Teesdale School
& Sixth Form

2027 PROSPECTUS


Teesdale School
& Sixth Form Centre
AN
Outstanding
SCHOOL WITH
traditional
values



Welcome to Teesdale School

Nestled in Barnard Castle, within 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.

As a parent myself, 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 an excellent, well-rounded education for your child.

Our school is home to over 600 students, each of whom we know personally. We take pride in understanding not just their academic progress, but also their individual aspirations and talents. By knowing who our students are, we can truly bring out the best in them, championing their ambitions and nurturing their potential.

We are a close-knit, nurturing school where children thrive and achieve in all areas. Our dedicated staff work tirelessly to ensure that our students consistently achieve excellent GCSE and A level results and we have recently been rated 'Outstanding' by Ofsted - the highest grade available.

In addition to our rich and diverse curriculum, we offer a wide range of extra-curricular opportunities, including the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, debating competitions, and exciting local and international trips. These experiences help our students grow into the best versions of themselves.

I warmly invite you to join us at our open evening to meet our dedicated staff and happy students. It's a great opportunity to experience Teesdale in person so you can feel as confident as we do, that you are choosing the best place for this important stage in your child's schooling.

H Zaheer

Hijab Zaheer
Head of School



Our values

Inspiring others

Learning is best when students are inspired. Inspiration at Teesdale School takes many forms, from exciting and innovative teaching and learning to extra-curricular opportunities in sport and the arts, international visits and exchanges and prestigious internships. Moreover, we expect and encourage our young people to inspire others as student leaders and role models.

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. Our houses 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 lead.

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 Headteacher Awards 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 and *achievements*

Teesdale School is one of the top performing schools in the North East. Our recent Ofsted report and 2025 School Guide five star certificate of excellence are evidence of our high academic and extra-curricular standing and our consistently excellent exam results speak volumes.

Ofsted Outstanding

Teesdale School is rated 'Outstanding' in all areas by Ofsted. We are extremely proud of this achievement and work every day to maintain the high standards described in their glowing reports. Our first 'Outstanding' judgment was awarded in 2019, with a follow-up inspection in 2025 confirming that our exceptionally high standards continue to be upheld.

You can read the latest Ofsted report on our school website.

Exam results

Year-on-year our exam results are consistently high and we are placed amongst the top performing schools in the area. Many students choose to stay on with our sixth form due to the highly personalised support they receive and strong percentages of students going on to access top universities and sought after vocational qualifications.

You can view our latest exam results on our school website.

"...pupils are committed and successful in their learning. They work hard and they achieve well, including in public examinations at the end of Year 11 and Year 13." **Ofsted**





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

Ofsted

Rounded *experiences*

A well-rounded education is about much more than academic success. We want your child develop their own unique skills and talents, embrace interesting and exciting experiences and try their hand at new things...

International trips

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 world-view.

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 design technology clubs, students here have every opportunity to enthusiastically dance, act, sing, play, draw, paint, photograph, design, cook, and stitch their way to success.

Every year students also showcase their musical talents at the NELT summer concert on stage at The Glasshouse International Centre for Music in Gateshead.

Sporting success

At Teesdale School being active comes naturally to our young sportsmen and women with their dedication and enthusiasm often translating into silverware. Outside school we are incredibly proud to have a Year 10 sailing champion who competes for Great Britain and a recent sixth form graduate who is a world tour cyclist!

John Muir and Duke of Edinburgh’s Awards

Students regularly participate in the John Muir and Duke of Edinburgh’s Awards schemes, which sees them embark on a range of exciting outdoor expeditions and adventures. A recent weekend stay in the remote North Yorkshire countryside saw our young adventurers enjoying abseiling, rock climbing, orienteering and geocaching.

What parents say:

"Thank you to the two students who showed my child and I around the school – they were extremely impressive with their knowledge and enthusiasm for the school."

"This is just a small note to say a HUGE CONGRATULATIONS on your well-deserved Ofsted result. We are exceptionally proud to say that our daughter (next year, daughters!) go to Teesdale and will continue to 'sing your praises' wherever we go."

"I just wanted to say a massive thank you to all the staff of Teesdale School for all their efforts with Year 7 so far. My son was nervous to start your school and he is absolutely loving it, so a huge thank you to all of you."

"My daughter continues to amaze us with her progress, both academically and within the wider school community. So thank you for giving her the opportunities to shine".

"I cannot thank you enough for your ongoing support. Having had years where we've felt that my son's actions have been misinterpreted and misunderstood, I am so grateful to you and to my son's teachers for seeing him as he is. You've been amazing for him, and I cannot overstate my gratitude to you."

The Teesdale *experience*

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. At Teesdale School we ensure that children are known and treated with warmth and kindness.

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.

"Pupils are very proud of their school. They are happy there. Their behaviour is excellent. As a result, they live out the 'Teesdale Way' successfully by being 'ready, respectful and safe." **Ofsted**





LEFT: The annual NELT summer concert, held at The Glasshouse in Gateshead, is an opportunity for children from all NELT schools to perform together for their families.

North East Learning Trust

Proud to be part of the North East Learning Trust

Our school is sponsored by the North East Learning Trust (NELT), a successful family of 14 schools across the North East.

NELT is widely regarded as providing some of the best education in the region, and indeed the country. Children in NELT schools make significant progress from their starting points, achieve impressive exam results, and go on to access a range of well-respected further and higher education opportunities.

NELT has grown to 14 schools with an impressive series of rapid school improvements under their belts. Without exception, every school that joined the Trust as 'inadequate' or 'requiring improvement' as judged by Ofsted, improved by two whole grades to become 'good' or 'outstanding' – this success is a testament to the unwavering dedication of a talented regional network of staff. Ofsted gradings have recently changed and all NELT schools who have been graded under the new system have met, and very often exceeded, all of the required standards.

Additionally, as a National Teaching School Hub, NELT is one of 87 centres across England offering quality training and development throughout teachers' careers.

NELT's founding school, The Academy at Shotton Hall, is also a National Research School, one of just 23 in England that up-skill teachers using cutting edge research,

The Trust is led by outstanding educators, including CEO Dame Lesley Powell DBE who actively contributes to regional and national educational development, most recently as co-chair of the National Key Stage 3 Alliance, which aims to improve teaching and learning across England in the early secondary school years.

NELT has also built up a wide network of specialist teachers and other experienced professionals to support schools to reach their full potential.

A community *that cares*

Pastoral support

Everyone needs a helping hand from time to time, and at Teesdale School, our dedicated pastoral team is here to provide it. With a highly experienced support system in place, we ensure that every student has access to the care, advice, and guidance they need. Whether it's academic support or help with personal concerns, our team is equipped to assist each child through challenging times.

Our exceptional pastoral care is essential in fostering an environment where students feel supported and ready to learn. We prioritise building resilience, confidence, and personal growth through a comprehensive network of support. Additionally, we offer targeted support with on-site counselling available ensuring tailored intervention for both individuals and groups of students.

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 enjoy strong, positive relationships with staff. They appreciate that staff know them well, regularly recognise their achievements and value them as individuals." Ofsted

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Company number 07492165, registered in England and Wales

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