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Welcome to

# NCEA Duke's Secondary School

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# Principal's welcome



**Mrs Russ Atkinson**  
Principal

NCEA Duke's Secondary School is an 11-19 academy with its own in-house Sixth Form provision which serves the communities of Ashington, Newbiggin-by-the-Sea and Lynemouth. Operating as part of Northumberland Church of England Academy Trust (NCEAT), many of our pupils transition to Duke's Secondary directly from one of our partner primary schools, but an increasing number of families are choosing Duke's over other schools in the local area who are keen for their children to become part of the NCEAT story.

A modern school underpinned by the traditional Christian values of love, inclusivity, goodness, hope and truth, Duke's is an exciting place to learn and to develop. Our school culture is one of high aspiration, challenge and success and as such, we encourage all of our pupils to be the best that they can be – this means working hard, developing great attitudes to learning, and accessing as many different opportunities as possible.

I am very proud of what our pupils achieve during their time at Duke's, we have high expectations of our pupils and year after year, they go above and beyond with some great successes in sport, art and performance and charity and volunteering work to name a few. I'm equally proud of what our pupils go on to achieve; an increasing number of pupils achieve a place at their first choice university when they leave us, some go on to amazing apprenticeship opportunities and others go on to join the world of work straight away. Whatever their destination, pupils leave us as young adults with a wide range of skills and an array of experiences that set them apart and give them opportunities to progress into many different futures.

If you think that Duke's could be the right school for your child to help guide them through their secondary education, please visit our website or contact us for more information. We'll look forward to hearing from you.

# Vision and values

A culture of learning, success, high expectations, aspiration, challenge and inclusion pervade all aspects of school life at Duke's. This is reflected through the curriculum, the leadership and daily practices of pupils and staff, aspiring to be compassionate global citizens with a sense of community and social responsibility.

## At Duke's Secondary School we strive to:

- Provide a distinctively Christian inclusive and diverse learning environment which honours God. Every learner, adult and child here is enabled, nurtured and challenged to be the best they can be.
- Encourage staff and pupils to aspire to the fullness of life [John 10:10] that they may achieve their full potential.
- Promote the spiritual, moral, social, cultural, personal and physical development of individuals within a Christian framework.
- Sustain a community in which everyone is respected and valued.

**Our LIGHT values (Love, Inclusivity, Goodness, Hope and Truth) are designed to help everyone to 'let their light shine'. [Matthew 5:16]**

# It's in our DNA...

Here at Duke's, we use a teaching model called 'DNA' to make sure that pupils have a great learning experience in and outside of the classroom. DNA breaks down as:

**D**

Differentiated for support and challenge

**N**

New and exciting learning opportunities

**A**

Active Learning

The skills that pupils gain by using the DNA model are designed to help prepare them for any challenges they may face during their time in secondary school, including exams, and in the future.



## **Resilience:**

The ability to recover quickly from difficulties; toughness..



## **Independence:**

The fact or state of being independent; self- determination.



## **Critical Thinking:**

The objective analysis and evaluation of an issue in order to form a judgement.



## **Collaboration:**

The action of working together to produce something.



## **Reflection:**

To give serious thought or consideration/contemplation / deliberation to an idea.



## **Questioning:**

To ask (someone) questions, feel or express doubt about (subject); raise objections to (someone/something).



## **Stretch and Challenge:**

To try new things that may be difficult at first.



## **Creativity:**

The use of imagination or original ideas to create something; inventiveness.



# Supporting learning through secondary key stages

There are a number of key milestones for pupils which take place in secondary school, including critical assessment periods which can determine their future success. With this in mind, we have considered our curriculum very carefully from entry in Year 7, through to exit at either Year 11 or Year 13, to ensure that whether our pupils head into employment, or further education or training, they have the knowledge and skills they need to succeed on their chosen pathway.

## Key Stage 3 Summary (Years 7, 8 and 9)

Our aim is to ensure that students in years 7, 8 and 9 are able to experience a varied curriculum with a range of academic and vocational elements which inspires and enthuses them so that they develop a long term passion for learning.

## **Key Stage 4 (Years 10 and 11)**

At the end of Year 9, pupils will select their 'Options' for Key Stage 4 – this will allow them to tailor their own learning experience for Years 10 and 11 so they can pursue areas of study which appeal most to them. The options presented to students open up a wider variety of vocational qualifications alongside traditional subjects on the English Baccalaureate (Ebacc) curriculum for pupils to study at GCSE level and beyond.

## **Key Stage 5 (Years 12 and 13)**

Our Key Stage 5 Curriculum offers a range of subjects for pupils to study throughout Years 12 and 13 should they choose to stay on at Duke's Sixth Form. We offer a range of Level 3 courses and pathways in both academic and vocational subjects. More information on these options can be found on our website or in our dedicated Duke's Sixth Form prospectus.

**Our school curriculum has been carefully designed to align with the NCEAT vision while also encompassing the four key principles which underpin the Church of England's vision for education:**



**Educate for wisdom, knowledge and skills**



**Educate for hope and aspiration**



**Educate for community and living well together**



**Educate for dignity and respect**



## Supporting pupils' next steps

At Duke's, we're committed to helping our pupils succeed, every step of the way.

### Year 7 Transition

We appreciate that for many pupils, the move from primary to secondary school can be daunting, which is why each year, we create a transition task force to put together a comprehensive programme of taster sessions, parent evenings, open days and activities to support pupils and welcome them fully to Duke's.

## **Year 9 Options**

Each year, our staff go above and beyond to help pupils make the right decisions about their options for Key Stage 4 (Years 10 and 11). Taking into consideration the pupil's individual aspirations and skills, staff conduct one-to-one interviews with pupils about their options and provide subject taster sessions to ensure pupils have a realistic idea of what they can expect at GCSE so they can make informed choices.

## **Year 11 Assessment**

The exam season at the end of Year 11 is arguably one of the most stressful periods of a student's life. Our staff are on hand during this period to provide additional support, revision classes and exam coaching to all pupils to make sure that they are as confident as they can be when they enter the exam hall.

## **Year 13 Assessment**

For pupils who stay on at Duke's Sixth Form, the exam season at the end of Year 13 can be an incredibly stressful time. Like at Year 11, our staff are on hand to coach pupils through this difficult period. Pupils also have access to our Learner Welfare resources should they need any additional support or impartial advice.

## **Careers Education**

Careers education and making pupils aware of the fantastic opportunities available to them when they leave school is embedded in our curriculum at all key stages. Our in-house careers advisor is available for pupils to access at any time and plays a critical role in supporting pupils into destinations which match their skill set and aspirations.



## **Extra-curricular opportunities**

At Duke's, we value work and play equally and encourage our pupils to take part in a wide variety of extra-curricular activities to help broaden their social and cultural horizons.

We offer a range of lunchtime and after school clubs including Sports Club, Dance Club, Debate Club and Art Club as well as our own Pride Club to provide a safe space for any and all pupils who are interested in discussing issues relevant to the LGBT+ community.

Our active careers education programme also offers a range of extra-curricular activities in the shape of World of Work events and employer sessions. Many subjects also offer their own field trip opportunities and special events to help boost pupil's cultural capital and learning experiences.

## Ofsted:

### March 2020 / Reviewed January 2021

“A new principal was appointed in March 2020. A new deputy principal and assistant principal are now also in position.”

“You (Mr Atkinson) are striving to ensure that the school improves. You and your team want to give pupils the best possible chance for the future. You are increasingly successful in this.”

“The passion and dedication that you and your staff have for your pupils is clear. You act with integrity and care. You are committed to serving the local community. This has continued at this time of national lockdown. You have made sure that both on-site and remote education are available to pupils.”

“The academy improvement board, diocese and local authority are working together to support school leaders. There is a striking desire to ensure that there is not a ‘scattergun approach’ to helping the school to improve. Prioritising changes and doing ‘a few things well’ are at the heart of their support and advice. Changes to curriculum plans are an example of this.”



## **SIAMS:**

**September 2017**

“Constant application of the biblically inspired vision of life in all its fullness and everyone letting their light shine has a transformational impact on pupils, staff and local communities.”

“A distinctively Christian understanding of the LIGHT values (love, inclusivity, goodness, hope and truth) is deeply embedded and shapes policy and practice.”

“The impressive range of opportunities offered to pupils beyond their lessons, for example music and sport, is life-changing and fulfils the original Christian vision of the academy in serving this community and unlocking the potential of young people.”

“Pupils of all ages are familiar with the belief that they can ‘shine’”

### **Want to see the full reports?**

Full inspection reports can be found at our website at: [www.dukes.ncea.org.uk](http://www.dukes.ncea.org.uk)

# Admissions

Duke's Secondary School, an academy within NCEA Trust, follows the admissions procedures of Northumberland County Council in compliance with the School Admissions Code February 2014 issued by the Department for Education (DfE).

## **Published Admissions Numbers (PAN) from September 2022**

### **Year 7 Admissions**

Parents and Carers who wish to apply for a place at Duke's Secondary School for the Year 7 intake in September each year should complete a Casual Admissions application via the Northumberland County Council website. Parents and Carers should also complete the Duke's Secondary School application form which can be found on the school website and return this to the school directly.

Children who currently attend a Northumberland Church of England Academy Primary School will no longer automatically progress to Duke's Secondary School and will need to complete the application process stated above. The same rule applies to parents of children attending any other primary school, wishing to transfer to Duke's Secondary School for Year 7.

## **In-term Admissions**

Parents and Carers who wish to apply for an in-year transfer to Duke's Secondary School should complete a Casual Admissions application via the Northumberland County Council website. Parents and Carers should also complete the Duke's Secondary School application form which can be found on the school website and return this to the school directly.

## **Special Educational Needs**

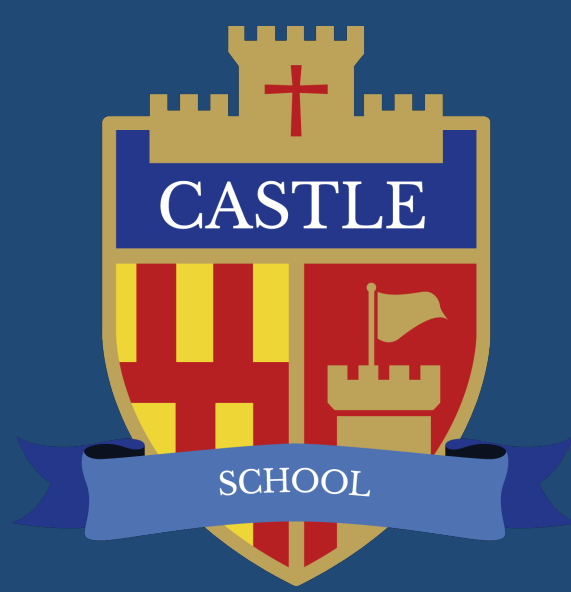
The admission of students with a statement of special educational needs is dealt with by a separate procedure. Students for whom a statement of special educational needs has been made in which Duke's Secondary School is named will be admitted where the school can meet the needs of the child.

## **All applicants**

Please be advised that completion of the online form does not guarantee a place at the school. Where the number of applications for admission is greater than the published admission number, applications will be considered against the criteria as set out in the Academy's Admissions Procedure document.

More details can be found at

[www.ncea.org.uk](http://www.ncea.org.uk)



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Duke's Secondary School is part of  
Northumberland Church of England  
Academy Trust.

For more information about NCEAT, visit  
[www.ncea.org.uk](http://www.ncea.org.uk)