



Teesdale School

2024 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.

I know that choosing a school for your child is one of the most important decisions you can make, so I am delighted that you are considering Teesdale School, where we take pride in delivering the very best learning experience for every student. We are a close-knit, nurturing school where students thrive, succeed and achieve in all areas.

Our staff know every child individually and work exceptionally hard to ensure that our students continue to achieve excellent GCSE and A level results each year. This dedication is reflected in our 'Outstanding' judgement by Ofsted and being named the best state school in the North East by the Sunday Times. The collective

effort which went into achieving these accolades is grounded by our vision, shared by all schools in the North East Learning Trust, that 'every child experiences excellence every day'. You can be sure that your child will receive the best possible education at Teesdale School.

Alongside our rich and diverse curriculum, we also offer a wide range of extra-curricular opportunities, such as the Duke of Edinburgh's award, debating competitions and a range of international trips, to help our students become the very best versions of themselves. With the support of the North East Learning Trust, we are constantly refining our approach

and are always looking for ways to build upon our existing successes. At Teesdale School, both staff and students work together to continually strive for improvement and maintain an outstanding experience for every single child.

I hope that, by perusing these pages and visiting us at our open evenings and events, you will be able to see the innovative, inviting ethos of our school for yourself. We look forward to warmly welcoming you and your child to Teesdale School in the future.



**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 and carers 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,

Maxwell, Shakespeare, Franklin and Richardson 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.

Ofsted Outstanding

Teesdale School is judged to be 'Outstanding' in all areas by school inspectors Ofsted.

We are incredibly proud of this top judgement 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 we once again saw strong GCSE and A level results. Year-on-year our exam results are consistently high and we are placed amongst the top performing schools in the area.

Home learning

All students have access to the full range of Office 365 software enabling them to move seamlessly between learning in and out of the classroom.



“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



Rounded EXPERIENCES

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

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 quite literally expanding their horizons and worldview. Our students visited Paris this year and have taken part in a project with a school in Kenya in conjunction with Northumbria University. Next year, Rome and the First World War battlefields of Belgium and Northern France are on the horizon.

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. This year students showcased their talents in a fantastic production of Sister Act and catered for over 60 guests in our Christmas pop-up restaurant.

Sporting success

At Teesdale School being active comes naturally to our young sportsmen and women with their

dedication and enthusiasm often translating into silverware. Some recent highlights include County Champions for discus and shot, as well as a silver medal in the 300m, three students represented the region at a Northern Counties Competition. We are also south-west Durham rounders champions.

One of our Key Stage 3 students competed in the Ilca 4 sailing competition and secured a place on the Great Britain development team heading to Portugal. Matthew Brennan, in Year 13, recently broke the junior individual pursuit world record and won a silver medal at the European Cycling Championships. He will now be taking up a spot on the professional Jumbo-Visma team.

“The wide range of enrichment activities, links with charities and visits out of school make a significant contribution to pupils’ social and cultural awareness.” Ofsted

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

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. Students can study design technology, religious education and food technology and we have a photography dark room to allow us to offer photography as an A level option. All students will 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.

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.



“All staff are determined to provide an outstanding education for all students to give them the best possible futures.”

Lesley Powell, CEO, NELT

Supported by the North East Learning Trust

Teesdale School 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 School 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.

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.



“Pupils who enter the school with lower standards of attainment receive highly personalised and bespoke support.” Ofsted



Teesdale School

Prospect Place
Barnard Castle
County Durham
DL12 8HH

office@teesdaleschool.co.uk
01833 638166

www.teesdaleschool.co.uk

*Sponsored by the North East Learning Trust
Company number 07492165, registered in England and Wales*

