



Teesdale School & Sixth Form

2020 Prospectus



AN **OUTSTANDING**
SCHOOL WITH
TRADITIONAL VALUES

WELCOME to Teesdale School



Nestled in Barnard Castle in the spectacular Teesdale countryside and imprinted with the historic values of the Dales Teesdale School is a place where traditional values of kindness, respect and hard work take precedence.

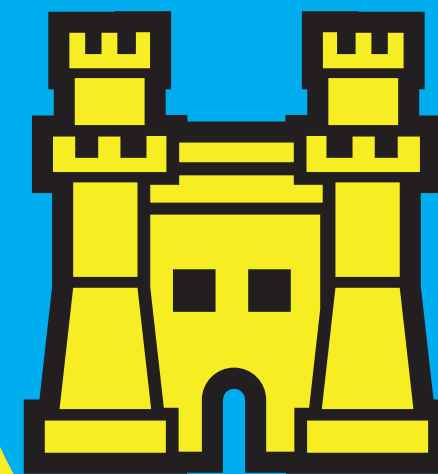
Our school teaches 600 children, all of whom we know individually. We know not just their progress and grades, we take pride in knowing who they are; their aspirations, ideas, worries, talents and dreams. By understanding not just what our students can do, but who our students are, we can truly bring out the best in them, helping to champion their ambitions and nurture their talents.

Two years ago we embarked on a new path as we joined the North East Learning Trust. The Trust share our ambitions for students and bring with them experience

and expertise to help us secure 'excellence for every child every day' - a vision that is commonly shared by all schools in the Trust.

We understand that choosing a school for your child is one of the most important decisions you will make. The following pages seek to capture the essence of our school and a visit will confirm what a special place it really is.

Clare Ellis
Headteacher





Three simple values we live by...

INSPIRING OTHERS

Learning is best when students are inspired. Inspiration at Teesdale School takes many forms, from exciting and imaginative teaching and learning to extra-curricular opportunities in sport and the arts, international visits and exchanges and prestigious internships. There is a comprehensive

package of enrichment activities which encourage students to broaden their horizons and aim high.

Moreover, **we expect our young people to inspire others** as prefects, role models or even as head boy or head girl.

WORKING TOGETHER

Our school community is built on collaboration. Older students mentor younger ones, fostering an ethos of peer support and guidance. Parents are delighted at how quickly this helps Year 7 students integrate into the school and feel at home.

Our traditional house system nurtures a sense of identity and belonging and encourages healthy competition amongst students. The houses, Austen,

Clerk-Maxwell, Shakespeare and Franklin, are also involved in charity work, enabling students to develop compassion and responsibility and further engage with their local community.

We also work closely with local primary schools to ensure that all children are supported with transition into secondary school through one-to-one visits and close links with our primary transition coordinator.

CELEBRATING ACHIEVEMENT

Celebration at Teesdale School means **encouraging students to value themselves and each other.** Lapel badges are awarded for excellent achievement within subjects and Laurea Certificates can be achieved

for hard work and effort. Celebration assemblies are also held to reward engagement in learning and fulfilling our high expectations of attendance, behaviour and conduct.

PERFORMANCE & ACHIEVEMENTS

Students at Teesdale have the opportunity to excel academically as well as fulfilling their potential in sport, music and the arts. A strong emphasis on achievement, balanced with opportunities to participate in our competitive rugby, cricket and football teams and outstanding shows, inspires students to aim high.

Exam results

Our exam results are consistently strong. In 2018, our GCSE results placed us with the top schools in County Durham and the North East of England.

In 2018, a staggering 77 grade 9s were achieved with 26 of these in English and maths (above A* under the old grading system). This equates to 12% of all grades; huge compared to 4% of grade 9s achieved nationally. There were 171 grades at 8s and above (which is equivalent to 20% of grades at A* and above). A massive third

of all grades were 7 or above (Grade A and above).

An impressive 59% of students reached grade 5 or above in English and maths. This is a 10% improvement on last year and 20% above the national average. 77% reached grade 4 or above in English and maths, the old equivalent of C and above.

Able and talented

High performing students are given every opportunity to achieve the very top results through increased challenge and access to higher learning opportunities. These include

collaborations with local academics, debating, after school clubs and unique enrichment activities including a recent visit to the European Parliament, a fully funded cross-curricular project in Martinique (Caribbean island), the annual Poetry by Heart competition and our Carnegie Medal literature prize club.

Our pursuit of excellence is epitomised by two students who swept the board with grade 9s in all subjects and by two others who achieved an amazing 8 grade 9s and a grade 8 each.

The aspirational culture engendered in the school ensures that pupils work hard and apply themselves consistently. Pupils are proud of their work and of their achievements.”

Ofsted 2019



ROUNDED EXPERIENCES

We understand that education is about much more than academic success and we want to ensure your child can flourish.

Creative license

Our students thrive on the creative opportunities our artistic teachers offer them. From taking part in our annual plays and shows to musical tuition, choir, school bands, art, computing and DT clubs, students here have every opportunity to enthusiastically dance, act, sing, play, draw, paint, photograph, design, cook, and stitch their way to success. In a recent Poetry by Heart competition on Radio 4, Teesdale students were crowned regional champions and came third nationally.

Sporting success

Being active comes naturally to our young sportsmen and women at Teesdale School and this dedication and enthusiasm often

translates into silverware.

Our students' recent achievements include: finishing in the top three in the U16 south west Durham netball league, two girls playing district level rugby, one girl selected for county football, four qualifiers for the district cross country squad, and representation at county athletics by a further two students in sprinting and javelin. We also had 2nd place podiums in the School Games girls' mountain bike finals. Teesdale School had team representation at several other local and county competitions and tournaments including cricket, rounders, netball and rugby

International connections

Our International School Award is a public recognition of the many

ways our school reaches out to students of different cultures. It also represents our commitment to ensuring our students can take their place in the world as global citizens.

Our international focus gives children unique opportunities to connect with their peers in other countries through trips and projects, quite literally expanding their horizons and world-view. Our connecting classrooms project with students in Pakistan, WWI battlefields project with students in France and Germany, language trips to France, Spain and Berlin and skiing trips have all been recent highlights.

Teesdale School supported me during every challenge I faced with **compassion and understanding**, both academically and with my extra-curricular activities.

At every moment **I felt comfortable and confident in reaching my potential.**

I cannot thank the school enough for helping me become the determined person I am today."

Nina Holguin, Year 13 student

WHAT OUR TEACHERS THINK MAKES TEESDALE SPECIAL...

“Within the first week of teaching I was struck by how passionate and engaged the students are. **They are a real pleasure to work with.**”

Miss Theaker

“We are able to share our **passion for our subjects** and inspire them to **love it too!**”

Miss Donnelly

“I am extremely proud of the achievements of our students in sport. Our academic results in sports courses for all students are testament to the **hard work** our students put into this area of their school life. Our students are also flourishing on the sports field - we have representation from participation through to district, county and national levels in a wide range of sports from football, athletics, cross country, cricket, netball and skiing.”

Mrs Brennan

I never cease to be amazed by the incredible talent of our students and the wonderfully generous and humble way that they share this with those around them. I am really proud and **privileged to work with so many inspiring young people.**”

Dr Henderson

“I am immensely proud of how inclusive our department is; all students who wish to take part in musical enrichment are welcome. Our vision is for Teesdale School Music Department to be a vibrant and exciting centre of musical excellence at the heart of a community so rich in musical and cultural heritage –
we have big plans for the coming year and for the future!”

Mrs McGrath

Proud to work here.”

Mr Pilling

“Teesdale School is **like a family**; we get to know our students really, really well. We know where their challenges and difficulties are so we are prepared and able to support them, just like a parent would.”

Mrs Bissicks

“A real **sense of community**; everyone working together towards a common purpose”

Ms Harris

“Teesdale School is a place where teaching staff are **supported** and nurtured so that we can extend that to our students”

Miss Todd

“Working in Teesdale School allows me to be part of a community. I feel proud to watch students grow in independence and confidence.”

Mrs Bell

THE TEESDALE EXPERIENCE

Ask anyone to list the most important things in life and they will undoubtedly say family. At Teesdale School we see ourselves as an extension of family and ensure that children are known and treated with warmth and kindness.

As a parent or carer, you want your child to thrive so we offer a broad and balanced curriculum designed to challenge and support students' personal growth and academic success.

With a team of excellent specialist staff a rigorous approach to high quality learning takes place in all classrooms. We personalise learning at a pace that is right for each child, with increasing independence as they progress through school. We aim to give students a unique and memorable experience which fosters personal growth and ambition as well as the development of skills and dispositions necessary for young people to thrive as adults. At

the core of this experience lies inspirational teaching and learning and nurturing high quality relationships.

We are proud to be able to offer a varied curriculum to encourage excellence in both academic and vocational subjects. We have recently re-introduced design technology, religious education and food technology and built a photography dark room to allow us to re-introduce photography. All students learn two languages from Year 7 - French and Spanish. We also believe strongly in excellence in the performing arts, music and sports and are rapidly developing and equipping these subjects so that students can enjoy the best possible

experience and opportunities. We have introduced a new course in 'Land Based' studies run by staff from the Houghall Agricultural campus which is part of East Durham College.

Staff are committed to high quality teaching and learning that fosters inspiration, celebration and collaboration. Staff plan and deliver lessons that provoke students' intellectual curiosity, challenge them academically and give them opportunities to work independently and with others. In return, students are enthusiastic about learning and keen to expand their knowledge and skills by working hard.



**We have great
aspirations at
Teesdale School**

which are now becoming a reality. All our staff are determined to provide an outstanding education for all our students to give them the best possible future."

Dr Janice Gorlach, Executive Headteacher



North East
Learning Trust

Supported by the North East Learning Trust

On 1 September 2016, Teesdale School joined the North East Learning Trust, a highly successful multi-academy education Trust which spans the region.

The Trust's vision is simple and shared by all schools who join the family; that 'every child experiences excellence every day'.

The Trust's founding school, The Academy at Shotton Hall, has achieved great success for their children by securing some of the best outcomes in the country. In 2017 the school achieved some of the best GCSE results in County Durham and they have also been awarded two consecutive outstanding judgments from Ofsted. They have also been designated as a national research school, one of just 23 in the country.

Shotton Hall is also a National Teaching School training the next generation of teachers and ensuring the highest standards of teaching

are instilled from the outset. This means the Trust can access a steady stream of consistently high quality staff to meet workforce needs across its schools.

Shotton Hall is also one of twelve national Research Schools and so all our staff have access to the latest in education research which they use to improve the learning experience of our pupils.

Joining the Trust Teesdale School is able to access outstanding leaders who are involved in the regional and national development of education. The Trust CEO sits on the Regional Schools Commissioning Board and the CEO and Deputy CEOs are all National Leaders of Education.

BIG THINGS HAVE BEEN HAPPENING

New uniform

In September 2017, we introduced a brand new school uniform. Our polished new look represents our high aspirations for the school and enhances the pride we have in our school community.

School makeover

In 2017, we spent over £100,000 on a whole-school makeover, which has left many areas of the building completely transformed! The changes have included improvements to our outside spaces with new paving and grassed areas, as well as big changes to the interior including new furniture and equipment, freshly decorated classrooms and a brand new library space. Our makeover was finished off with the installation of vibrant and inspirational graphic wall designs that showcase learning ideas and our new houses. In 2018, another £340,000 has been invested in the school. New modern toilets have been built and work is soon commencing on refurbishment of the main hall and a brand new outdoor sports facility.

Improved transport links

We have worked in partnership with the local council and bus companies to make Teesdale School more easily accessible to students. This includes changes to the contract and service buses, as well as two new routes from Darlington and Hamsterley.

Main routes to Teesdale School run from Middleton in Teesdale, Langdon Beck, Thornberry Cottage, Wackerfield, Cotherstone, Hamsterley, Bishop Auckland, West Auckland, Staindrop, Darlington and Gainford, Startforth and Bowes. Many of these routes have been extended to meet increased demand and can be extended further.

Teesdale School will also pay for bus passes for students who are not eligible for a bus pass but who are supported by the pupil premium.

The makeover hasn't just transformed the look of the school, it's transformed **the entire FEEL of the school.**

Andrew Crosby, NELT





A COMMUNITY THAT CARES

Pastoral support

Our high quality pastoral provision is pivotal in ensuring that all students are well supported and able to learn. We focus on developing resilience, confidence and providing high quality personal development for every child through a wide network of staff support including tutors, heads of year, key stage directors and our special educational needs coordinator. We also have our Laurea Centre, which is dedicated to providing targeted support and intervention that includes a counsellor on site for one day a week to support individuals and groups of students.

From time to time, everyone needs a helping hand. At Teesdale School we have a highly experienced

pastoral team and support system that gives every student access to care, advice and guidance when they need it. From extra academic support, to dealing with any worries or personal problems, we have the right people in place to help every child through difficult times.

Community spirit

Teesdale School has, and always will be, at the heart of the thriving Barnard Castle community. We are proud to have a strong connection with our local Rotary Club and we have received a prestigious presidential citation from Rotary International for students' work in supporting local community events and raising money for projects in the developing world.

Positive relationships are prompted through all aspects of the school through tutor groups, the house system, peer mentors and prefects. Everyone is there to make sure **everyone is valued.**

Alistair French, Assistant Headteacher



Education is the
most powerful
weapon which you can use to
change the world.

Nelson Mandela

PREPARING THE **LEADERS OF THE FUTURE**

The vision for our sixth form is to prepare students to change the world in the broadest sense, to leave with the qualifications to make a real difference in their chosen area of study and career.

We also believe they should positively impact upon their own world. We encourage students to prepare for their future whilst shaping the local community here and now. We want our sixth form to inspire at the heart of the Dale as a place of academic excellence, creativity and generosity of spirit.

The small size of the sixth form make the whole experience so **more personal**. You can tell that **the teachers really care about each student.**

Holly Hughes, Year 12

I stayed at Teesdale because **I trust the teachers;** they are **helpful and supportive** and have my best interests at heart

Caitlin Rudge, Year 12



Teesdale School and Sixth Form

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Learning Trust**