



**Teesdale School
& Sixth Form**

2025

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.

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 the very best education for every student.

We are a close-knit, nurturing school where students thrive and achieve in all areas. Our dedicated staff work tirelessly to ensure that our students consistently achieve excellent GCSE and A-level results, as reflected in our 'Outstanding' Ofsted rating.

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 international trips. These experiences help our students grow into the best versions of themselves.

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.

I warmly invite you to visit us at our open evening to see our achievements and experience the wonderful atmosphere in our school for yourself. In the meantime, please take a look through these pages which are designed to give you an insight into who we are and what we have to offer.



Hijab Zaheer
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 and 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.

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.



“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



“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

Rounded experiences

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

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 worldview.

This year saw visits to the First World War battlefields of Belgium and Northern France.

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.

Students recently showcased their talents the NELT summer concert and catered for over 60 guests in pop-up restaurant that was featured on the local news.

Sporting success

At Teesdale School being active comes naturally to our young sportsmen and women with their dedication and enthusiasm often translating into silverware with a recent highlight being one of our students crowned Durham Schools senior boys’ 3000m champion.

John Muir and Duke of Edinburgh’s Awards

Students regularly participate in the John Muir and Duke of Edinburgh’s Awards schemes, seeing them embark on a range of exciting outdoor expeditions and adventures.

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

“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

“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 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.

A photograph of two young students, a boy and a girl, smiling and posing for the camera. They are wearing dark blue school polo shirts with teal accents on the sleeves. The boy is on the left, and the girl is on the right. They are standing outdoors with green foliage in the background.

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

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.

NELT has grown to 13 schools with an impressive series of rapid school improvements under their belts. Without exception, every school that has joined NELT as 'inadequate' or 'requiring improvement' as judged by Ofsted, has 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.

NELT is deeply committed to teacher development. It operates North East SCITT, a dedicated training arm for

new teachers, ensuring the highest standards of teaching expertise are embedded from the start of new teachers' careers.

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

NELT is led by outstanding educators, including CEO Lesley Powell CBE, who actively contributes to regional and national educational development. It has also built up 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

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, including tutors, heads

of year, key stage directors, and our special educational needs coordinator.

Additionally, we offer targeted support with on-site counselling available one day a week, 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 who enter the school with lower standards of attainment receive highly personalised and bespoke support.” Ofsted





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