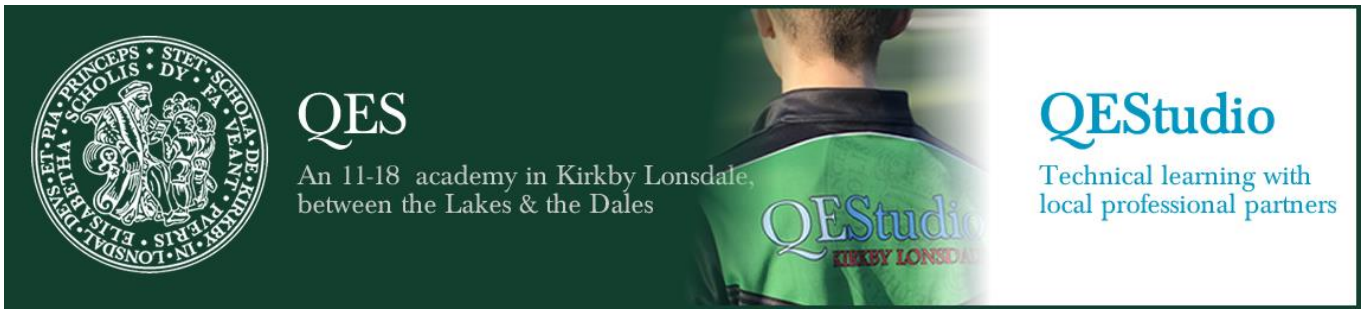


QES & QEStudio
Introduction

Queen Elizabeth School, Kirkby Lonsdale, is an 11-18, co-ed, non-denominational, all-ability school with a sister school, QEStudio, due to move into its own new buildings in September 2019. We serve a large, prosperous and beautiful area of South Lakeland, North Yorkshire and North Lancashire with pupils drawn from as far away as Sedbergh, Clapham, Lancaster, Silverdale and Kendal. Although rural we are only 6 miles from the M6 and twenty minutes from a main West Coast train station which promotes easy access and helps explain the outward-looking vibrancy of Kirkby Lonsdale.

QES has a fine tradition of "scholarship and care" dating back over 400 years, with our present popularity founded upon high quality teaching and learning, a broad and imaginative curriculum geared to individuals, excellent results, impressive standards of care and a reputation for a friendly, relaxed yet purposeful atmosphere. Most significantly, we are founded on ten core values which underpin and inform the life and work of our community. We are committed to a broad education in the deepest sense and with a strong emphasis on personal development. That said, we expect students of all abilities and categories to achieve in the top 25% nationally and our achievements at GCSE and A Level have consistently demonstrated that the majority do.

We have been considered an 'outstanding' school by Ofsted for many years with the top rating in all categories; our enduring motivation, though, is to make limitless progress beyond that benchmark. Formerly we had specialisms in the Performing Arts, Languages and as a Training School. Latterly we became one of the first Teaching Schools. It is fair to say that QES is strong in all areas and, as well as being a top school academically, the astonishing music, dance and drama produced is of national standard. In both boys' and girls' sport we have enviable success and aim to compete with schools of all types across the region, nationally and even internationally. QES became an Academy in December 2010 and continues to be part of the well-established and highly regarded South Lakes Federation.

In September QES developed as the Lunesdale Learning Trust to incorporate a new Free School, the QEStudio, providing high quality professional, technical and vocational learning to 300 14-18 year-olds. This is an innovative and exciting aspect of our provision in Key Stage 4 and 5; currently co-located as we await the new bespoke building, it is proving to be extremely popular with pupils and parents.

Our Schools have a mix of established staff and many more recently arrived. Turnover is exceptionally low; levels of expertise, as well as morale, are high. Teachers enjoy very positive relationships with pupils and are committed to providing not only excellent teaching but also a full range of extracurricular activities. Our Support staff are excellent – talented and highly committed!

We enjoy a positive relationship with the local community and the PTA is flourishing. The Trustees of the new MAT and the Governors of QES and QEStudio are a highly professional body, owning the land and property and employing staff directly. Over the years we have developed a self-managing, confident and independent culture while preserving strong links with neighbouring schools and the LA. Relationships here are excellent; we have a strong community spirit and a common sense of purpose. Many visitors feel there is a very special atmosphere.

Our site, on the edge of the picturesque market town of Kirkby Lonsdale, is particularly attractive and the characterful buildings show evidence of additional phases from the 1840s to the present day. Since 1996 the School has completed a number of successive high-quality building projects and the site is striking, attractive, colourful, bright and civilised. Landscaping projects have given form, shape and coherence to the site adding avenues, courtyards, gardens and an amphitheatre. New Design Technology and a new indoor PE accommodation were recently completed alongside a considerable development of the 'Main School' and, of course, the emergence of the new school. It's a lovely place to learn.

Someone coming to work here, as well as enjoying the advantages of the natural environment, can expect the opportunity to encounter pleasant, amenable, motivated students and friendly supportive colleagues and will be given every opportunity to pursue his/her professional development while being encouraged to perform to the highest standards.