



**WHICKHAM**  
SIXTH FORM

# SIXTH FORM PROSPECTUS

—  
**2021**



[www.whickhamschool.org](http://www.whickhamschool.org)

# WELCOME

## FRASER TURNBULL | HEAD TEACHER

HIGH QUALITY TEACHING AND LEARNING COUPLED  
WITH OUTSTANDING PASTORAL SUPPORT ENSURES  
WHICKHAM SIXTH FORM STUDENTS SUCCEED



*Our Sixth Form is an extraordinary place to study. Students achieve strong A level and Level 3 BTEC results whilst also developing the personal qualities that enable them to succeed in higher education and employment.*

We are very proud to offer students an experience that is one of the best in the region. Whickham Sixth Form combines access to a wide range of A level and Level 3 BTEC subjects with high quality teaching and learning that has supported students in achieving outstanding results over many years. Students can continue to study subjects they have enjoyed and achieved success in during Year 11 or experience new subjects that can open a wide range of career pathways. The size of the Sixth Form enables us to offer a curriculum that is broad and meets the specific needs of post 16 learners.

Students access a range of high quality destinations at the end of their time in the Sixth Form. Most students go onto university and staff are highly experienced in supporting this process. Students access a range of exciting courses all over the country, including Oxford and Cambridge. The Sixth Form team is also increasingly supporting students who move directly into employment and a range of high profile local and national businesses recruit directly from the school.

Academic success is important and we are proud of the success our students achieve, but the Whickham Sixth Form experience is about much more than this. Students have experiences and develop qualities that will serve them well for the rest of their lives. Whether it be involvement in Charity Week, work experience, being a member of our debating society or the school band, taking part in the Duke of Edinburgh Award or World Challenge schemes, auditioning for one of our fantastic productions or supporting students in lower school, post 16 learners can experience a range of activities that are unique and enable the development of important skills.

It is often these experiences and memories that students cherish.

Finally, students enjoy the use of a state of the art Sixth Form Centre that is equipped to support study. This provides a range of facilities including IT access, study resources and a cafe, ensuring students have a base when they are not in lessons.

Whatever your goals we will help you achieve them. I wish you the very best for your future success.

## HEAD OF SIXTH FORM



There is an array of opportunities and challenges facing students when deciding to continue their education beyond 16 years or entering the world of work. Ensuring all students make the right choice is essential, as it allows them to be the best they can be. The breadth of curriculum offer at Whickham is something we are all very proud of as we endeavor to support students in selecting the right route and subject mix for them. We offer a wide range of both A-Level and BTEC Courses, some of which can be taken as a double or triple offer as well as the single.



Miss S Tumelty  
Head of Sixth Form  
Whickham Sixth Form

Whickham is a very caring Sixth Form that caters for the needs of all learners, be it in the curriculum offer, the pastoral support available or the additional enrichment opportunities. There is a big emphasis on enrichment opportunities as they help students transition to adulthood by developing skills such as self-confidence whilst also supporting the local community. We have very high expectations of all of our students. They are role models for students across the school who aspire to one day be where they are. We expect students to support the rest of the school and in doing so further develop skills to progress on to university and employment.

Whickham Sixth Form has a fantastic pastoral and academic structure that provides you with all the tools needed to achieve. Sixth Form will be one of the most enjoyable and important times of your life. With great reward comes challenge, this challenge will build your resilience and pave the way for your chosen career path.

We look forward to seeing you in September.  
Wishing you good luck in your summer examinations.

## A VIEW FROM THE HEAD BOY AND HEAD GIRL



Our Head Boy and Head Girl are appointed from Easter of year 12 to Easter of year 13. Throughout their term of office they are responsible for representing the school and its students both within the school and to the community, as well as being head of the student voice.



Aaron Greally | **Head Boy**



Sian Ameer-Beg | **Head Girl**

Whickham Sixth Form is a place that I and many others are proud to call their sixth form centre. The opportunities are endless, with staff that are particularly motivated to ensure every student has the chance to succeed, whether it be applying to university or via a different route such as apprenticeships. Moreover, subject teachers provide close support and encouragement that is second to none, through their drive and passion to make students succeed. I for one look forward to coming in every day to socialise, learn and develop in such a professional and lively sixth form environment.

The facilities further allow you to maximise your study, with a multitude of desks and computers situated across two floors, with a silent study area and a plentiful supply of stationery equipment. There is also a dedicated Sixth Form catering facility open throughout the day, providing an array of snacks and drinks, hot food and Starbucks coffee. The whole experience of Whickham Sixth Form overall allows you to develop important skills, as well as allowing you to develop into a young adult in a safe, nurturing environment.

A place where individuality, determination and passion is encouraged, Whickham Sixth Form to me is full of opportunities. From joining the debating club to specialising in three of my favourite subjects, to taking part in a collective effort to raise money for our local charities, I have been given so many fantastic opportunities that have built up my character and made my Sixth Form experience even better. The uniqueness of each person is celebrated, through our own personalised timetable that includes individual study sessions, developing your independence and organisation skills. The Sixth Form environment and team provide a supportive, friendly network that allows every student to pursue their own future plans, from applying to university to gaining an apprenticeship. It is a place I am extremely proud to be a part of.

Our A-level teachers are there to support this individuality, catering for both independent learners and more practical, hands on learners. Importantly, our subject teachers enhance our learning as they always come equipped with a passion, a drive for success and joy for their subject, subsequently creating a very supportive, enjoyable environment for learning. Their eagerness to enhance our knowledge is something that Whickham Sixth Form truly accelerates in. This leads to students too sharing a great passion for their chosen subjects, which is seen through our fantastic results over the past couple of years.

## Where are they now?



### *100% of students have gone on to further study, employment or obtained an apprenticeship.*

Anthony Biggs- A\*English Literature, A\* Geography, A\* History, A\* EPQ - Law at Durham University

Thomas Clasper- A\* Business, A\* Physics, A Maths - Mechanical Engineering at Newcastle University

Ella Hodgson- A\* Maths, A\* History, A\* Biology, A Chemistry, A\* EPQ - Natural Sciences at the University of York

Lewis Hunter- A\*Geography, A\* Maths, A Physics, A EPQ - Physics at Newcastle University

Emma Lindsay- A Biology, A Maths, A Chemistry - Biomedical Science at the University of York

Rebecca Maggs- A\* Maths, A\* Biology, A\* Chemistry, A\* EPQ - Medicine at the University of Leeds

Tom Rutherford- Tom Rutherford- A Geography, A Physics, A Maths, A\* EPQ - Civil Engineering at Loughborough University

Kirsty Savoury- D\*D\*D\* Health and Social Care, A EPQ - Nursing Science Registered Nurse at Northumbria University

Stewart Thom- A\* Maths, A\* Physics, A Further Maths - Maths at Newcastle

Sam Willis- Sam Willis- A\* Biology, A chemistry, A Maths and A\* in EPQ - Medicine at the University of Swansea

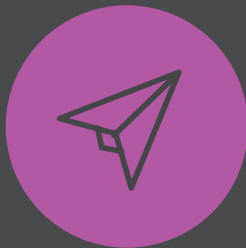


# Enrichment & Diversity

Whickham School aims to be very much at the heart of the community and our large sixth form plays a full and active part in helping achieve this. The annual Sixth Form Charity week is both long established and one of the highlights of year 12. Our students continue to amaze with their enthusiasm and ingenuity in raising money for deserving charities. Each year the charity is chosen by the students themselves. This year students chose to support Maggie's Cancer Centre at the Freeman hospital in support of Miss Herrington.

## SPORTING ACTIVITIES

All students can take part in a range of activities such as Zumba, football, climbing, fitness on a Wednesday afternoon, or they can complete a level 2 Sports Leaders Award. There is a Sports Leadership Presentation evening which is organised and run by the level 2 leaders and the Sports Ambassadors. It celebrates the amazing community work our students have carried out over the year. All students in the Sixth Form have the opportunity to obtain a qualification in sports leadership. If taken through, and completed in year 13, the qualification also carries points for UCAS applications.



### DUKE OF EDINBURGH

Every year a large number of Sixth Form students complete the Duke of Edinburgh award either at Bronze, Silver or Gold level. The award is run at school and all expeditions/training is organised through the school. For more information please see Mr Golightly.



### SCHOOL BAND

The School Band always has a strong Sixth Form presence as do the various school productions, which include Sixth Form musicians, actors/actresses, dancers and the back stage crew.



### CHARITY WEEK

A full week of activities took place which included highlights such as the 'Variety Show', 'X-Factor', 'Strictly comes to Whickham' and ASDA bag packing. Along with a host of smaller events the students raised over £17,000. Over the last 2 years Whickham Sixth Form has raised almost £40,000 for local charities.



### WORLD CHALLENGE

World Challenge is designed to develop students' leadership qualities and independence. They travel to remote locations to trek and complete a community project. Last year 25 students took up the challenge and participated in a 4-week expedition to Eswatini and Mozambique. They were involved in constructing a fenced garden, washroom



### WORLD CHALLENGE

and cooking facilities for disadvantaged children. In addition they contributed to a marine project by monitoring whale sharks and marine mammals. Past expeditions have been to Namibia, Mexico, India, Morocco, Bolivia, Tanzania and Borneo. The 2021 expedition is to India Himalayas and Rajasthan, where students will undertake a community project.



### DIVERSITY WEEK

At Whickham we are really lucky to be part of a school community where you are able to be who you want to be without being judged by others. This value had been emulated through our school Rainbow society. We also enjoy opportunities to explore how diverse people and cultures are worldwide.



**INTERNATIONAL INSPIRATIONS**  
They organised and led a one day festival for over 400 young students from the surrounding area. They also went on a day safari to Murchison Falls. In 2018 another group of students will be repeating this experience.



# Guidance and Support

## CURRICULUM GUIDANCE

Support and guidance is offered even before students join the Sixth Form. In November we hold a number of guidance presentations and assemblies for our year 11 students and parents. This is followed up by more in-depth individual meetings with senior members of staff. These enable our students and parents to discuss possible options and future aspirations.

## TRANSITION

We have a comprehensive transition programme. This begins straight after the GCSE examinations in July where prospective sixth formers meet for two days of induction. Students have the opportunity to experience some year 12 lessons. Students also attend a buffet lunch and have the opportunity to talk to some current year 12 students.

Once term starts students undertake a 2 day structured induction course:

Day 1 is where students get to know their tutor and tutor group much better. We also work with students to help ensure a successfully transition from year 11 to year 12 by looking at the study and independent learning skills required to be successful. Students will also start planning for their "Charity Week".

Day 2 is an activity day around the local area in friendship groups. This really starts to build student relationships and it is always a day mentioned as a highlight of students time in Sixth Form.



## WHICKHAM SIX

### The six characteristics of a successful learner...



ONE  
Be Here

Ensure you attend sixth form and attend on time.



TWO  
Be Prepared

Always arrive to Sixth Form equipped with the resources and mindset to learn.



THREE  
Be Well

Keep yourself physically and mentally well and seek support if you feel unwell.

## NEW TO WHICKHAM SCHOOL

Starting a new school can be a daunting experience. Each year we have a number of students from Gateshead and Newcastle schools who choose to come to Whickham School for their Sixth Form studies. They have all settled in and made new friends quickly and are already on their way to outstanding results. Many of these students apply to Whickham because of the wide range of A level subjects and BTEC courses they can chose from, as well as all the varied enrichment opportunities that are available to our students throughout the two years.



**NAME: COURNEY PARKER**  
**SUBJECTS CHOSEN: BTEC Business, BTEC Computing, Maths A level and Extended Project**

"I am really happy that I chose Whickham School Sixth Form. The facilities here are excellent and I get lots of support from my teachers. I am going on to study Computing at University after year 13."



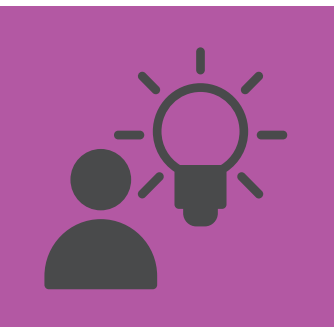
FOUR  
Be Engaged

Engage in lessons and in the extra opportunities on offer at Whickham sixth form.



FIVE  
Be Inspired

Make sure you always push yourself to be the best you can be.



SIX  
Be Inspiring

You are a role model to younger students. Take opportunities to help them develop into successful young adults.



# Future Plan



## CAREERS GUIDANCE

At Whickham Sixth Form we pride ourselves on the excellent guidance all students get ahead of applying to university or employers.

We have been particularly successful this year as we have supported three students who have obtained places on medical degrees. We have also some fantastic higher apprenticeships with; Gateshead Council, the Civil Service and Turner & Townsend.

## STUDENT GUIDELINES

### ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY

Attendance and punctuality are vital if success is to be achieved on Sixth Form courses. Punctuality to tutorial time, lessons and in the production of homework and coursework are also expected and failure to produce work on time can lead to modules being repeated.

### THE PASTORAL PROGRAMME

The Sixth Form programme concentrates in areas which have not been fully covered in the Lower School. Study skills and time management are dealt with early in year 12 and stress management appears at examination time. A lot of time is spent on one-to-one reviews. Year 13 sees a full programme of advice and guidance for higher education, including UCAS form completion, careers interviews and advice on grants and loans.

### ASSEMBLIES

Sixth Form assemblies happen on a weekly basis. Parents have the right to withdraw their child from collective worship. To do so please write to your son/daughter's Head of Year.

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The School has a statutory obligation to deliver Religious Education in the Sixth Form. This is done through offering Religious Education A level, through elements of study in Sociology, through tutor-led activities as part of the PSE curriculum and through assemblies.

Parents have a statutory right to withdraw their child from Religious Education in the sixth form. To do so please write to your son/daughter's Head of Year.

## CODE OF DRESS

Sixth Form students are role models for students in lower school, and their standards of dress are an important part of the culture of Whickham. Students are expected to regard Sixth Form dress requirements in a positive manner. We have a dress code that stops short of uniform and instead, we have a dress code that is formal, smart, business-like and comfortable, whilst recognising the variety of dress considered appropriate in work-places our students will go on to work in.

### MALES

- Black, Navy, Grey trousers not jeans (including no skinny jeans)
- Collared shirt and tie
- Plain black/brown/navy formal shoes (No 'pump' style shoes such as; Vans/ Converse)
- Lanyards must be worn to ensure the safeguarding of all students.

Trainers will only be allowed for PE lessons.

### FEMALES

- Black, Navy, Grey trousers/ skirt (no miniskirts) not jeans (including no skinny jeans)
- Blouse or shirt (covering shoulders, back and midriff)
- Plain black/brown/ Navy formal shoes (No 'pump' style shoes such as; Vans/ Converse)
- Lanyards must be worn to ensure the safeguarding of all students.

Trainers will only be allowed for PE lessons.



# Excellence in Sport

Part of our Sports College legacy means that at Whickham we go the extra mile to help develop talented sports stars and sports leaders.

Both our academic (A-Level) and vocational (BTEC Sport double) programmes provide support and progression to the next generation of sports stars and leaders. Additional opportunities include level 2 and level 3 sports leaders' Awards, the prestigious National Young Ambassadors programme, Duke of Edinburgh (Bronze & Gold) and World Challenge expeditions.

## SUPPORT FOR ELITE COMPETITORS

We provide many of our talented and elite sports people with:

- An individual mentoring and coaching programme
- Flexible time to attend regional and national events
- Opportunities to access advanced coaching programmes
- Personal & leadership development opportunities



### NIAMH MILLS

I studied PE, Psychology and English Language in sixth form and I am really enjoyed all aspects of each subject. Within PE there is a wide range of knowledge such as physiology, psychology and sociology. The teachers have always supported and encouraged my class. After year 13 I would like to go to university to study Sports Development and Coaching or Sports Science, in hope of having a career in sport in the future.

Sports Leadership is a popular enrichment option that Whickham School do particularly well. We provide leadership experiences and qualifications that stand out from the crowd. In Sixth Form you have the choice of Sports Leadership where you have the opportunity to lead primary school events, gaining skills that can be applied to any situation.

### SPORTS LEADERSHIP

Sports Leadership is a popular enrichment option for over a quarter of all sixth form students – providing leadership experiences and qualifications that can make all the difference in applications to university.





# Facilities



# The Bursary Fund



A bursary of up to £1200 is available for students to help support them with their studies. The level of bursary paid depends on your circumstances.

## THREE TYPES OF BURSARY FUNDING:

TYPE 1	TYPE 2	TYPE 3
This guaranteed bursary is paid to students who fit the DfE criteria. This usually means students who have been in care or who have to support themselves independently.	This guaranteed bursary is paid to all students who are either currently registered for Free School Meals or were registered at any point in the last 5 years.	Type 3 bursaries are paid out to students who do not qualify for Free School Meals but still require support to remain in education. Evidence of household income will be required.

*The sixth form is housed in a brand new purpose built state of the art building.*

## SIXTH FORM FACILITIES

The centre houses all of the sixth form facilities:

- ➔ Offices where you can find the Head of Sixth Form and Heads of Year
- ➔ Sixth Form Reception
- ➔ Silent Study Area
- ➔ Sixth Form Cafeteria
- ➔ Sixth Form Computer Suite
- ➔ Classrooms
- ➔ Student Support Office
- ➔ Social Area

### THE SILENT STUDY AREA

The silent study area is one of the most used resources in the Sixth Form building. It was specifically requested by students and is well used. It houses a large amount of open plan personal study space, as well as 33 computers for study use. The study area is open daily from 7am to 7pm and is well used after school. Study facilities are also open to students during school holidays in the exam season.

### THE SIXTH FORM CAFETERIA

The Cafeteria serves a wide range of hot and cold food and drink. Following consultation with students it was redesigned in 2014 and now also serves Starbucks coffee. The Cafeteria is open from 8.30am to 4pm serving students during the school day, as well as those who either come in early or stay late to study.

## FURTHER DETAILS

Further details about the criteria for each type of bursary as well as the terms and conditions are available from the Sixth Form. Students can obtain a bursary application form from their Head of Year. In addition to these bursaries a small amount of money is set aside in an emergency fund for students who find themselves with a significant and temporary financial need during their course. Students who find themselves in this situation should see the Head of Sixth Form.





**WHICKHAM**  
SIXTH FORM

## CONTACT US

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