



BARNARD CASTLE SCHOOL





## WELCOME

If you are reading this prospectus, it tells me something has sparked your interest in our unique and wonderful school. That is fantastic; keep on reading, and if at the end of this, we've still piqued your interest, then come and visit us and see what it is like first hand.

We are a wonderful community, where opportunities to succeed in many fields are a given. We are also a place in which our greatest strength is the intangible yet palpable ability to create an incredibly supportive and welcoming environment which allows each and every pupil to flourish. I often say when I am away from this special place that I wish I could 'bottle Barney' and offer interested listeners a taste. These pages to follow will offer some insight, but may not fully quench your thirst, so please do get in touch and I look forward to hopefully meeting you soon.

Tony Jackson

Headmaster



## PRE- PREP

From their first day with us, children are encouraged to discover, explore, create and practise their skills and knowledge in our secure and caring environment. We foster an enthusiasm for learning that will provide an essential foundation for life.

Our broad and balanced curriculum is carefully planned and structured, offering our youngest learners a rich and exhilarating experience. Our activities - both in and out of the classroom - ensure that learning is fun, engaging and purposeful.

We nurture imagination and encourage creativity and our understanding pastoral care ensures that each child flourishes as they set out along their unique and special journey in Prep School.

## PREP

Building on the curiosities nurtured in the Pre-Prep, life in the Prep School encourages children to develop personal interests, establish new friendships and evolve a burgeoning sense of responsibility.

Benefiting from ideal class sizes, our children thoroughly enjoy life in and beyond the classroom. The excellent teaching staff ensure that learning is focused and that each child is encouraged to do their best. Working beyond the confines of the National Curriculum, pupils at the Prep School follow a subject based curriculum that embraces a range of learning experiences. We are keen that children become independent learners as they progress through the School, enabling them to face the future with confidence. Above all, however, we believe that learning should be fun and enjoyable experience for all.





## SENIOR

Barnard Castle School is where girls and boys grow up with surprising rapidity, entering as children and moving into the Sixth Form on the cusp of adulthood. However, our space, curriculum and ethos allow them to grow up at their own pace.

Children here are naturally curious, creative and competitive. They will find new subjects being introduced by inspirational teachers and new activities and sports being enjoyed with enthusiasm. Our aim is to inspire girls and boys to prepare them for increasingly independent study, to cultivate in them a love of knowledge, an interest in how they learn and a desire to keep doing it which will remain with them long after they have left us.

Barney is a busy place. Here our day pupils, as well as our boarders, benefit from the School's strong boarding tradition and ethos. This means that we never close and there is a real feeling of being part of a vibrant extended family throughout the entire week.

## SIXTH FORM

Barney Sixth Form is different. We offer our students the opportunity to develop their own set of transferable skills. This gives them the foundation to embrace challenges in their future, and within the modern workplace. The growing competition for places in higher education from the UK and abroad, an ever-changing global market and the inevitability of emerging industry demands this.

As educators, we look ten years ahead. With the rise of artificial intelligence, softer skills are vital. We equip our students with the ability to make judgements, show empathy and build a moral compass, whilst defining their own academic thread. Barney offers A Levels, Pre-U and the Extended Project Qualification and all subjects are delivered in small classes by expert classroom practitioners. Not only does every student have a personal tutor providing academic and pastoral advice, they have an experienced UCAS advisor and dedicated careers co-ordinator on-site. Furthermore, our bespoke Sixth Form Centre is unrivalled in the space it gives our students to work independently, share conversation and experiences with peers and tutors alike, and of course to relax. Barney encourages a thriving social life and we are keen for students to build influential and lasting relationships.





## BOARDING

At the heart of Barney's family is our boarding community. A tightly-knit group of around 150 girls and boys and 30 resident adults makes boarding in this stunning and well-resourced environment a fantastic opportunity to make friends for life, to improve academic performance and make regular use of the School's excellent sports and recreation facilities.

Boarding is a popular choice for a range of reasons. For some girls and boys it gives them a unique opportunity to experience lasting friendships and stability while their parents' occupations take them away from home. For others, boarding creates valuable time which would otherwise be absorbed by long bus journeys of up to two hours each day. Some appreciate the structure of Prep during week nights and the abundance of support from the range of subject specialists who live in School. Many, particularly those in the Sixth Form, enjoy a level of independence from their parents which, while still being cared for within School, provides an invaluable experience of communal living before they move away to university.

## IN THE CLASSROOM

The exceptional quality of teaching at Barnard Castle School is reflected in excellent examination results, but these are borne out of an easy, open and respectful relationship between our teachers and children. That relationship, in the hands of passionate, skilled teachers gives our girls and boys a formidable academic edge.

For our most able pupils in Senior School we offer enrichment programmes in academia, sport, art and music and our record of success in preparing all for applications to competitive universities is outstanding. For those who need to consolidate a topic or whose confidence needs to be bolstered, we offer Learning Support and subject-specific tutorials as required.

Intellectually, we want all of our children to feel realistically challenged and stimulated to discover more. Therefore, girls and boys are taught in sets in core subjects so that no-one feels either dispirited by the complexity or bored by the simplicity of a task. Our curriculum is designed to offer real breadth and every opportunity is taken to engage our students in truly multidisciplinary learning whenever possible.





## COMMUNITY

We value individuality in our girls and boys and this is also reflected in our Houses, each of which has its own character. Whether joining us as a day or boarding pupil, all girls and boys will be guided and supported by outstanding pastoral care. The Chaplain is also always on hand and the Sixth Form run a highly successful peer support network, emphasising that every member of our community has a duty to support each other.

At Barney the gifted individual, the grafting enthusiast and the team-player can flourish. Music and drama thrive and the Chapel Choir has a reputation that reaches far beyond Teesdale. Yet alongside these and our major sports there is also plenty of room for those who want to spend time debating and public speaking, playing chess, interested in world cinema, shooting, dog-walking, learning cross-stitch, exploring the solar system and a host of other pursuits in which girls and boys can engage with the innocence and curiosity of children who are allowed to grow up at their own pace.

At Barney we strive to create a dynamic and talented community, where children can learn from and with each other and appreciate the diversity of human nature.

## ACTIVITIES / SPORT

It takes courage to dive in, but that is exactly how we ask our girls and boys to approach each of the challenges and opportunities that come their way here. Whether it is preparing to give a speech at a formal Lectern Club dinner, taking a lead role in the latest drama production, pushing the boundaries on a CCF expedition or mentoring a younger pupil, we want all of our children to develop competencies and talents to take them beyond the classroom; to become interesting as well as interested. Through over 100 activities such as the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, Peer Support, a highly active Sixth Form Executive Committee and many others, Barney pupils learn to listen, lead and assert themselves confidently with a light touch.

Barnard Castle School has developed a national reputation for girls' and boys' sport. As we endeavour to educate and develop the whole person, sport has an important place in School and in the curriculum. All girls and boys are introduced and coached by experts in a range of team sports. Our reputation is not confined to one discipline and the School enjoys regular competitive success in rugby, hockey, cross-country, football, swimming, netball, cricket, tennis, athletics and squash. Our girls and boys have achieved county, regional and national representative honours in a range of disciplines and many continue to do so after they leave School.





## THE ARTS

Music plays a vital and vibrant role in the life of the School. The range of opportunities for musicians and singers is immense and students are encouraged to indulge their passion for music and share their talents. They may take part in Chapel choir, the house singing competition, orchestra and jazz bands, ensembles, rock groups, school musicals and charity concerts.

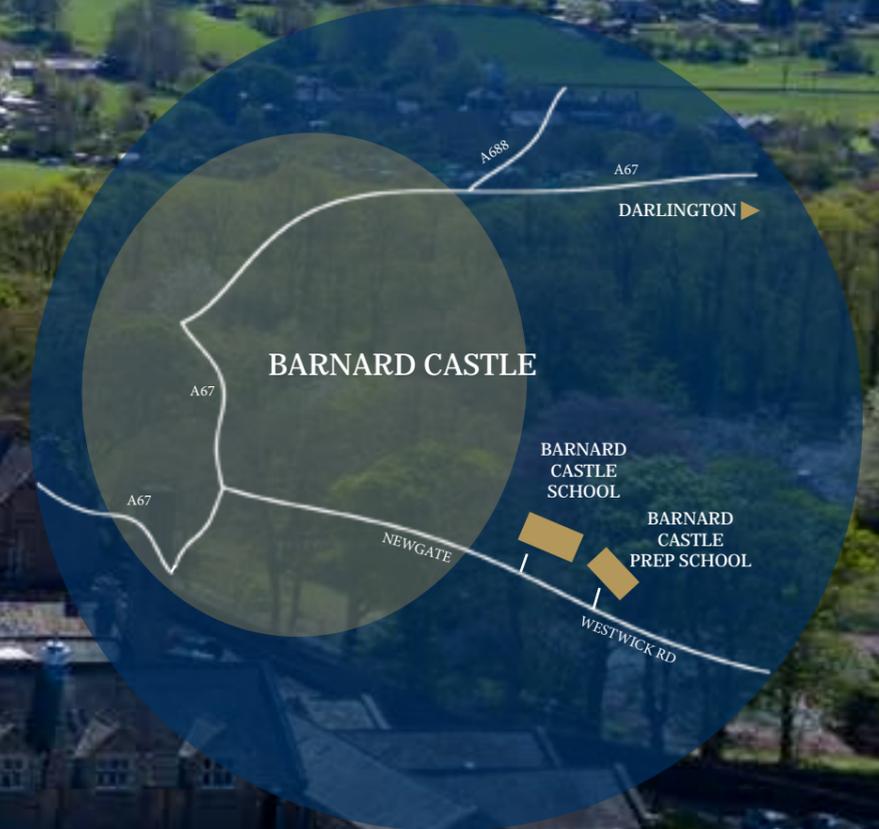
Drama is a thriving academic and extracurricular department; with the recent addition of GCSE as well as A Level, students from Year 10 and above are able to engage with this practical subject both as actors and technicians. Extracurricular drama also continues to grow, seeing no less than six productions in a year, allowing every year group to participate.

## SAFE & SECURE LOCATION

Barnard Castle, a historical market town is located on the boarder of County Durham and North Yorkshire. It is surrounded by some of the most beautiful countryside so that every direction you look could be a perfect postcard.

The School sits within 50 acres of land which allows for a broad range of outdoor activities and sports including our own full size Astro turf hockey pitch.

We are situated in an excellent rural environment but with great transport links to the rest of the country. Only 20 minutes away from the A1(M) and Darlington Railway Station, main line to London Kings Cross in 2 hours, 20 minutes. Half an hour away from Durham Tees Valley Airport, an hour away from Newcastle International Airport and an hour and a half from Leeds Bradford and we are right next to the A66; doorway to the Lake District and the West Coast.



## SEE FOR YOURSELF

Our door is always open, everyday is an open day and we would like to extend to you an invitation to come and see first hand what life at Barney is really like. If you would like to arrange a visit please contact Jo Barkes, our Registrar who will be happy to organise a guided tour and personal meeting with the Headmaster or the Headmistress of the Prep School.

For further information please contact Jo Barkes on:  
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