



WHICKHAM

SCHOOL & SPORTS COLLEGE

**AT THE HEART OF
THE COMMUNITY**

For September 2020 entry



WELCOME



Whickham School has always enjoyed a good reputation in the local community. Our staff really care for the children they teach and former students look back with fond memories.

Although academic and sporting achievements are very important to us, we also seek to cultivate good citizens – mature young people who care for others and have a desire to give back to the community which has nurtured them. Providing opportunities for our students to do this is a very important part of school life, and we are extremely proud of those who step up to the mark. Everyone is valued for their unique contribution to the life of the school. We recognise the special gifts, talents and needs of each individual as we strive for excellence.

As a school we want to prepare our young people for happy, healthy lives and continue to be the very best they can be. That is reflected in our Ofsted Report. Indeed Inspectors made a note of the positive relationships between staff and pupils which are founded on mutual respect, that pupils are nurtured to be successful and caring, and that

pupils feel “you can be who you want to be and you don’t get judged by others.”

With over 1,500 students and one of the largest and most successful Sixth Forms in the North East, Whickham School has the capacity that enables us to offer an excellent curriculum. Our students’ learning is constantly monitored to ensure they have the challenge, support and guidance necessary to achieve the outcomes that we expect and they deserve.

We have a tradition of offering a wide variety of opportunities, with a diverse curriculum and many visits and events designed to excite, interest and challenge. The influence of our specialism in Sports is evident throughout the school and complements well our many other strengths.

We work hard to maintain our excellent links with parents and the community, and we are constantly looking for ways of

enhancing these relationships. We have very strong links with our partner primary schools in curriculum, sport and pastoral areas. These provide our students with the best possible start to the secondary school phase of their education. Whickham School and Sports College is a safe and happy community where students can learn and develop as they grow into successful young adults.

We look forward to welcoming you into our learning community.

Steve Haigh
Headteacher





“The School enables you to pursue wonderful opportunities - the World Challenge trip to Borneo was one of the best experiences of my life. The trip and the fundraising activities helped me to build incredible friendships and gave me the confidence for my transition into sixth form.”

- Romy Lewis-Malley

OUR VALUES

Whickham, a school to be proud of at the heart of the community. Where learning is cherished in a safe, caring and supportive environment. A school where everyone is valued and inspired to be the best they can be.

OUR PURPOSE:

Whickham School; a school that ensures all pupils are the very best they can be.

THIS IS ACHIEVED BY ENSURING:

Everyone is a leader who demonstrates the school values.

Everyone always ensures a culture of learning that engages, excites and inspires.

Everyone always works effectively to achieve beyond expectations.

Everyone always ensures that all barriers to learning are addressed.

AT THE HEART OF THE COMMUNITY

Whickham School places itself at the heart of the community. It opens its doors to parents, pupils and all the community through a variety of experiences, opportunities and events.

- Evening carol concert for the community
- Parents' Evenings
- Leadership and sporting opportunities in primary schools
- Primary school transition awards evening
- Band/Drama/Dance Productions
- Student leadership awards
- Arts/Technology exhibition
- After school classes
- Sports events
- Facility hire
- Fitness classes
- Food leaders
- Prize giving
- Training and match venue for football, hockey, rugby and other community sports clubs
- Holiday Sports Camps
- Community Partnerships



AT THE HEART OF THE COMMUNITY

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WHICKHAM
SCHOOL & SPORTS COLLEGE

Whickham School and Sports College is a happy community where students can learn and develop as they grow into successful young adults.

“I have been offered exciting opportunities that have improved my confidence”

– Year 7 student

AT THE HEART OF
THE COMMUNITY



EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES

At Whickham School we have high expectations for all our students. We set stretching academic targets to create a climate of success that enables our students to thrive.

Students are supported in their journeys towards academic success with high quality teaching & learning and a rigorous monitoring and intervention programme that enables us to target support.

All students have access to one-to-one academic mentoring that enables them to reflect upon their progress and the steps they should take to reach the next level.

Outstanding educational outcomes enable our students to experience exciting opportunities. Around 89% of our 6th Form Students go onto Further or Higher Education, many of them attending the Russell group universities, including Oxford and Cambridge. Others follow apprenticeship or direct employment routes.

“Pupils make good progress in a wide range of subjects including English and Mathematics.” **Ofsted 2018**

2019 EXAMINATION RESULTS

English:	Maths:
66% 5 +	56% 5 +
25% 7 +	19% 7 +

CHALLENGE, GUIDANCE AND SUPPORT

The change from a small school to a large one, to a wider curriculum, to the responsibility of forming relationships with new friends and new teachers, is sensitively and effectively managed with a continuous programme of support.

We have developed an on-going transition programme from year 5 onwards so that primary students are regular visitors to Wickham School. They participate in a number of lessons and activities, including academic and sporting summer schools which build confidence and familiarity ahead of their arrival.

In July, students experience more intensive contact. They work with our Peer Support Mentors to get student perspectives on life at Wickham. Primary students lunch at school and meet their Form Tutor and fellow students.

Students who may find transition a little more difficult have additional sessions prior to the taster days to allow them extra time to familiarise themselves with the staff and their new surroundings.

The school welcomes disabled students. Wheelchair access is available in all ground floor areas and toilets have been adapted to provide appropriate facilities for wheelchair users.

The Additional Educational Needs (AEN) Department comprises of two Special Educational Needs Co-ordinators (SENCOs) and a committed team of specialist Teaching Assistants (TAs) who provide a blend of one-to-one and in-class support. The AEN department has a close working relationship with our primary schools, holding regular meetings with parents, students and teachers to ensure that students' needs are effectively met upon transition and beyond.



HIGH QUALITY LEARNING

We actively provide a number of opportunities for students to extend their learning beyond the school day.

The School Resource Centre and ICT rooms are open from 8.00am to 4.30pm daily. Students are actively encouraged to attend the Learning Hub, which is there to support and enhance student learning.

Regular homework also helps to extend learning. Homework is at least 45 minutes at key stage 3 for every 3 hours of curriculum time. At key stage 4 this increases to 1 hour per subject per week and in the Sixth Form, 4 hours per subject.

HIGH QUALITY CURRICULUM PROVISION

Students at Whichham access a broad and diverse curriculum that enables all students to make the best of their talents whilst acquiring the skills and knowledge to succeed in the wider world.

All students in Years 7 and 8 follow a broad and balanced curriculum. This includes:

English including Drama, Mathematics, Science, History, Geography, Religious Education, Music, Physical Education; Modern Foreign Languages; Technology including Food Technology, Information Technology and Art including Ceramics. Students also follow a comprehensive "Citizenship For Life" programme as part of their preparation to become successful young adults.

A small number of students receive additional literacy support in place of studying a foreign language.

In Key Stage 4 (Years 9, 10 & 11) all students follow a core curriculum of English, Mathematics, Science, IT, RE and PSHE/ Citizenship. The majority of students choose a variety of GCSE subjects which include a language and humanities subject. Other students pursue a mixed pathway, involving both GCSEs and BTEC qualifications. Most of our students go on to Sixth Form for further studies.

TUTORIAL PROGRAMME

Pupils start every day with their form tutor. Pupils work with their tutor on their literacy and numeracy skills. In addition students will spend time with their tutor learning about key aspects of citizenship and personal, social and health education. Attendance and growth mindset are also addressed during tutor time activities.

APPLIED LEARNING

Whichham School provides increased curriculum choice for students with the provision of a number of applied learning courses. These courses allow students to apply their knowledge and skills to more practical situations in real life contexts that can involve collaboration with providers beyond school.

GIFTED AND TALENTED

Students are provided with opportunities and challenges within lessons and through specific educational experiences that foster and stimulate their abilities and interests.



**AT THE HEART OF
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WHICKHAM SIXTH FORM

ONE OF THE MOST SUCCESSFUL SIXTH FORMS
IN THE NORTH EAST

2019 A-Level and Equivalent

99.7% Pass Rate

34% A* - A

58% A* - B

CURRICULUM

Whickham Sixth Form is extremely proud of the fantastic student attainment. We offer a diverse and broad curriculum, with a variety of subjects and both an A-level and BTEC provision. The curriculum is complimented by a range of additional study options including; Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) and Core Maths.

FACILITIES

The Sixth Form is housed in a state-of-the-art sixth form centre which includes social space, computer suite, study area, conference rooms and also a Starbuck's Cafeteria. The sixth form study block is accessible Monday- Friday 7am-

2019 A-Level

100% Pass Rate

18% A* - A

50% A* - B





7pm and Saturday mornings in the run up to the examinations, in order to support pupil progress.

SUPPORT & GUIDANCE

There is a well-developed support system to prepare Year 11 students for post-sixth life. Alongside this we invest a large amount of time in supporting pupils with their transition to university or employment after their sixth form studies.

ENRICHMENT

There is an extensive offer of enrichment activities designed to help develop pupils' wider interests and talents. This includes; Sports Leadership, Arts leadership, Duke of Edinburgh, World Challenge, Debating, Peer Mentoring and many more. We also run an annual Charity Week where the charity is selected by the incoming Year 12 students. They are responsible for the organisation, planning and delivery of fundraising activities which develops their skills and aids their transition into sixth form.

"The strong reputation of the sixth form is well deserved. Students make progress that is significantly higher than others nationally."

Ofsted 2018



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AN ACTIVE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITY



Whickham School works in partnership with the Youth Sport Trust

We believe by promoting active participation alongside health issues we can improve student achievement as well as their physical, social and emotional well-being.

Whickham School has been a Sports College for over 15 years and has developed a national reputation for its accomplishments in this area. A wide range of sports-related programmes are offered in healthy life styles, sport participation, student leadership, coaching and exam qualifications.



“I like the variety of subjects and it is so different from primary school as I am not stuck in the same classroom. I enjoy the choice of after school activities.”

– Jude Caithness

“Whickham School has given me lots of confidence and a lot of support with the subjects I struggle with.”

REPRESENTATIVE SPORTS TEAMS IN SCHOOL TOTAL OVER 30 DIFFERENT SPORTS

All students in our primary cluster of schools have the opportunity to take part in a range of sporting events at Whickham School throughout the year.

A range of Student Leadership courses are available at school. We produce confident leaders who organise and run events, coach other students, take on management roles and even deliver training to large audiences of students, teachers and the public. These leaders have accrued over 5,000 hours of volunteering and our school is rated as one of the top schools in England for student Leadership.

The sports facility manager and technicians enable school facilities to be open and for hire by the public after school and at weekends.

Our very large PE department enables us to offer a vast range of sports and competitive opportunities. Success is celebrated at our annual sports presentation evening.

A specialist coach manages our very successful boys and girls trampoline teams. They regularly represent the North of England at the National finals and have always won one or more age group competitions each year.

We have specialist dance teachers who manage the dance squads and performing arts productions as well as train students as dance leaders.



**AT THE HEART OF
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DIVERSE AND ENGAGING OPPORTUNITIES

EXTRA CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES

Our students can express and develop their talents in a wide variety of ways, including: dance, drama, music, art, textiles, media studies, public speaking, reading clubs, creative writing and a host of others.

In drama, students have the opportunity to join a weekly drama club where they can work with upper school students in developing their performance skills. We host three productions a year, from large scale musicals to Shakespeare to productions of our own students' scripts. We recently invested significant funds into a state-of-the-art lighting system that enables our more technical students to refine their skills.

In dance, students plan, rehearse and perform their own dance evenings and students have the opportunity to practise a range of styles, including work with professionals from Dance City and established street dance performers.

Our art department holds a prestigious annual exhibition of student work and arranges a series of visits to local and national galleries, as well as inviting artists to visit Whickham and work with students.

SCHOOL BAND

Our band is made up of woodwind, brass and percussion players who rehearse together to perform classical and popular music to local audiences at school and in the community. This band has been in existence now for forty five years, a living part of the school tradition that continues to thrive.

A high proportion of pupils choose to take part in the rich extra-curricular opportunities provided by the school.



“I have been given many opportunities at Whickham School through enrichment activities which have inspired me to reach my full potential”
– Niamh Mills

DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARDS

Whickham School runs the acclaimed Duke of Edinburgh Awards scheme at all three levels. This is open to students from years 10 to 13. As part of the rigorous programme they complete an expedition, develop new skills, carry out volunteering and for the Gold award, organise and participate in a residential trip.

The school participates in a host of international visits each year. Students have visited Poland, Belgium, France, Germany, Iceland, Switzerland, Andorra, Tanzania, Uganda and New York. These visits took place for a range of reasons; sightseeing, course related projects, sports based activities and students leadership projects.

WORLD CHALLENGE

World Challenge expeditions take place every 2 years and involve travelling to remote areas in distant countries to participate in treks and community work over a 3 to 4 week period. Previous expeditions have been to Namibia, Ladakh in the Indian Himalayas, Mexico, Morocco, Bolivia, Southern Tanzania, Borneo, and in 2019 to Swaziland and Mozambique. The next World Challenge expedition will take place in 2021 to India.

What makes these trips unique is that the students decide on the itinerary and organise all aspects of the expedition. They are responsible for booking transport, controlling the finance, securing accommodation, buying food and hiring guides for the trek. They have to purchase

equipment and the resources required for the project and liaise with the community leaders or the teachers who they are working with.

These expeditions are special in that it gives the students an opportunity to go to places very few tourists get to visit, to experience life in a foreign culture, living with people less fortunate than themselves and to provide much needed help for these people. The life skills the students learn will not only aid personal growth, but can help secure university places and impress future employers. They talk in interviews about erecting houses for the homeless in the Andes, swimming with turtles and collecting their eggs for hatching on remote pacific beaches, standing on top of the second highest road pass in the world, building classrooms in Africa or sleeping in hammocks whilst trekking through the Borneo Jungle.

PARENTS' FORUM

Listening and responding to the voice of our parents is extremely important to us. A parents' Forum exists to enable our parents to articulate any concerns on school matters. We seek the opinion of Parents to gauge their opinions on key changes like school uniform, the school reporting system, and many other issues.

Parents' Forum meets once a half term on the second Monday. The forum has an agenda / theme for each meeting and also time for parents to raise any whole school concerns they have. Any parent or guardian who wishes to be part of Parents forum please contact the school office.



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