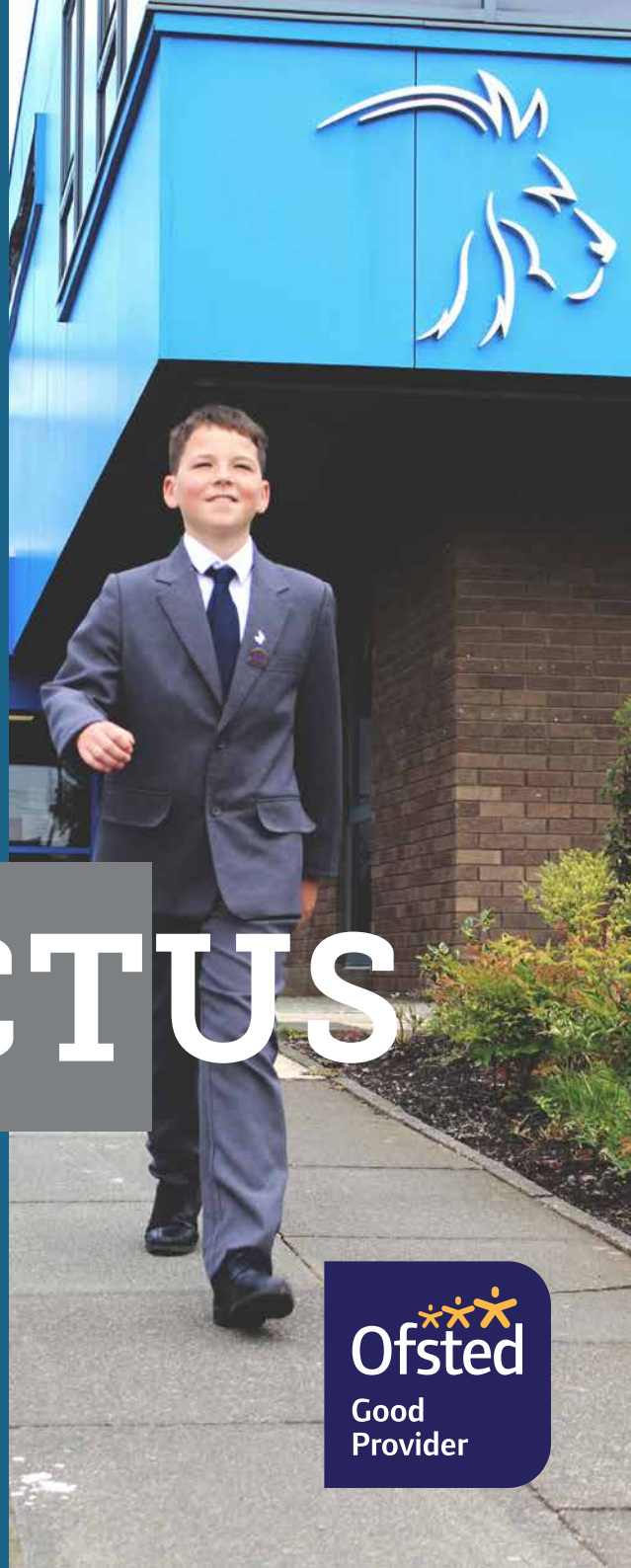




# PROSPECTUS

2023/24



# Welcome From Our Head

It is my absolute pleasure to introduce you to Norham High School. This school has a long history of being at the centre of its community, and it is that sense of community which encouraged me to join the school as Headteacher in 2019. In that short time, we have taken the school on an immense journey. Our staff, pupils and parents/carers all say that the atmosphere at our school is caring, supportive, challenging and fun. Our pupils love being here!



Ofsted officially recognised the school as Good in 2022, acknowledging the strong quality of education, curriculum and pastoral support we provide for our children. The staff at Norham High School strive exceptionally hard to get the best outcomes for our pupils, and I am proud to see that work be recognised by officials and the wider community. This work continues to this day as we are determined to secure an excellent education for all of our young people.

Continuing to get to know the parents and carers within our community is a huge pleasure for me, which is why I would like to extend a warm invitation to anyone who would like to visit us to meet the team and I. Feel free to pop in for a coffee, a tour, or even just a quick meeting with me to learn more about our wonderful pupils and school.

*Mr Conway*



# Norham High School



PRIDE

DETERMINATION

STRENGTH

When Norham High School first opened its doors in 1973, the pupils moving from their old home on Hawkeys Lane in North Shields carried their old motto with them. SOLA NOBILITAS VIRTUS, meaning nobility is the only virtue. Of course this is something to be very proud of, and entirely appropriate for the educational world of the 1970s. However, the world has changed substantially since 1973. We have changed, too, yet the nobility of those early days is still integral to our new school emblem.

Our pupils wear a lion on their uniform as a symbol of our school, its ethos and its ambition. We are a loyal and proud family who work together for the good of one another and we have pride in the work that we do.

Both staff and pupils show determination in every aspect of their work - only the best will do.

As a staff team, we are determined to provide an excellent, broad curriculum for our pupils that will give them opportunities to excel in life. Our pupils - your children - will themselves build a sense of determination and resolve to achieve ambitious goals throughout their school career, and beyond, as they enter further education and the world of work.

We find strength in each other, but also in ourselves. The efficacy that will lead to success is instilled in our pupils from the day they arrive at our school, wearing our lion. Strength of character - the strength to succeed, to endure, to care for one another when times are hard, and to overcome is what makes Norham High School pupils unique.

# Academia

An excellent curriculum is one that is ambitious and broad enough to offer every child the opportunity to succeed. Our subjects are organised into Curriculum Families, where groups of subjects work together to share best practice and develop truly innovative Teaching & Learning for our pupils. Up to 14 subjects will be studied in Key Stage 3, learning the best of what has been thought and said. They will deepen their understanding of the world around them.

At Key Stage 4, pupils will continue to study many of these exciting subjects, but can also opt into specific courses to become specialists in fields that they are passionate about.

To ensure our curriculum delivers on its ambition, all of our teachers work with the Teaching & Learning Team at our school. These staff explore research to learn about new, effective methods of teaching children in the best possible way. By sharing this with teachers to ensure learning is as engaging and exciting as possible, this team makes sure that all of our pupils are getting the very best teaching, each and every day.





# Pastoral Matters

Our approach is centred on promoting a safe and supportive learning environment alongside appropriate and specialist care for the emotional development and well-being of all of our young people. We believe that well-being is a whole school focus, underpinning everything we do. We want our pupils to be happy, healthy, confident and curious individuals, both in and outside of the classroom environment.

We have a skilled team of staff with vast experience to meet the needs of our young people, including a school counsellor, learning mentors, and a Head Of Year for each of our year groups. Our Heads of Year work closely with pupils and their families to support their own personal development and academic progress.

Our PSHE curriculum ensures we deliver fun and enriching programmes of Personal, Social and Health Education that bring in a range of topics, broadening pupils' understanding of themselves and others as individuals, not to mention the wider world.

Our 30 minute daily tutorial session enhances provision further, ensuring we start every day with a fresh and positive outlook where we set new challenges and the highest expectations for each other.

# Enrichment

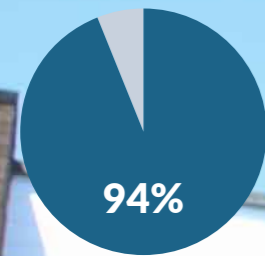
We are proud to offer a comprehensive and ambitious range of enrichment and extracurricular activities for our pupils. This starts before pupils join us in September and continues all the way to the final year of education.

Pupils in Year 6 who choose Norham High School will enjoy a full week of enriching Transition to support their move to secondary school. Pupils will take part in educational visits, team building activities and a celebration event like nothing any other school has managed to achieve.

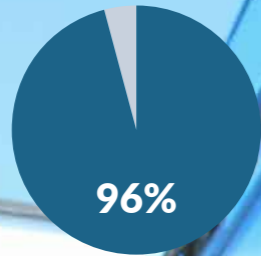
Throughout your child's education at Norham, they will take part in a wider range of before-school, lunchtime, and after school clubs than any other school in the area. Every child is welcome to attend our free breakfast club from 8am each day. Our innovative Active Lunch offer gives pupils time to develop interests and skills in areas as diverse as athletics, debate, jewellery making and even hair & beauty!

Each year, the school runs a summer term Enrichment Week where pupils get to experience the world beyond a traditional classroom curriculum. Each year group will have an off-site visit to learn about the wider world. They also spend time working in the community to give something back. We believe all our pupils should be active, responsible citizens and we are proud to support them in shaping their identities as such.





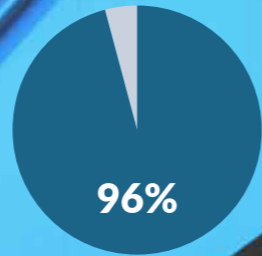
94% of parents would recommend our school to other parents



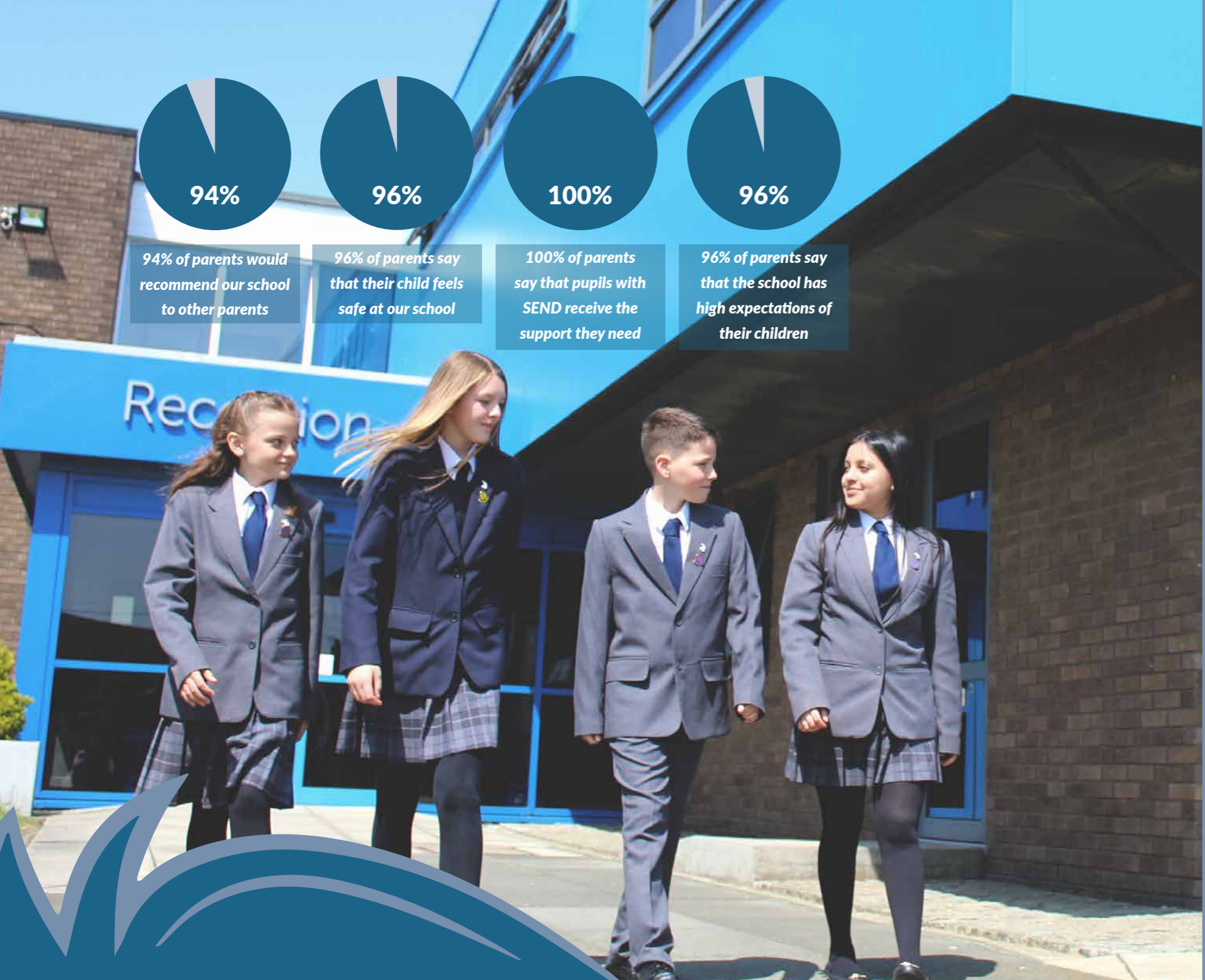
96% of parents say that their child feels safe at our school



100% of parents say that pupils with SEND receive the support they need



96% of parents say that the school has high expectations of their children



# Ofsted

Ofsted visited our school in March 2022 to evaluate the effectiveness of what we do. They talked with pupils, parents and staff, as well as looking at the curriculum we deliver and the care we provide pupils. We are pleased to share that Ofsted have graded Norham High School as GOOD.

Leadership & Management: GOOD      Quality of Education: GOOD  
Behaviour & Attitudes: GOOD      Personal Development: GOOD

The team of inspectors told us that the school was unique in many ways. The Lead HMI (Her Majesty's Inspector) said that:

*'Pupils are passionate about their school.'*

*'Warm, genuine, friendly interactions between pupils and their friends or teachers are commonplace.'*

*'Pupils...achieve well from their different starting points.'*

*'There is a respectful and supportive culture that gives pupils confidence.'*

*'Staff are experts when it comes to asking pupils carefully crafted questions.'*

*'Staff are patient, supportive and demonstrate a strong understanding of the learning needs of each pupil they teach.'*

*'Acts of kindness help to strengthen the collaborative culture in the school.'*

*'The curriculum introduced in the last 18-months is serving pupils well. They are making much stronger progress than they have in the past.'*



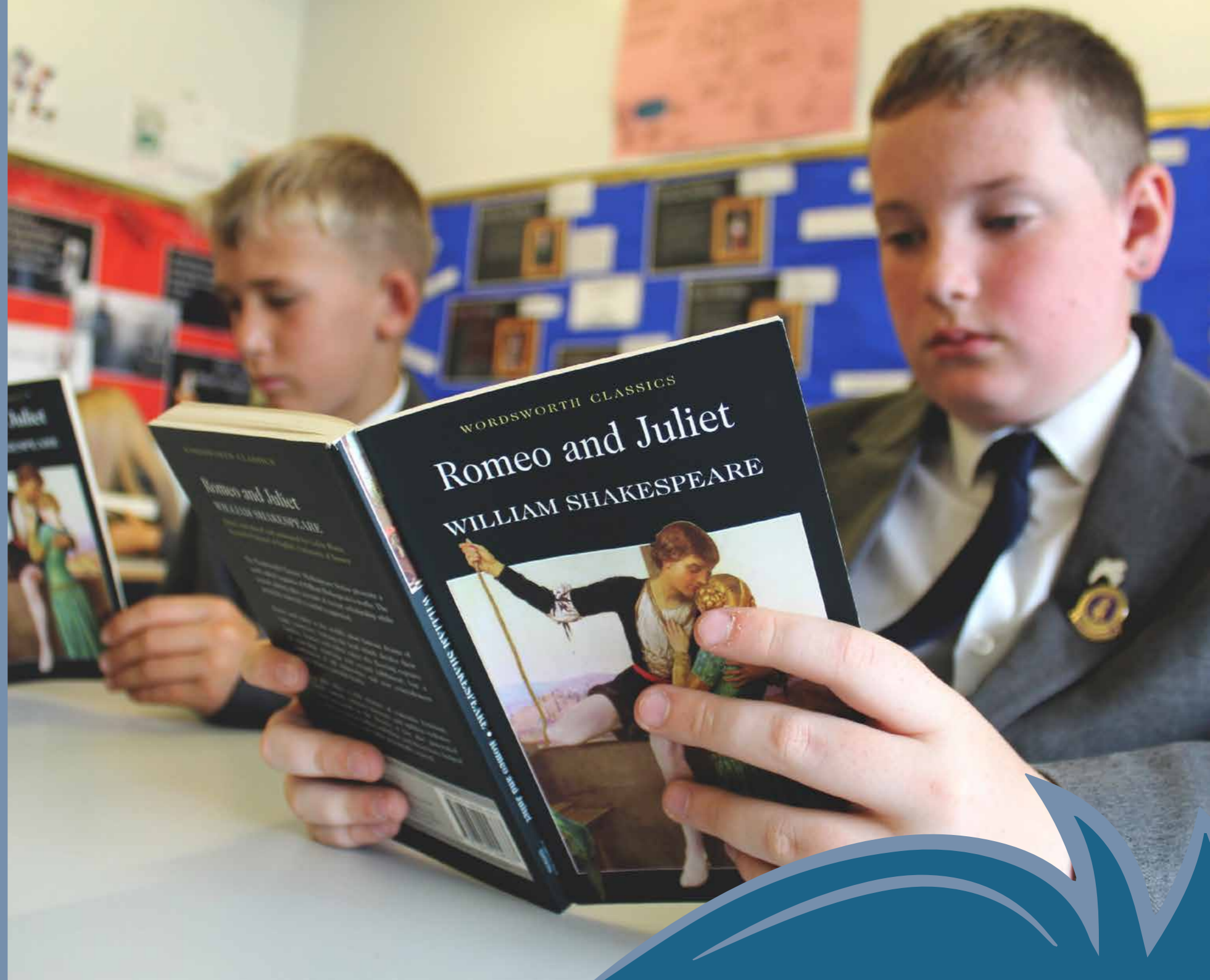


# English & Literacy

*'The limits of my language are the limits of my world.'* - Ludwig Wittgenstein

This is something which everyone in the English department fervently believes to be true. Our mission is to expand that world for our pupils, exposing them to profound works of Literature that will provoke feelings of joy, sadness, and curiosity, as well as a sense that they also have a voice to be heard.

Our subject blends the teaching of critical reading, writing and communication; this is done through expansive thematic units which cover topics from Culture and Identity to War and Conflict, and from the subversive beauty of the Gothic to the dystopian worlds of the future. We teach pupils the best that has been thought and said. Only by showing them the true power of words can we unlock their potential and encourage them to realise their full role within the world they will inherit.





# Mathematics & IT

*'Intelligence is what you use when you don't know what to do.'* - Jean Piaget

The maths team at Norham High School aims to develop the intelligence of the young people we work with, challenging them on a daily basis to think independently and critically about the situations they are faced with.

Our mission is to equip our students with the intelligence to face and solve problems that we don't even know exist yet, to adapt to an ever-changing and developing world of new technologies, and to apply the skills of problem solving, critical thinking and resilience to what they have been taught in lessons.

Maths and IT are uniquely placed to blend the beauty of pure mathematics and statistics with real-world problem solving. This is something pupils will experience throughout their curriculum, making them adults that are fully prepared for life in the 21st Century.

# Science

*'Science knows no country, because knowledge belongs to humanity, and is the torch which illuminates the world'. - Louis Pasteur*

The world of science is broad, and can include diverse topics such as interpreting information released about vaccines, to global warming. Our mission is to inspire scientific curiosity and to develop independent critical thinking skills so that pupils can engage with science in the world around them. We achieve this through carefully sequenced study of biology, chemistry and physics, including both dual and triple award science at GCSE.

We believe in the potential of the young people we teach to be the next scientists, doctors, nurses, vets, engineers, and more. We will give them the experiences they need to access the amazing world of science after their time with us, and we explicitly show them the opportunities they may never have known.

We provide high quality teaching that challenges and supports every pupil to leave our department with the best possible science results they can achieve, regardless of barriers they may face in their life.

We truly believe that this generation of young people have the potential to solve the scientific problems of our time.





# Geography

*'The study of geography is about more than just memorising places on a map. It's about understanding the complexity of our world, appreciating the diversity of cultures that exist across continents. And in the end, it's about using all that knowledge to help bridge divides and bring people together.'* - Barack Obama

We live in a world that is more connected than ever before. Our school, in a small corner of England, sits amongst a specific community; it moves on a specific tectonic plate; and the Tyne that flows by our homes each day is part of a global cycle of water that is affected by our ever-changing climate.

In Geography, we provide pupils with a rich variety of challenging, stimulating and enjoyable learning opportunities about all these things, and more! A curriculum that is broad and balanced enables our pupils to become well-rounded, global citizens. Geography is the study of patterns and processes across natural and human environments that continually shape and change our world at both a local and global level.

Norham High School geographers will experience a mix of human, physical and environmental Geography to become engaged learners in their world. Geographers learn how to ask thoughtful questions about how and why the world works the way it does, to no longer take their environment for granted. They analyse evidence, and complete their own field experiments so they can create sustainable solutions for the future.

Our pupils will acquire skills including research, presenting evidence, analysis and evaluation. They will also acquire specific geographical skills enabling them to continually study geography at varying degrees throughout the rest of their lives.

# History

*'History, despite its wrenching pain, cannot be unlived, but if faced with courage, need not be lived again.'* - Maya Angelou

The History curriculum at Norham High School helps to explain the world as it is by exploring the world as it was, in an intriguing and ambitious way.

Understanding is developed around the spine of British History with enquiries that explore global, continental, and local history. Our curriculum aims to produce “citizen historians” by helping pupils change how they understand the world around them and their place within it. The study of history will create curiosity, critical thinking and communication skills, and it also builds confidence in the ability to construct arguments and promote debate about the past.





# Technology

Theodore von Karman, the noted Physicist & Mathematician once said that '*engineers create the world that has never been*'. This all begins with the study of technology at school. Technology at Norham High School is an excitingly broad subject which offers pupils an extensive range of opportunities to develop their skills and understanding of how to use different materials, including woods, metals, plastics and also food to create exciting products that our pupils can be truly proud of.

Our Food Technology department offers pupils the opportunity to develop their knowledge and understanding of food preparation and nutrition, both of which are essential for a healthy, happy life. The practical and theoretical skills our pupils will acquire throughout the curriculum will empower them to work confidently, independently and develop valuable life skills. Pupils will become self-sufficient young adults with an appropriate understanding of current diet related health issues within society.

Our Design & Technology department offers our pupils the opportunities to design and make products that solve real and relevant problems within a variety of contexts, considering their own and others' needs, wants and values.

Our pupils develop the creative, technical, and practical expertise needed to perform everyday tasks confidently and to participate successfully in an increasingly technological world.

# French

*'To have another language is to possess a second soul'. - Charlemagne*

To study a language is to become a truly global citizen. Imagine being able to communicate with people from different countries and different cultures, to live and work across the globe whilst feeling comfortably at home. At Norham High School, we are passionate about languages and are keen to see our pupils develop their skills and love of other languages as much as possible. All pupils study French until the end of Key Stage 3, with many choosing to take the subject at Key Stage 4, developing their fluency in reading, writing, listening and speaking of French to an excellent standard.

Our curriculum places great importance on cultural awareness, as studying a language encourages pupils to understand not just their own culture better, but those around the world, too. Every year we celebrate the beauty and range of European languages in a week where pupils and teachers interact in German, French, Spanish, Portuguese, and more! Pupils will get the chance to visit France and its surrounding French speaking countries. It is an opportunity not to be missed!



A close-up photograph of a person's face, focusing on their eyes. The face is illuminated with vibrant, multi-colored lights in shades of blue, green, and purple, creating a dramatic and artistic effect. The person's eyes are light-colored and looking directly at the camera.

# Art & Photography

*"Art is the most intense mode of individualism that the world has known" - Oscar Wilde*

Art and Design stimulates imagination and creativity, involving pupils in a range of visual, tactile and sensory experiences which enable them to communicate what they see, think and feel through the use of the art elements and visual literacy.

Art and Design at Norham High School embeds the vital role of Art, Design and Photography in encouraging individual, open-minded, reflective thinkers who have the courage to explore and contribute to the world around them.

We aim to develop creative, knowledgeable and curious learners, fostering an enjoyment and appreciation of the visual arts through learning about significant artists, craftspeople and designers through the historical and cultural development of their art forms and technical skills.

Our pupils explore the impact art has on contemporary life and on different periods and cultures in society through expressive project work and collaboration.

Art and Design provides various opportunities for enrichment that are useful in the world of work, whilst promoting the importance of creative careers and its impact in the local and global economy.

# Music

*'Music gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination and life to everything.'* - Plato

Music is perhaps the most expressive art form there is. The breadth of genres that our pupils will study at Norham High School will encourage them to see the enduring contribution of music to humanity across the globe.

Our music lessons offer pupils an inclusive environment where they can nurture their creativity in our newly refurbished music studio. A range of extra-curricular activities, including the school choir and the annual musical production, are on offer to all pupils.

As a school, we offer a range of private instrumental lessons delivered by professionals to allow pupils to rapidly improve their performance technique on their chosen instrument. By offering a range of instrumental disciplines in lessons, it encourages pupils to build their self-confidence and take risks in a fully supportive environment.

Our musicians think creatively in order to problem solve and we encourage our pupils to realise that sometimes there is more than one correct answer in a subject like music.

Learning to play and compose new pieces of music can be very challenging, but pupils who master the musical discipline will undoubtedly feel a sense of immense pride in their contribution to this expressive field.





# Sport

*'Never say never because limits, like fears, are often just an illusion.'* - Michael Jordan

Sport changes lives. Whether your child competes at regional events or is reluctant to embrace the discipline of Physical Education, we have tailored our curriculum to make the most of everyone's talents and skills.

We take pride in providing a high quality PE curriculum which inspires pupils to succeed and excel in competitive sport and other physically demanding activities. Our curriculum aims to provide enjoyable opportunities for pupils to develop physically, socially, emotionally and intellectually. We want our pupils to feel confident in a way which supports their physical health and fitness, as well as harnessing the power of exercise to maintain positive mental health. We strive to create pupil opportunities that build character and help embed values such as resilience, self-discipline, collaboration, innovation, empathy and respect.

PE is a core subject for pupils in all year groups. Those who love the subject as much as we do can opt to take Sport Science or Child Development at GCSE to study both the practical and theoretical elements of healthy lifestyles.

The PE team also contributes significantly to Norham High School's extracurricular offer, with our new rugby academy and established football teams proving to be very popular with all year groups.

# Drama

*'We must all do theatre, to find out who we are, and to discover who we could become.'*

- Augusto Boal

The Drama curriculum at Norham High School offers our students a stimulating and creative learning programme, which challenges them to find their own creative voice. Students learn about the history of theatre, different styles of Drama, the wide-ranging methods of staging and performance. Alongside this, students will explore and discuss a range of thought provoking topics, developing their understanding of the world around them.

Drama is a largely practical subject which offers pupils the opportunity to learn outside of the 'typical' classroom environment. Drama allows pupils to explore a range of stimuli in exciting and innovative ways. Pupils are shown the need for commitment and hard work, as well as the ability to evaluate both their own work and the work of others. Although we are a fun and active subject, self-discipline, independent learning and responsibility (essential elements of the creative process) are also a key features within the classroom and on the stage, giving students transferable skills needed across the curriculum and beyond.

Drama requires team building, empathy, problem solving and resilience. It enhances individual confidence and self worth, as well as giving students a rounded and diverse knowledge of the world around them. Extracurricular Drama offers students the opportunity to be in the annual school show, students develop an understanding of the roles and responsibilities surrounding creating a performance for a larger audience, as well as working with industry professionals in various fields.





# Additional Educational Needs & ARP

*'Everyone is a genius. But if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing that it is stupid.'* - Albert Einstein

Every pupil in our school has talent. Every pupil in our school has skill. Every pupil in our school has knowledge. Our AEN department is here to support all of our pupils to unlock their potential. We support pupils with additional needs to break down barriers in their lives and to become happy, confident and thriving young people. Our support is personal and not 'one size fits all', meaning that every child at our school gets the opportunity to succeed in life.

Norham High School is also home to an Additionally Resourced Provision that welcomes children who have an Education Health Care Plan relating to Language and Communication difficulties. Indeed, many of our ARP pupils have Autism Spectrum Conditions (ASC).

All pupils who come into the ARP have a curriculum personalised specifically for them; this includes National Curriculum Subjects alongside Independent Living and Social Skills lessons that enable them to gain valuable knowledge and skills that prepare them for adulthood. Pupils in the ARP and the wider school also get the chance to work with Sol, our therapy dog!

We are extremely proud of this specialised provision where pupils are happy, content and successful. For specific enquiries about our SEN or our ARP offer, please contact our SENCo.



# Joining Norham High School

As we all know, the successful transition of every child to their high school is of great importance and now, due to the COVID pandemic, has never been so critical. As such, you can rely on our transition team to help every individual feel confident in taking their next steps towards our fantastic high school. To help achieve this, our wonderful transition team will visit your child's primary or middle school to meet them and will also share an admissions pack with our new parents/carers.

## Getting To Us

Many of our children live in the local community and walk to school, where they are greeted by staff at the gates every morning. We are a short walking distance from Percy Main Metro station, meaning we can be accessed quickly from both Wallsend and the Coast. If travelling by bus, many major routes stop at the end of our street on Norham Road.

We also have a secure bike store and encourage pupils to cycle to school as part of our healthy school pledge.



# School Leaders

Mr T Conway  
*Headteacher*

## Academic Leaders

Mr J Collins  
*Assistant Headteacher - Progress*

Mr D James  
*Assistant Headteacher - Teaching & Learning, Curriculum Intent*

Mrs R Stevenson  
*Assistant Headteacher - Teaching & Learning, Curriculum Implementation*

Mrs J Rouse  
*Assistant Headteacher - Teaching & Learning, Curriculum Impact*

Mrs R Bowers  
*Faculty Leader, Technological & Creative Studies*

Mrs R Swinhoe  
*Faculty Leader, Mathematical & Geographical Studies*

Ms J Griffiths  
*Faculty Leader, Languages & Ethical Studies*

Ms S Vinsome  
*Faculty Leader, Scientific & Historical Studies*

## Pastoral Leaders

Mrs J Pearson  
*SENCo*

Mr C Drennan  
*Guidance & Support Manager*

Mrs R Palmer  
*Head of Year 7 & Transition*

Mr S Forster  
*Head of Year 8 & Year 9*

Mr C Hendry  
*Head of Year 10 & Year 11*



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