



# Northallerton School & Sixth Form College

Learning and Achieving Together

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## Information for Parents/Carers

The aim of this brochure is to explain and inform. If it would help you, we can provide the information in different formats – please ask.

Northallerton School & Sixth Form College fully supports the principles of Equal Opportunity and Diversity and we are committed to implementing these principles through our activities and literature.

Welcome to our School

## Welcome to Northallerton School and Sixth Form College

It is my delight to have been appointed as the new Principal of Northallerton School & Sixth Form College. I am mindful of its long history (...dating back to 1322), and the strong reputation it has enjoyed in the town and the wider community over so many of those years. I consider it my task to ensure the young people of Northallerton and its surrounding villages enjoy the very highest quality of education, where great teaching and learning is combined with excellent conduct and behaviour.

We have been pleased with the GCSE and A Level examination results in Summer 2018, with the school's "value added" score being above or well above that of similar schools in North Yorkshire. Many students have achieved excellent results, and a large number of Year 13 students have now embarked on their university degree courses, including to Russell Group and to Oxbridge.

Every child is special to us, and every child deserves to be highly valued as an individual, with their own unique gifts and talents. We are keen to nurture and develop each young person during their time with us, such that they not only succeed in their public examinations, but also grow and mature into decent and responsible citizens. We consider 'respect' to be at the heart of everything we do, and we encourage all of our students to think very carefully about how they treat and show respect towards one another and to staff.

As we embark on this next chapter in the school's long and rich history, we encourage you to join us on the journey. If you wish to visit the school, please do attend our forthcoming Open Evening or alternatively contact Reception and ask for a tour round. We would be delighted to show you all that the school and college has to offer.

With all best wishes,

Mr Chris Drew  
Principal

## Our Mission

We are committed to putting people first; our students, staff and the community we serve. In doing this we will:

- Ensure every student succeeds
- Shape our curriculum to meet students' interests, needs and aspirations
- Strive to be effective in all we do
- Work in partnership in the interests of students
- Manage our resources to support our students

## Our values

The guiding principle of Northallerton School & Sixth Form College is our belief that "the education of all students is of equal value". Together, we are committed to enabling everyone in the community, regardless of race, religion, gender, ability, culture, background and any other potentially divisive factor, to benefit from their entitlement to lifelong learning.

We will work together to continue to raise standards and strive for excellence through an innovative approach to learning and by ensuring equal access and full opportunities for individual development and growth.

### **All students will:**

- experience a lively curriculum, planned by a well-supported, enthusiastic staff
- be challenged and extended, both socially and academically
- increasingly accept and enjoy responsibility for their own lives and learning, in a supportive environment, with appropriate individual guidance
- be encouraged to celebrate diversity and respect their own and other people's achievements and values.

## Assuring Quality

- We ensure the widest range of provision for both school-age and adult students in the area
- Our high expectations are reflected in our students' outstanding external examination results, as well as in their many other remarkable achievements
- Our policy of working in close partnership with students, parents/carers and the community ensures that we listen, act on what we hear and are constantly seeking to improve everything we offer.

### **Caring for your child**

Secondary school may at first seem frightening for your son or daughter.

Don't worry, through our guidance system, we create a caring community within which every boy or girl will soon feel at home.

### **Support and Guidance**

**We:**

- work closely with our partner schools
- support and care for every person as an individual
- acknowledge students' increasing maturity
- invest heavily in the provision of expert guidance to students as they plan for their futures.

### **Base Coach**

The most important person in the school as far as you and your child are concerned will be the base coach. They will be responsible for ensuring that your child is happy in our school and that they fulfil their potential. The base coach will play an important part in his or her education. Please take every opportunity to keep in close contact with the base coach.

## Special Educational Needs

As a school, we seek to develop inclusive values between staff, students and parents/carers and remove barriers to learning and participation. We offer support to students with special educational needs from ages 11-18, giving them the opportunity to develop self-esteem and to enhance their progress across all areas of the curriculum.

### **Students will:**

- be encouraged to take increasing responsibility for their own learning through shared target setting where appropriate
- be given the opportunity to improve basic skills through additional support and literacy and numeracy intervention programmes
- be given the opportunity to learn in different ways which allows for individual strengths and weaknesses
- have access to resources which will consolidate and extend learning according to individual need
- be involved in the reviewing procedure along with parents/carers
- receive additional support from outside agencies when this is appropriate

## Safeguarding

Northallerton School & Sixth Form College is committed to ensuring the welfare and safety of all children in school and we follow the North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Board procedures. The school will, in most circumstances, endeavour to discuss all concerns with parents/carers about their child/ren. However, there may be exceptional circumstances when the school will discuss concerns with Social Care and/or the Police without parental knowledge (in accordance with Child Protection procedures). The school will, of course, always aim to maintain a positive relationship with all parents/carers. The school's child protection policy is available on our website or by request.



## The curriculum 11-18

Our students - your children - will benefit from a carefully planned curriculum from age 11-18. It has been developed to provide them with an education covering a range of subjects and to give them the knowledge, skills and creativity they will need in their future lives, providing progression routes into all levels of further and higher education or employment.

All students follow a full programme of National Curriculum subjects in Key Stage 3 in a curriculum which is continually evolving to meet students' needs. We work closely with our partner primary schools to enhance continuity. In KS3, all students engage in the core subjects of English, maths and science together with technology, humanities, RE, art, PE, music, drama and at least one foreign language.

Students continue to study a strong core curriculum in KS4, with a range of option choices, before specialising in the sixth form.

Information technology is used appropriately to enhance learning in the classroom and in independent work in the Library.

## Extra-curricular activities

The curriculum is significantly enhanced by a range of extra-curricular activities for example:

### Sports

As a progression from the lesson there are inter-school competitions with the opportunity to progress into Area (Hambleton and Richmondshire), North Yorkshire and National teams. We take every opportunity to encourage all students to develop to the level appropriate to their ability. As a result there are many extra-curricular activities involving staff from outside the PE faculty and a comprehensive programme of fixtures throughout the year.

The well qualified staff are supported by other sports specialists and parents/carers as we seek to further develop our links with local sports groups and agencies. Sports teams include football, rugby, netball, hockey, athletics, basketball, cross-country, gymnastics, cricket, badminton, and swimming.

*The education of all students...*

*...is of equal value*

## Music

In addition to classroom music, there is a strong extra-curricular programme for students interested in music. We work closely with our partner primary schools, with many students still at primary schools coming to us to play in the Concert Band. The Concert Band has visited Paris, Ormesson and Disneyland in recent years.

The school production is of high quality and provides opportunities for students from all year groups to take part in a variety of ways from set making and management, technical production as well as on stage roles.



## **A Strong Partnership**

We believe that a strong partnership between home and school will help your child to benefit fully from his/her time with us.

## **Parents' Bulletin**

We publish a weekly parents' bulletin. Its aim is to keep you fully informed about the many activities that are going on within our school - sometimes we ask for your help and sometimes we invite you to join us in a number of social activities.

## **Independent Learning**

The setting of homework is an integral part of the work of the school. All subjects set homework to enhance the learning that takes place within the school day. Homework is set for a wide range of reasons and these reasons determine the frequency and deadlines of a piece of homework. A creative project may span several weeks whereas a research task may only have a one week deadline.

You can make an important contribution to the successful completion of homework tasks by helping your child to organise their time effectively. Teaching staff are mindful of the pressures placed on young people both within school as well as from commitments outside school. Please feel free to make contact with a subject teacher or your son or daughter's base coach if the completion of homework is problematic and every effort can be made to accommodate a student's needs.

## **Student Log Book**

Each student is provided with a Log Book. This is an essential item which we expect all students to have and use effectively. Log Books are used in several ways - a homework diary, communication between home and school and a personal and school information resource for students.