



Teesdale

Sixth Form

2024 Prospectus

Welcome to Teesdale Sixth Form

Choosing where to study post-16 is one of the most important decisions you will make. Not only does this choice pave the way for your career path or further study at university, but it helps to build a foundation for adult life.

Nestled in Barnard Castle in the spectacular Teesdale countryside and imprinted with the historic values of the Dales and our close-knit community, Teesdale Sixth Form is a place where traditional values of kindness, respect and hard work take precedence.

Small but perfectly formed, our sixth form focuses on a core population of up to 100 students. A sprawling college we are not, but what we lack in size, we make up for in personalisation.

In our most recent inspection, we were awarded an 'outstanding' judgment in all areas from school inspectors Ofsted - the highest grade a school can achieve.

This judgment, along with our excellent A level and GCSE exam results has accelerated our aspiration to become the very best school and sixth form in County Durham.

Our vision is simple - that every student experiences excellence every day.

We believe that education is the most powerful tool you can use to change the world. We mean this in the broadest sense and want our students to leave with the qualifications and skills that will make a real difference in their chosen field of study.

We also believe students should positively impact those around

them, so we encourage them to prepare for their future whilst shaping their local community through a whole range of social and charitable activities and events.

We want our sixth form to inspire at the heart of the Dales as a place of academic excellence, creativity and generosity of spirit.


I hope you enjoy reading this prospectus and that it gives you a glimpse of the potential Teesdale Sixth Form could hold for you and your future.



Dr Simon Henderson
Head of Sixth Form



Ofsted
Outstanding
Provider



“We want our sixth form to inspire at the heart of the Dales as a place of academic excellence, creativity and generosity of spirit.”



“Sixth Form students provide admirable role models for others in the school.”

Ofsted 2019

3 simple values we live by...

Inspiring OTHERS

Learning is best when students are inspired and inspiration at Teesdale Sixth Form 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 sixth formers to inspire others as lead learners or role models.

Working TOGETHER

Our school community is built on collaboration. Sixth formers mentor younger students, fostering an ethos of peer support and guidance with parents delighted at how quickly this helps Year 7 students integrate into the school and feel at home. As a sixth form leader and mentor you can help a young reader, offer study support, or share your footballing talents - the opportunities to develop your leadership skills are plentiful.

We are proud that our sixth form has a social conscience and is engaged in trying to positively impact the local and wider community. Sixth formers lead the Rotary Interact Club, who organise charity projects throughout the year. They were so successful recently that they were shortlisted for a Pride of Teesdale Award by members of the local community.

Celebrating ACHIEVEMENT

Celebration at Teesdale Sixth Form means encouraging students to value themselves and each other. Students are rewarded for engaging in learning and fulfilling our high expectations.

Mewhort Scholarships are also awarded by Mewhort trustees to students who achieve the highest academic success, helping them to access the UK's most elite universities and coveted career paths.

Exam PERFORMANCE

By choosing Teesdale Sixth Form you are choosing to surround yourself with opportunity. With smaller class sizes than most sixth forms and a clear focus on personalised learning and one-to-one support, students at Teesdale Sixth Form are destined to excel... and they do.

Exam results

In 2023, our results remained impressive in the face of national grade turbulence. Our pass rate was 100%, the strongest of all sixth form colleges in the local area. A quarter of our students achieved at least grades AAB and our average grade was B-. The average mark for BTEC subjects was a distinction, which is the equivalent of a grade A. These results are a consequence of the work ethic of our students and the dedication and expertise of their teachers.

Progression

Despite our small size, we are big when it comes to progress with students going on to achieve great things after their time with us.

Year-on-year we see students going on to study at some of the UK's most elite universities with places on the most competitive courses. This year, every student who wanted to go on to university achieved their grades and secured a place.

We are also proud of the support and opportunities we offer those students who choose to follow vocational pathways through advanced, higher or degree level apprenticeships, as well as career focused or entrepreneurial students who want to advance into the world of work, internships, or even their own or family business.

Why not read more about our past pupils and their lives after studying with us at:

www.teesdaleschool.co.uk/alumni





Teaching & LEARNING

At Teesdale Sixth Form our dedicated teachers enthuse our students by sharing their love of their subjects and working hard to enable every student to reach their potential.

Small class sizes, together with high-quality teaching and learning, makes for a personal touch that enables us to bring out the best in our students.

Tutorials

We have a dedicated team of tutors who work with students every day to ensure they are making excellent progress. Students also follow a pastoral programme that equips them with the study skills they need to succeed. In addition, we promote a culture of debate around current affairs, connecting learning in the classroom with the wider world.

Preparing for next steps

Students can complete work experience, internships and volunteering to gain valuable experience which may help guide their post-18 choices. We work with a dedicated enterprise adviser who ensures students develop the desirable skills that appeal to employers and apprenticeship providers. Furthermore, we have a group of alumni who are currently studying at or recently graduated from top universities who work with our aspiring sixth formers to help them with their applications to these institutions.

“Students currently in the sixth form are receiving an excellent education. As a result, they are ambitious, aspirational and determined to excel.”

Ofsted 2019

At Teesdale Sixth Form we will:



Set high standards and expectations



Strive to help you reach your full potential



Adapt and evolve teaching strategies to suit your needs



Give specific advice and guidance to you as an individual



Listen to you

Supporting YOU ALL THE WAY

Whatever your aspirations, the individual package of support you receive at Teesdale Sixth Form will ensure you have the right blend of courses and enrichment opportunities designed around your specific career interests.

Pastoral support is provided by our Head and Deputy Head of Sixth Form who monitor your individual package of support to make sure it is right for you.

Our 'next steps' guidance provides bespoke careers advice, facilitates internships, high quality UCAS applications and support for overseas university study.

For those applying to highly selective universities, there is an additional layer of support and guidance which has proved immensely successful. Our local Rotary Club also provides assistance for university, employment and apprenticeship applications by offering preparatory 'mock interviews'.

For students wishing to enter employment after sixth form there is a programme of careers talks and visits. A dedicated timetable of transition activities also assists smooth progression from Year 11 into the sixth form. These include activities to support Year 12; future progression; individual interviews; introduction to sixth form life and immersion days - all designed to help you make the best possible choices for your future.

We also have a post-16 bursary scheme which provides financial support for eligible students.

Facilities at Teesdale Sixth Form include an IT suite, a dedicated study area and social space.

“Students speak very highly of the personalised information, advice and guidance they receive and this, together with good results, ensures that almost all move on to appropriate next steps.”

Ofsted 2019



WHAT OUR STUDENTS SAY ABOUT TEESDALE SIXTH FORM...

“One of the reasons I chose to attend Teesdale Sixth Form is because of the help and guidance I am receiving to help me secure a place at medical school.”

“It was only ever going to be Teesdale Sixth Form for me as **the teachers are so helpful and supportive**. I am grateful for all the help they gave which enabled me to do so well at my GCSEs.”

“I like the learning environment and the teachers at Teesdale are **so friendly**. Small class sizes mean you get **great one-to-one help** and I really enjoy speaking with staff both inside and outside of my lessons.”

“I just wanted to tell you the good news myself - **I got into Cambridge with 3 A*s and an A in Russian** which I am ecstatic about! Needless to say it hasn't quite sunk in yet but I am very, very happy and shocked and grateful. Thank you so much for all your help and support over the last few years...”

“I chose to stay because I really like my teachers.”

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

“Our sixth form students are a constant inspiration and a real pleasure to work with. Having spent several years teaching undergraduates at the same time as working with our sixth form students, **I can honestly say that they are exceptional.**”

Dr Henderson

“I like that the sixth form is a community. It is like **one big family** that I really feel a valued part of.”

“I chose Teesdale Sixth Form because of the small class sizes and the **abundance of extra-curricular activities**. I know from my GCSE results that the school is really good and **the teachers are excellent.**”

“**The main thing that attracted me to Teesdale Sixth Form was the MedSoc programme because it allows students to prepare for the best universities.**”

Extra-curricular OPPORTUNITIES

At Teesdale Sixth Form you'll be given plenty of opportunity to broaden your skill set and participate in exciting and rewarding activities to help you to develop as an individual and compete at the highest levels.

These include a recent trip to Paris (and planned trip to Rome) charity activities, young enterprise challenges, access to higher education workshops, university talks, and active citizenship where you can support younger students with their studies.

We also have an enthusiastic cohort of social butterflies here who preside over many events

including our much loved annual sixth form ball where students can celebrate success and let their hair down.

We are also big on charity with recent activities including our Rotary Interact Club quiz night and support for World Mental Health Day.



Interact charity group



University visits



International trips



Volunteering



Coaching and mentoring



Work experience opportunities



Community engagement

Sixth Form ball



Sutton Trust Schemes

Students are supported to participate in initiatives to help them prepare for university and careers, for example in law and medicine.

Oxford and Cambridge

Sixth formers can take part in residential trips to Oxford and Cambridge universities where they can gain valuable insight into the application process and be given advice and support for interviews, as well as gaining insight into the 'Oxbridge' university experience.

LEARNING IN ACTION

Sixth Form students have recently taken part in a connecting classrooms project partly funded by the British Council. This enabled us to establish a digital bridge and partnership with a school in

Kenya and students from each school met online to complete Peace Advocacy training.

Our students were also part of a successful bid for funding from the Arts and Humanities

Research Council meaning they will soon be working on a project in partnership with Northumbria University looking at the 'migrated archives' from Britain's colonial past.

Student profile - Henry Wood

What subjects did you study at Teesdale Sixth Form and what have you gone on to do?

I studied maths, further maths, and physics at A level and I'm now studying for a masters degree in mechatronics and robotic engineering at the University of Sheffield.

What were your aspirations starting Teesdale Sixth Form?

I aimed to achieve top A level grades with which entry to my desired university choice would be attainable. I also intended to continue to explore my passions for mathematics and physics which had been inspired by studying the subjects at GCSE level at Teesdale. Both of these aspirations were realised by studying at Teesdale Sixth Form as I achieved better grades than I needed for my chosen course. I also gained a deeper understanding of both maths and physics, which will certainly serve me well in studying for my masters.

What expertise and support did you receive during your time at Teesdale Sixth Form?

The form time that began every day of my sixth form experience was an essential part of the effective student support service I received. It ensured that whatever issue you had, a peer or close member of staff was never far away. I genuinely believe that this could not have been improved.

What do you think the key advantages of studying at Teesdale Sixth Form are?

A key advantage of studying at Teesdale has to be the smaller class sizes compared to those of the surrounding sixth form colleges. The level of attention received from the member of staff teaching any given subject was unparalleled. This ensured that every student understood and could apply every concept taught very quickly and this was especially useful for subjects such as maths and physics.

What would you say to others considering studying at Teesdale Sixth Form?

I cannot emphasise enough how positive my experience studying at Teesdale was. There are ample extra curricular activities and opportunities available to anyone studying at Teesdale, catering for every aspect of student life. I don't believe that I would have learned as much as I did, or earned the grades that I have, had I gone elsewhere.

What are your aspirations for the future?

I intend to make a measurable impact on the evolving field of robotics, and to work at the frontier of developing cutting edge and emerging technologies, preferably to make some sizeable positive difference to life. I feel like studying at Teesdale Sixth Form has really made a lot of different opportunities very tangible.

Student profile - Nina Holguin

What subjects did you study at Teesdale Sixth Form and what have you gone on to do?

I studied history, maths and Spanish at A level and now I'm reading ancient and modern history at Oxford University.

What were your aspirations starting Teesdale Sixth Form?

I wanted to enjoy my favourite subjects from GCSE and aim for grades for the top universities in the country. I also wanted to enjoy the extra-curricular activities that Teesdale Sixth Form and the community offered.

What expertise and support did you receive during your time at Teesdale Sixth Form?

I received a phenomenal amount of support from all of the teachers at the school. Whether it was with coursework or homework, academic help or university application support, everyone was so willing to help me achieve everything I could.

The guidance and support for my Oxford University application and interviews was invaluable and the teachers really went the extra mile to give me the best chance. They even arranged for an older student from the north east who was studying ancient and modern history at Oxford to give me a whole morning chat about the process.

What do you think the key advantages of studying at Teesdale Sixth Form are?

Teesdale is a small sixth form, but for me this gave endless positives. Small classes meant detailed and direct teaching specifically for you, with the teachers' attention being split between very few people, and in some cases not split at all.

The opportunities I had were not lacking despite the sixth form being small, which meant I went on fantastic study days at universities, events and funded trips. At no point did I have to compromise during my time at Teesdale, it was tailored for me.

What would you say to others considering studying at Teesdale Sixth Form?

I'd thoroughly encourage people to come to Teesdale Sixth Form as the support you get from teachers and staff is what will keep you going when the workload gets tough. I'd also emphasise how important it is to get involved with extra-curricular activities and take all the opportunities offered to you.

What are your aspirations for the future?

Something exciting, creative, with lots of new challenges. Possibly abroad? Certainly, my Spanish lessons have given me a taste of other cultures that needs to be satisfied at some point. Once university is complete, I look forward to having the world as my oyster!

OUR courses

At Teesdale Sixth Form, we have developed a wide range of courses allowing students to design a personal programme appropriate to their abilities and aspirations that supports their progression beyond the sixth form.

A levels

Students can choose up to four A levels from a choice of maths, further maths, English literature, English language, physics, biology, chemistry, music, French, photography, art, history, sociology, geography, product design and psychology.

Facilitating A levels

These are subjects which are preferred, or even required, for study at a competitive university. If you want to apply to one of these institutions, or if you want to simply give yourself the widest range of choices after sixth form, you should choose at least two facilitating A level subjects from: biology, chemistry, English literature, geography, history, languages, maths or physics.

Vocational courses

We also offer a small number of vocational qualifications for students looking for a work-based pathway such as sports science and health and social care.

GCSE English and maths

Students who have not achieved a GCSE Grade 4 in maths and English will need to take these, or similar courses, again in sixth form in addition to their other qualifications.

Full details of all courses, subjects and admission arrangements can be found on our school website.

HOW TO APPLY

Please begin by considering carefully the courses which are right for you. If you are unsure about your likely GCSE results please talk to us to help decide the most suitable route for you.

You should select four courses you are interested in on our Initial Option Form and return it to reception at Teesdale School by **1st December 2023**.

To apply after this date, please contact us directly for an initial discussion.

During November and December we will arrange an interview to discuss your subject choices and aspirations for the future.





Aiming HIGH

Mewhort Scholarships

University is expensive, but at Teesdale Sixth Form we can help with Mewhort Scholarships - a unique opportunity which provides students with a financial reward for their hard work and commitment. Seven awards ranging from £3,000 to £4,500 are made to graduating students who demonstrate academic excellence.

In 2023, Sam Crow was awarded the top scholarship. Sam impressed the trustees, not only with his academic excellence, but also his willingness to give of himself in the service of others. He is a real ambassador for all that Teesdale stands for and an inspiration to the community around him.

Leadership opportunities

Whatever your future plans, being able to lead and motivate people will make you valuable and successful. We enlist the help of our younger students by actively encouraging sixth formers to mentor and support them as a way to develop these vital leadership skills.

Whilst you are shaping your future we expect that you will have a positive impact in the here and now, inspiring and serving the local community. We expect our students to enrich the lives of those around them.

There are several leadership opportunities available to facilitate this including spending time with residents at our local care homes, coaching our Year 7 football team, or even helping younger students achieve in a maths lesson. All these interactions mean you can really make a difference to the lives of others.

We also expect all of our sixth formers to be lead learners in their chosen subjects and to act as role models for our main school students. There is also an opportunity to serve on the Student Council and to play a key role in the direction that our sixth form takes.



Supported by the **North East Learning Trust**

Teesdale Sixth Form is part of the North East Learning Trust (NELT), a successful family of 12 schools across the North East.

NELT has a proven track record of school improvement with all schools under their wing having sustained or improved their Ofsted gradings at their first inspection following sponsorship.

NELT is widely regarded as providing some of the best education in the county, and indeed the country, with children making significant progress from their starting points, achieving impressive exam results, and going on to access a range of well-respected further and higher education opportunities including courses at some of the UK's most elite universities.

The Trust is also heavily involved with teacher development. It boasts its very own teacher training arm, North East SCITT, that trains the next generation of teachers and ensures the highest standards of teaching are instilled from the outset. It is a National Teaching School Hub,

one of 87 centres of excellence across England that provide high quality training and development to teachers throughout their careers. Not only that, but the Trust's founding school, The Academy at Shotton Hall, is a National Research School, one of just 23 in England, that up-skill teachers using cutting-edge research.

Joining the Trust has given Teesdale Sixth Form access to outstanding leaders who are involved in the regional and national development of education. The Trust CEO, Lesley Powell CBE, is a member of many regional and national education boards and advisory groups. The CEO and Deputy CEOs are 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.



Teesdale School and Sixth Form

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