



Welcome to The Link

We are delighted that you are considering The Link for the education of your child.

The Link is a 40-place Specialist Provision situated within the grounds of Swavesey Village College (SVC). The provision will be delivered by an experienced educational team of professionals from Martin Bacon Academy (MBA), a special school, based at the site of the nearby Northstowe Learning Community.

The LINK will offer 8 places in each year group (7 to 11). Pupils have access to mainstream education for 40% or more of their learning opportunities and will have significant support to ensure that this is successful.

They will also be able to select option subjects alongside their mainstream peers and will be fully supported by specialist trained staff who are employed by MBA.

Any additional Specialist provision, for example Swimming or Rebound Therapy, will be delivered at MBA.

The LINK's overall aim is to ensure that, when appropriate, young people have the opportunity to be successfully reintegrated to mainstream provision within their local community.

We hope that you find the contents of this prospectus useful and that it provides you with some of the information you need to assist you in identifying if we are a suitable provision for your child.



Sarah Louise

Interim Associate Executive
Principal



William Hawes

Interim Head of School

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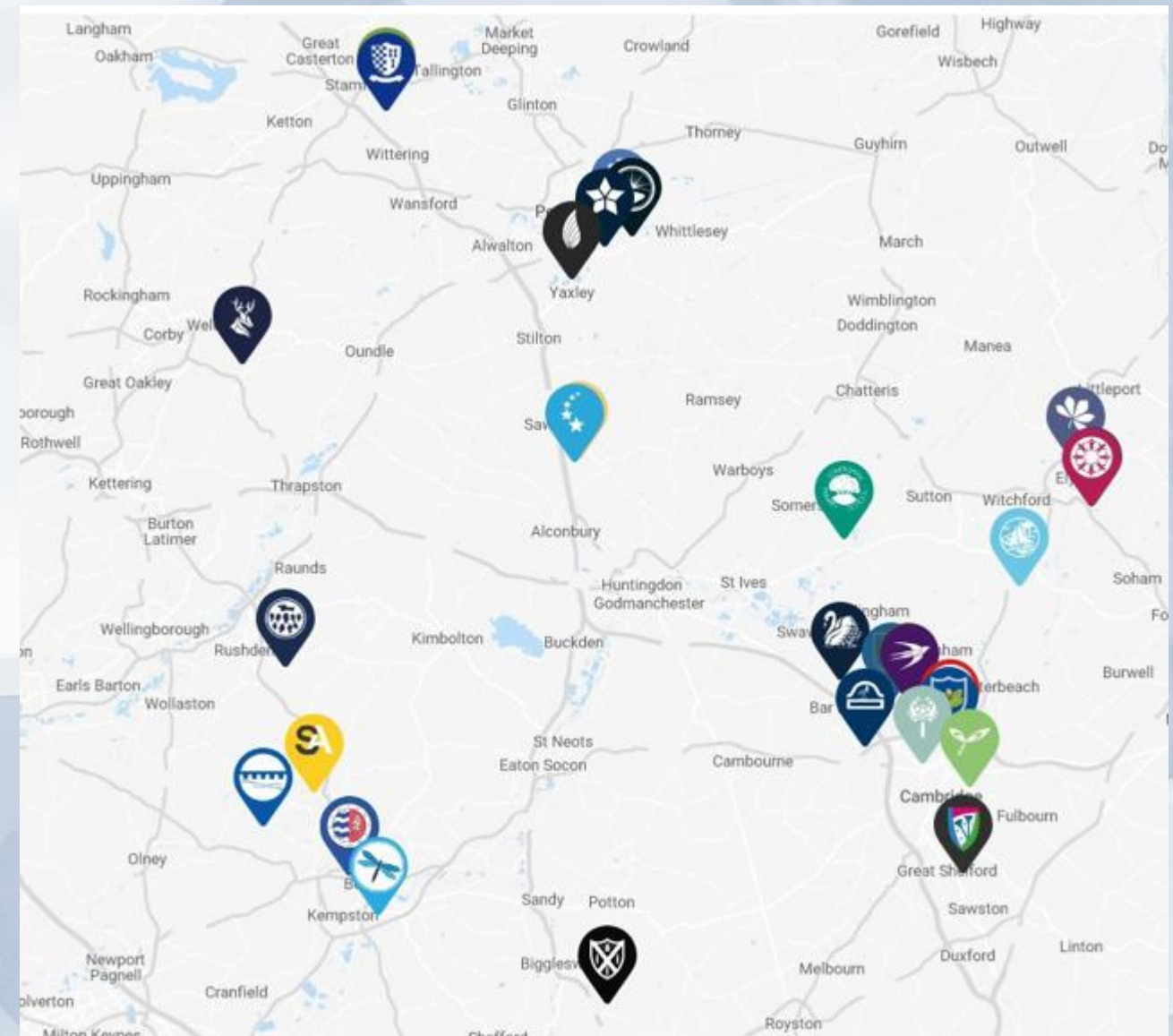
The Academy Trust

The Link is proud to be a member of the Meridian Trust. Our family of schools continues to grow in the region, allowing for strong networks and links to flourish between staff and students across primary, secondary and special schools. This allows for close collaboration between teachers and allows us to share resources, expertise and best practice easily.

The Trust was formed with a simple and clear vision: 'to ensure high quality education at the heart of the community.' It also enabled Swavesey Village College, considered to be 'outstanding in every respect' by Ofsted, to sponsor other academies, and help spread the best education practice

The Trust truly values the success of every child and places the sharing of excellent education practice at its core. It is committed to improving the quality of education and life in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, and their immediate surroundings. The Trust is dedicated to maintaining its core principles and focus as it grows.

The college is supported by the village college ethos and the values of Meridian Trust, described by Ofsted as: 'an absolute belief that every child matters'.



Our Vision and Values

At The Link, we provide a nurturing and inclusive learning environment where every student feels valued, supported, and inspired to reach their full potential. Our holistic approach fosters confidence, skills, and a clear path to a brighter future. We put students at the heart of everything we do, ensuring learning starts from where they are and celebrating their superpowers.

ACHIEVEMENT FOR ALL



We are committed to the individual achievement of every student and recognise the flexibility and rigor – in terms of the curriculum, support, resources and monitoring required to make this happen.

VALUE OUR PEOPLE



We will be uncompromising in our commitment to know and value every Pupil and support them to achieve in the widest sense. This commitment underpins all aspects of all we will do.

A HIGH-QUALITY LEARNING ENVIRONMENT



We recognize the importance of a supportive learning environment. Committed to maintaining The Link's state-of-the-art facilities, we provide engaging, varied classroom experiences that motivate students. Beyond the classroom, we ensure a safe, happy space where students feel inspired and supported to learn.

PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE



We will promote a 'can-do' attitude, fostering continuous improvement and encouraging students to become as independent as possible. The Link will systematically compare its practices with top-performing schools to inspire ambition, enhance organization, and drive ongoing improvement.

EXTENDING THE BOUNDARIES OF LEARNING



We understand that learning does not just take place in the classroom. We want to challenge our students to try new things and experiences, to help them find what skills and interests they have.



Our Curriculum My Journey

At The Martin Bacon Academy, children and young people (pupils) will be placed at the centre of all we do. This is built around a core offer based on our four pathways to success and the adaptations required to ensure a personalised curriculum.

The ethos of our Academy; 'Be Kind, Be Curious, Be Hardworking', underpins our expectation that we identify, develop and celebrate every individual's qualities, making sure that we plan from where the learner is.

An Individuals curriculum, known as 'My Journey', will be delivered through our pathways approach and centre on what we know about them, what they want and need, and the knowledge, visions and priorities of parents, carers and other professionals.

Being in a unique situation as a new specialist provision, and sharing a site with a mainstream school, we pride ourselves in being able to offer pupils a coherent curriculum which meets their diverse individual needs; academic, emotional, social, communicational, interactional and physical. This may include aspects of work across both schools, allowing all young people to draw from and contribute to the wider learning of all students and staff.

My Future

This integrated curriculum approach will enable pupils to develop the skills or knowledge they require to enjoy the best possible outcomes. Pupils will be effectively prepared for an adult life where they can be happy, communicate as well as they can, and be as independent as possible.

My Outcomes

At MBA we will develop and celebrate each individual's qualities. We make sure we plan from where the learner is, knowing that if we look & listen carefully enough, they will show us. This information, alongside EHC plans, will inform outcome setting.

My Family

At MBA we know that working with families as partners is key. Each individual's curriculum will be based on what we know about them, what they want and need, and the knowledge, visions and priorities of parents and carers. We also recognise that sibling relationships are very important and value these as well.

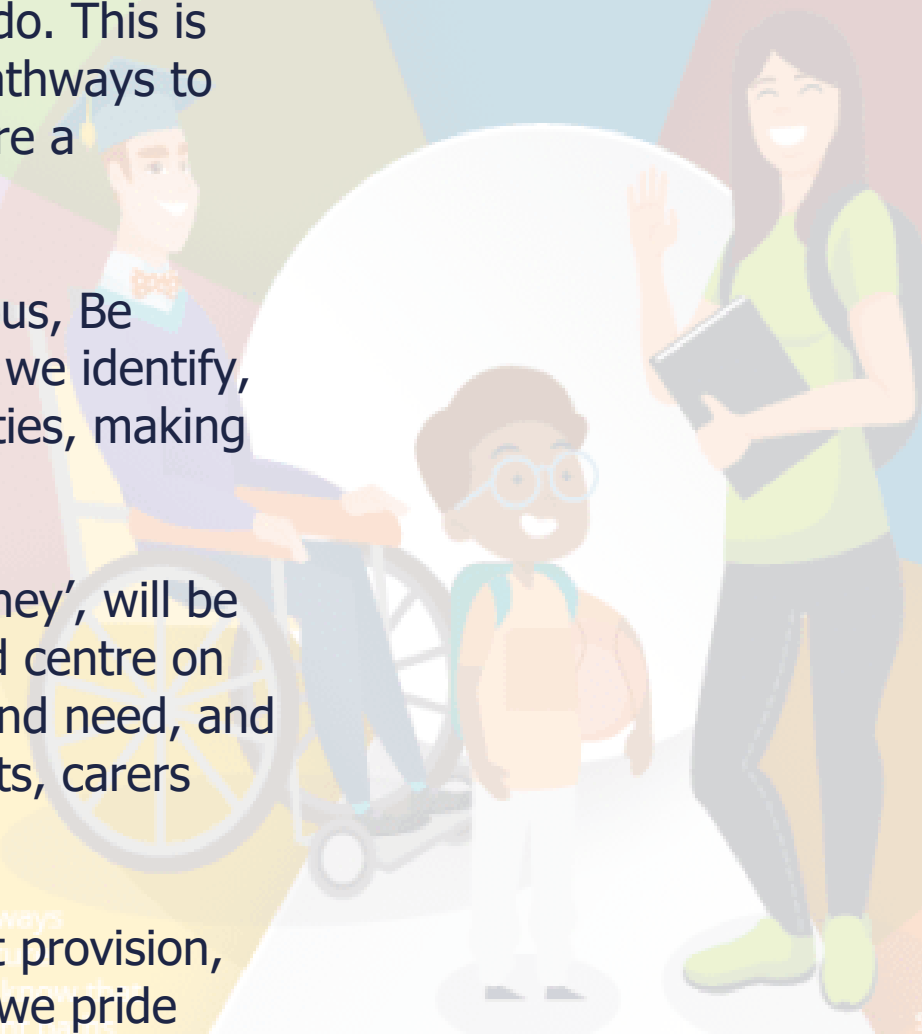
My Pledge

Underpinning this integrated curriculum approach are our Trust Pledges and the '99 things to do before I'm 15¾'. These programmes support a balanced range of stimulating contexts for learning through different experiences, themes and settings.

My Progress

We track progress in different ways

MY JOURNEY:
a holistic, integrated
curriculum approach



Our curriculum - Pioneer pathway

Learners will follow the National Curriculum, building on from the knowledge, skills and understanding previously experienced across learning opportunities. Learners access subject specific learning.

Our formal curriculum is delivered primarily through structured learning activities that are both fun and engaging taught by subject specialists from Martin Bacon Academy and Swavesey Village College.

Learners will achieve qualifications and accreditations that will support them to move onto college, apprenticeships or employment.

Core subjects and the tutor programme will be delivered by MBA staff in The Link and foundation subjects delivered by Swavesey Village College staff within the mainstream school.

Pioneer learners will have PLG outcomes linked to their EHCP, which will be supported by access to a broad and balanced curriculum.

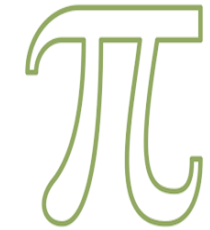
KS3

Core
@ The Link

Foundation subjects
@ Swavesey Village College



English



Maths



Science



PLG



Learning for
Life



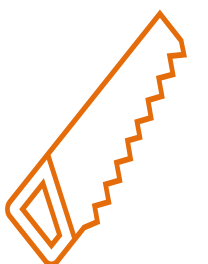
Languages



Drama



Art



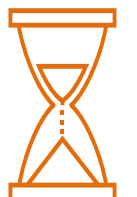
DT



PE



Computing



History



Music



Dance



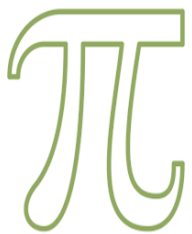
Geography



Ethics



English



Maths



Science



PLG



**Learning for
Life**



PE

Compulsory

KS4

All students in KS4 work towards external examinations and accreditations across a range of subjects.

Students in Years 9 to 11 have some degree of choice but all students will study:

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- Physical Education
- Learning for Life
- Employability

Guided Choices



Creative & Performing Arts



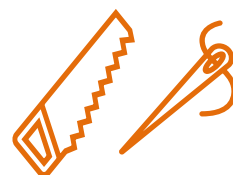
Humanities



Languages



**Computer
Science**



**Design &
Technology**



**PE &
Sport**



**Hair &
Beauty**



**Hospitality &
Catering**

There will also be a number of guided choices designed to give a good range of choices and sound careers and further education progression. Students can choose from subjects such as:

- Humanities (History, Geography)
- Creative & Performing Arts (Art, Drama, Media Studies, Music)
- Humanities (Business Studies, Child Development, Health and Social Care)
- Physical Education
- Design and Technology (Product Design, Engineering, DT, Construction)
- iMedia
- Sport
- Hospitality and Catering
- Hair and Beauty

Admissions

The Link offers the opportunity to access a mainstream and specialist setting.

Profile of need

Students will meet our profile of need, in addition to an observation of them within their educational setting, to confirm we are the most suitable provision. Profile of need:

- An Education, Health and Care Plan
- Student's working a maximum of no more than 3 years behind their chronological age
- Primary needs in Cognition and Learning and/or Communication & Interaction.
- Will access a minimum of 40% in the mainstream with the rest of their time spent within The Link.

Open Events

We understand how important it is for families to see the environment in which their child will access their education.

We have the opportunity for prospective families to tour the school and meet the team, at one of our three open events held throughout the academic year.

An expression of interest can be submitted via the QR code. A member of the team, will then advise of the next available tour and invite you to our open event.

Communication regarding the event, will be communicated 4 weeks in advance of the date, as to whether or not you would still like to attend.

How to apply

Families who would like to apply for The Link, will need to request a consultation by their caseworker.

This would typically be through the phase transfer annual review, requesting The Link to be named.

On receipt of a consult, we will review the paperwork submitted and establish if we would be a suitable placement.

If we feel that we could meet your child's educational needs, we will contact your child's primary setting to organise an observation. We will request the primary setting to inform you of this observation taking place.

Following observation, we will write to the LA to confirm if we are able to meet need or not.

If the LA agree to the placement, we will be named on your child's EHCP.

If you'd like to find out more about The Link before requesting a consultation to be sent, please get in touch with us:
thelinkoffice@martinbacon.academy – we'd be really happy to answer your questions.



"The teachers and staff at the Link school provide unwavering support to parents through clear communication, proactive guidance and support and a deep respect for each family's and young person's journey through education."

Parent of current pupil

Extending the Boundaries to Learning

PLEDGES

We all understand that learning does not just take place in the classroom. We want to challenge our students to try new things and experiences, to help them find what skills and interests they have.

99 Things

Our staff have produced the following list to challenge our students to experience a wider range of experiences.

How many of the activities on the list can you tick off and say that you have done?

99 THINGS TO DO BEFORE YOU'RE 15³/₄

 Northstowe
Martin Bacon Academy

1. Climb a tree	34. Watch a live performance	67. Identify 5 different trees
2. Roll down a hill	35. Play an instrument	68. Identify 5 different birds
3. Skim a stone	36. Read a newspaper	69. Collect shells
4. Go out in the rain	37. Watch the news	70. Lead an activity
5. Eat fruit/vegetables straight from a tree	38. Visit a Cambridge college	71. Play a boardgame
6. Catch a fish with a net	39. Play beach games	72. Call an owl
7. Hunt for treasure on the beach	40. Visit a foreign country	73. Fly a kite
8. Play conkers	41. Go star gazing	74. Canoeing
9. Feed an animal from your hand	42. Take a photo of nature	75. Cook a meal
10. Have a sit-down meal (out)	43. Hold a scary animal	76. Wash a car
11. Open a bank account	44. Visit a farm	77. Go bird watching
12. Go on a long bike ride	45. Explore in bare feet	78. Go punting
13. Play in a competitive game of sport	46. Hunt for fossils and bones	79. Visit a zoo
14. Perform in front of a crowd	47. Play a card game	80. Go geocaching
15. Play 3 different sports	48. Play a game of tidly winks	81. Visit an arcade
16. Go on the guided busway	49. Listen to live music	82. Build a raft
17. Check out crazy animals in a rock pool	50. Know basic first aid	83. Bake a cake
18. Go to the beach	51. Have your work displayed	84. Build a sandcastle
19. Try rock climbing	52. Wash up by hand	85. Climb a hill
20. Cook on a campfire	53. Sing around a campfire	86. Make origami
21. Eat fish and chips by the sea	54. Go tobogganing	87. Build a den
22. Read and orientate a map	55. Send a letter in a post-box	88. Make a daisy chain
23. Play in the snow	56. Put up a tent	89. Create some wall art
24. Set up a snail race	57. Plant it, grow it, eat it	90. Paint with hands and feet
25. Play pooh sticks	58. Wander through the woods	91. Make something from clay
26. Play in waves	59. Camp out at night	92. Draw a sculpture
27. Make a trail with sticks	60. Bury someone in the sand	93. Build a rocket
28. Make a mud pie	61. Hunt for bugs	94. Design and make something
29. Dam a stream	62. Find some frogspawn	95. Make a grass trumpet
30. Light a fire without matches	63. Catch a falling leaf	96. Make a home for a wild animal
31. Listen to classical music	64. Track wild animals	97. Make your own lunch
32. Visit a museum	65. Catch a crab/sea star	98. Make a cup of tea
33. Watch a film at a cinema	66. Experience nature at night	99. Watch a show in a theatre

 Meridian
Trust



Participation



Leadership



Excellence



Diversity



Giving



ENVIRONMENT



SERVICE

In all Meridian Trust schools the trust has developed and invested in a simple but broad set of Academy PLEDGES that students are expected to complete during the course of their time at the academy.

At The Link our Pledges are tailored to each pupil's interests. Pupils who have siblings who attend another Meridian Trust school will be able to share their pledges success in the same way with equal reward.

PLEDGES is an awards system which offers students a range of opportunities that enhance their learning and development. It is an expectation of every pupil to complete their PLEDGES during their time at The Link.

The PLEDGES system aims to encourage and support many important qualities in students, such as responsibility, leadership, and citizenship, all of which are crucial for ensuring pupils are ready for the next stage in their education, training or employment and have brighter futures.

Care, Guidance and Support

Learners will follow the National Curriculum, building on from the knowledge, skills and understanding previously experienced across learning opportunities. Learners access subject specific learning.

Every child is known, valued and supported

Our student-centered approach through our 'My Journey' curriculum; ensures all staff know the student's they work with extremely well, and we allow staff to dedicate additional time to building relationships founded on trust and support.

Daily tutor time

A dedicated Link tutor team will meet with their tutor group every day. The sessions are used as opportunities to check in with individual; assist concerns or worries; help with organizational support, provide time to chat with peers and a trusted adult.

Experienced staff team

MBA's exceptional pastoral and safeguarding framework means we hold the systems, expertise and dedicated staff team to provide the foundation for the full range of pastoral support necessary to look after every young person at The Link.

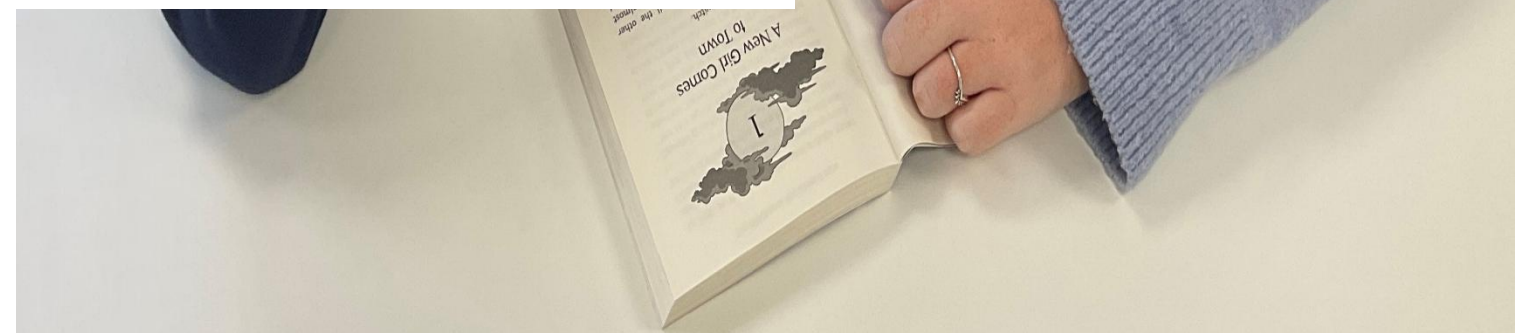
Our multi-disciplinary Team

Looking after student wellbeing is our number one priority: our MDT comprises of a range of staff with specialisms in pastoral care, who oversee our internal and external wellbeing support. Support also extends to families, with support accessing specialist services.



Therapeutic Thinking

We have a therapeutic approach to understanding the behaviour of our pupils and understand that all behaviour is a communication. Our approach is centred around what we do for the young pupil, not what we do to them and we do our best to give them the tools to succeed.



Pupils "develop close, trusting relationships with adults who know them very well" which means they "feel safe and secure. Ofsted 2024

Valuing People Sense of identity

Our House system is at the heart of our commitment to ensure that 'Every child is known, valued and supported'. This system ensures that parents and families feel supported through every stage of their child's education.

The House System

The Link will be organised into four 'Houses' each of which will consist of 10 students and 3 – 4 staff. Each house has a distinct identity but applies common structures and systems.



Be Kind

Be Curious

Be Hardworking

Our School Values of being Kind, Curious and Hardworking provide the pillars that our community is built around, and help us work towards achieving the vision we have for our students.

Vertical Tutoring

The mixed aged tutor group system is known as Vertical Tutoring. Each tutor group will have a mixture of students from Years 7-11. The Vertical Tutoring system has many benefits, fostering a family spirit where older students offer guidance and provide support to younger students. It also ensures students have a sense of the whole school picture as the younger students see the older ones preparing for work experience, subject choices and important examinations.

The tutors will follow the students from their first few days to their last at The Link. This allows them to easily build great relationships

with students and their families and ensure they receive the support they need. Each tutor will make regular contact with a child's family in the year to discuss progress and address any concerns.

An encouraging House ethos for students to strive in is developed and strengthened by healthy competition. Students will have the opportunity to compete alongside their House peers in a variety of activities in order to claim victory and win the prestigious House Cup.

Working in Partnership

We understand the importance of working in partnership with families, external professionals and any other appropriate services to ensure the best outcomes for pupils.

Families

At The Link, we believe that working in partnership with families is key to helping every child reach their full potential. We value open communication and collaboration, ensuring that parents and carers are actively involved in their child's learning journey.

By working together, we can better understand each child's strengths, needs, and goals, creating a consistent and supportive environment both at home and in school.

We regularly share progress, provide resources, and welcome input from families, making sure that every child has the best possible opportunities to succeed.

Martin Bacon Academy

We work closely with Martin Bacon Academy to support pupils at The Link. Through this collaboration, we can access specialist intervention spaces such as hydrotherapy and work with the MDT team, providing pupils with resources and support beyond the ordinary curriculum. This partnership ensures a tailored, enriching education that promotes independence, confidence, and success.

Swavesey Village College

We are proud to partner with Swavesey Village College to support our pupils access a bespoke curriculum. Judged to be Outstanding by Ofsted in June 2024, and as a school community they are committed to take Swavesey Village College 'beyond outstanding' to ensure it delivers a rich and vibrant education experience for all of their students.



The school has also replicated its approach in a small, specialist provision at a local secondary school within the same trust. This fosters a strong working relationship between the secondary and the special school and provides valuable support to the pupils who attend.

Ofsted 2024.



Get in touch

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