



Principal  
**Caroline  
Vernon**

Top character  
qualities developed

- Empath
- Confidence
- Tolerance and respect
- Friendliness and forming friendships
- Conscientiousness, curiosity and focus



# Victoria Academy

REGION Cumbria  
 TYPE Primary Academy  
 STUDENTS 220 pupils aged 7-11

For many years our school's academic priorities have been underpinned by collaborative community learning but **truly integrated social action has come, to a large extent, from participation in the 'Furness Future Leaders Academy'**. The brainchild of a local MP, it meets a recognised need for long-term, sustainable projects that support young people to reach their full potential and benefit themselves, their communities and local businesses.

'Furness Future Leaders Academy' develops academic ability, life skills and aspiration through a fun-packed three week programme of off-site and on-site learning, team building and outdoor adventures. The Community Action Challenge, for example, asks the students to select a worthy local cause and teaches them to plan effective campaigns and lead projects. **The children are in the driving seat and during the programme every child has the opportunity to develop as a leader.**

Staff, graduates and apprentices from the main supporting companies (who fund much of the programme) work alongside educational facilitators to deliver

the programme, so the children learn with and from experts from the business sector. **The relationship between schools, businesses and the local community is strong here and the 'Future Leaders Academy' shows community really working together for future economic success.** The project's focus on youth social action raises our young people's awareness to the positive difference they can make in our community.

If we want to inspire a new generation of leaders we need to increase their skills and raise aspiration much earlier than we have been doing. In school, we use a student leadership model called L4L (Learning for Life) and our pupils have flourished through this model.. **The Future Leaders Academy model of 'I,We, Planet' extends leadership into a community and global context, developing leadership thinking that can have wider impact and benefit.** We subscribe to the maxim: "We are all leaders".



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The students have been engaged, inquisitive, communicative, considerate and polite - all key skills for preparing for life in a workplace. The children receive praise from all who come into contact with them; they are outstanding. There is hard evidence that this work has real outcomes.

**Jonathan Lee, Managing  
Director, CN Media Group**