



Teesdale School & Sixth Form

2023 Prospectus



SOME BOOKS JUST
LIVE YOU UP
AND

NEVER JUDGE A BOOK BY

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.

Choosing the right secondary school is an important decision that we understand is no easy task. Your decision will set the foundations for your future and we are extremely proud to say Teesdale School offers a first-class experience for our students, allowing them to really shine and reach their full potential.

We have gone from strength to strength over the past few years which is evident in our glowing Ofsted 'Outstanding' report and history of brilliant school performance. Our staff work exceptionally hard to ensure our students continue to receive excellent GCSE and A level results

and this dedication led us to be named 'best state school in the North East' in 2020 by The Sunday Times. This collective effort is a product of one simple vision, shared by all schools in the North East Learning Trust; that every child experiences excellence every day, and you can be confident that at Teesdale School you will experience just that.

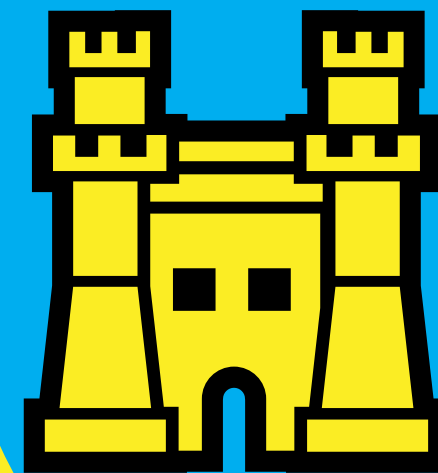
Alongside our rich and diverse curriculum we also offer fantastic extra-curricular opportunities such as the DofE's award, debating competitions and international trips to encourage students to become the very best versions of themselves. With

support from the North East Learning Trust, we are constantly refining our approach to build upon our existing successes. We also work together with students to obtain invaluable insight to ensure we maintain an outstanding experience for every single child.

I am delighted that you are considering Teesdale School and I hope that by perusing these pages you will gain a better understanding of who we are and what we have to offer.



**Anna Cleckner
Head of School**





3 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 maybe 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.

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.

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

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.

Ofsted Outstanding

Teesdale School and Sixth Form is judged to be 'outstanding' in all areas by school inspectors Ofsted. We are incredibly proud of this top judgment and work every day to live up to the glowing report we received when they inspected us in July 2019. You can read the full report on our school website.

Exam results

This year marks the fourth consecutive year of outstanding GCSE and A level results at Teesdale School and Sixth Form. Year-on-year our exam results are consistently strong and placed amongst the top performing schools in County Durham and the North East of England.

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.

Home learning

The global pandemic presented challenges to children's learning across the world. At Teesdale School we developed the use of an extensive range of software to ensure that children at Teesdale continued to learn at home. We worked hard to blend home learning software with face-to-face teaching to ensure students kept working in innovative and engaging ways.

All students still have access to the full range of Office 365 software enabling them to move seamlessly between learning in and out of the classroom should the need ever present itself again.



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

At Teesdale School being active comes naturally to our young sportsmen and women with their dedication and enthusiasm often translating 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.

Even during the difficulties created by the Coronavirus pandemic, we continued to encourage students to think about global connections by participating in a digital bridges project with our partner school in Kenya. This year we look forward to visits to France and Belgium.

Teesdale School supported me during every challenge I faced with compassion and understanding. 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."

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 music department is a vibrant and exciting centre of musical excellence at the heart of a community so rich in musical and cultural heritage.”

Mrs McGrath

“There is a real **sense of community;** everyone is **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

“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

“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

A young boy with light brown hair, wearing a grey school jacket, white shirt, and blue tie, is focused on playing a yellow acoustic guitar. The background is slightly blurred, showing what appears to be a classroom or music room setting with a large red number '8' visible.

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 including design technology, religious education and food technology and we also have a dark room to allow us to offer photography as an A level option. All students learn at least one language from Year 7. 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 had
great aspirations for
Teesdale School

which are now 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 Gorchach, Executive Headteacher and Deputy CEO of school sponsors The North East Learning Trust



Supported by the **North East Learning Trust**

Teesdale School is part of the North East Learning Trust, a highly successful multi-academy education Trust with 11 partner and sponsor schools across 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 has a National Teaching School Hub which offers school support and trains the next generation of teachers, ensuring the highest standards of teaching are instilled from the outset. This means Trust schools, including Teesdale, can access a steady stream of consistently high quality staff to meet their workforce needs.

The Trust is also home to one of 23 national 'Research Schools' meaning staff have access to the latest in education research, which they use to improve the learning experience of our students.

Being part of the Trust means Teesdale School is supported

by outstanding leaders who are involved in the regional and national development of education.

NELT CEO, Lesley Powell CBE, is a member on many boards and advisory groups including: The Regional Head Teacher Board, National Secondary Heads Reference Group, Opportunity North East Sub-Board, National Ofsted Inspector Reference Group, Teacher Recruitment and Retention Strategy, Head Teacher Standards Review Group, and the NPQ Expert Advisory Group.

The CEO and Deputy CEOs are all National Leaders of Education and the Trust also employs a wide network of specialist teachers and other experienced professionals to support schools on their paths to becoming outstanding.



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 tutor groups, the house system, peer mentors and prefects. Everyone is there to make sure everyone is valued."

Alistair French, Assistant Headteacher



Teesdale School and Sixth Form

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