level of digital literacy. Our scheme allows us to prepare and empower our young people with the tools and knowledge they require to meet the modern needs of further education and employment.



full name

class

serial number/ID code

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Maritime Academy

Our School

We are extremely proud of our new school based in Frindsbury. We have worked exceptionally hard to design a school that supports our mission to offer a unique opportunity for students to learn in a modern setting with traditional values.

Our new building has been designed with our students and the wider environment in mind. The outside space around the school contains a wealth of vegetation as well as supporting our sustainability aims with electronic car charging points, bike racks, and recycling stations.

The building has been assessed for access to natural light to create bright classrooms, ensuring that every room optimises the natural light streaming into the room to support our calm, purposeful, and respectful atmosphere.

Classrooms and teaching areas are grouped into subject specialisms. Our students benefit from the ground floor largely dedicated to the Arts, the first floor includes Maths, English, MFL and the Sans Pareil Library, with the second floor holding specialist Science laboratories and Humanities rooms.

Our new site boasts a brand-new Thinking Fitness Facility, open for students to use during the day and members of the public in the evenings. All profit generated by Thinking Fitness memberships will be recycled back into our Trust to support our mission of transforming life chances. The Thinking Fitness area

includes a fitness studio equipped with state-of-the-art equipment, a designated sports hall and a MUGA (multi use games area).

Our students have a range of social spaces to choose from, including 'The Galley', our brand-new dining hall, and 'The Bay', an outdoor seating and café area.



A sustainable school

Maritime Academy is committed to sustainability and preserving our planet for future generations. We are environmentally conscious in our practice. We:

- Monitor targets for energy, water and waste reduction;
- Invest in transportation initiatives for students and staff;
- Review and explore sustainability learning material within the curriculum;
- Encourage individuals to promote their own sustainability activities;
- Make informed business decisions with a focus on environmental and social considerations;
- Work to reduce carbon emissions.

We worked closely with our partners from Bowmer + Kirkland, the Department for Education (DfE) and Medway Council to build a new school that boasts incredible, state-of-the-art facilities to compliment the highest standard of teaching and learning, whilst having minimal impact on the wider environment.

The school was developed to deliver a carbon neutral build, and we believe that we have a responsibility to continue this work to secure the school's long term environmental sustainability aims.

Many young people hold strong concerns about climate change and the challenges that this might present for future generations. At Maritime Academy, we work together as a community to be responsible and respectful for where we live and learn. Sustainability is

a huge part of everyday school life and is incorporated into our curriculum. We are working to reduce the use of single-use plastics in our schools, as well as actively recycling and encouraging greener ways to travel to school.

Working closely with Bowmer + Kirkland, we have incorporated sustainable initiatives throughout the new build school such as only using LED lights, ventilation optimisation to naturally stabilise the temperature in the classrooms, and responsibly resourced materials.

We have a proud student team of 'Engineering Officers' that form part of our sustainability committee which encourages students to get involved with the school's sustainability planning.

"The school provides an array of interesting opportunities for pupils to develop their interests and talents. "

- Ofsted Report, May 2025







Ofsted

We are extremely proud to have received 'Good in all areas' in our first Ofsted inspection.

Since opening our doors in 2022, Maritime Academy has grown into a vibrant and ambitious school community. Now based in our permanent site in Strood, we serve nearly 800 pupils across Years 7 to 10, with plans to expand to Year 13. Our modern facilities and innovative curriculum reflect our mission to transform life chances through education.

In our first Ofsted inspection in May 2025, we were proud to be rated 'Good' in all areas. This recognition is a testament to the dedication of our staff, the enthusiasm of our pupils, and the support of our families. Inspectors highlighted our strong leadership, inclusive ethos, and calm, purposeful classrooms. They saw pupils who are eager to learn, respectful, and proud to take on leadership roles—from Fleet Admirals to members of our pupil parliament.

We've worked hard to build a curriculum that is both ambitious and carefully structured, helping our pupils become independent thinkers and lifelong learners. Our staff bring deep subject knowledge and a shared commitment to excellence, while our focus on reading and attendance ensures every child is supported to thrive.

At Maritime Academy, we believe in making excellence a habit. This belief shapes everything we do—from the way we teach, to the way we care for each other, and the way we grow together as a community.

Inspectors praises us for:

- Strong Leadership and high expectations
- Inclusive ethos and positive pupil behaviour
- Ambitious, well-structured curriculum
- Calm, purposeful classrooms
- Wide range of enrichment opportunities
- Commitment to attendance and wellbeing



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