



Whickham School and Sports College



Mr S Haigh BSc
HEADTEACHER

Whickham School has always enjoyed a good reputation in the local community. Exam results are good and Ofsted reports consistently describe us as 'good with outstanding features'. Parents when surveyed comment that the staff really care for the children they teach; former students look back with fond memories.

Although academic and sporting achievement 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.

With over 1,600 students and the largest Sixth Form in Gateshead, Whickham School has the capacity that enables us to offer an outstanding curriculum. Our students learning is constantly monitored to ensure they have the challenge, support and guidance necessary to achieve the outcomes 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 specialisms in Sports and Applied Learning is evident throughout the school and compliments 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 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.

VISION

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

This vision is achieved through:

- Outstanding educational outcomes
- Outstanding quality of learning
- Students with highly developed personal qualities and attributes
- High quality leadership and accountability at all levels
- Being a centre of excellence for training and development
- Offering diverse and engaging opportunities that extend and enhance the taught curriculum
- Ensuring each person is given the challenge, guidance and support required to meet their needs.



Bottom right: Robbie Costello and Hana Bartle with the Mayor and Mayoress of Gateshead at the Whickham Sports Leadership Awards Evening.

Below middle: Whickham Young Leaders aboard 'De Tukker' sailing boat with pupils from Cedars Sports College.





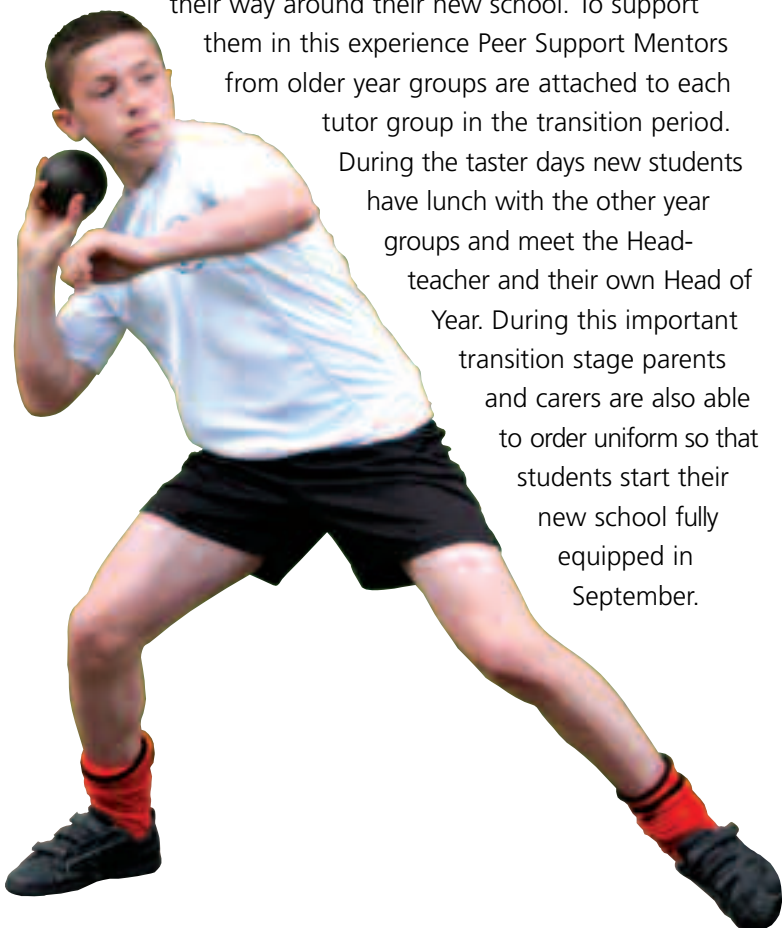
PRIMARY TO SECONDARY TRANSITION

We believe a carefully prepared transition from primary school to Whickham School is essential if pupils are to settle quickly and confidently into their new and exciting environment. 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, needs to be sensitively and effectively managed with a deliberate programme of support.

As well as the parents' evening for year 6 parents, prospective pupils are invited to taster days in July when they have a chance to experience the normal working day of the school. During the taster days the students have the opportunity to attend lessons which allows them to get to know the teachers and staff at Whickham as well as find their way around their new school. To support

them in this experience Peer Support Mentors from older year groups are attached to each tutor group in the transition period.

During the taster days new students have lunch with the other year groups and meet the Head-teacher and their own Head of Year. During this important transition stage parents and carers are also able to order uniform so that students start their new school fully equipped in September.



The transition programme at Whickham also identifies students who may find transition a little more difficult. For these students additional sessions are arranged prior to the taster days to allow them extra time to familiarise themselves with their new staff and surroundings.

Our Sports College status means that many students in our main link primary schools will have already met Whickham School PE staff and taken part in activities based at Whickham School. In addition we are involved in teaching programmes, which involve collaboration with our link primary schools.

We have developed a number of transition activities in subjects such as English, Maths, Science and PE which, without doubt, mean our Year 7 students have a head start. Our Summer School for Sport also involves students from our link primary schools and, as well as developing their skills, helps to build confidence.

All of these activities we believe help ensure our new Year 7 students settle in quickly and make progress immediately.

Student Support and Guidance

On joining the school all Year 7 students are placed in one of nine tutor groups. As far as possible the tutor will remain with the same group of students for five years, as well as their Head of Year and a Deputy Head of Year. This allows pastoral staff to get to know students and their families extremely well. Tutors and attached tutors from each Year team are also responsible for the academic mentoring of students. Throughout the year students will receive a number of 15 minute mentoring sessions with their Tutor or attached tutor. Students can discuss progress towards academic targets as well as any personal issues concerning them. Targets are set in relation to academic progress.



Curriculum

All students in Years 7, 8 and 9 follow a broad and balanced curriculum comprising the following subjects:

- English including drama ■ mathematics
- science ■ history ■ geography
- religious education ■ physical education
- modern foreign languages ■ music
- technology including food technology
- information technology
- art including ceramics in Year 8 ■ textiles in Year 9.

Students also follow a comprehensive "Citizenship For Life" programme as part of their preparation to become successful young adults.

In Years 8 and 9 a second language is introduced for most students although less able linguists continue to concentrate on one language, using additional time to develop their ICT skills. A small number of students receive additional literacy support in place of studying a foreign language.

Religious Education

The social, cultural and historical aspects of the major religions of the world are included in the curriculum for students of all ages. Special emphasis is given to a study of the Christian religion.

Homework

Homework is an important part of the curriculum. Homework timetables are issued at the start of each year in order to encourage regular, organised and structured work habits. At Key Stage 3 each subject sets around 20-30 minutes homework each week. At Key Stage 4 this increases to 1 hour per subject and in the Sixth Form, four hours per subject. The School Resource Centre is open from 8.00am to 4.30pm daily.

Daily Routine

8.55a.m. Registration, mentoring or assembly. Each day consists of 5 one-hour lessons, with the exception of Tuesday of week 2, which contains 4. Our teaching week averages 24.5 hours over our two-week timetable cycle. The school day ends at 3.05pm.





KEY STAGE 4 (YEARS 10 & 11)

In Key Stage 4 students are given an increasing choice of subject and qualification options so that they may choose courses that offer them the best chance of success.

All students should enjoy a curriculum that challenges them appropriately and prepares them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.

All students follow a core curriculum of English, Mathematics and Science. Some of our students follow an academic pathway that enables them to achieve the new English Baccalaureate, which includes English, Maths, 2 Sciences, History or Geography and a MFL (more able students may choose to study 3 separate sciences).

Other students pursue a mixed pathway, involving both GCSEs and Btec qualifications. We also offer additional vocational qualifications through a long-established partnership with Gateshead College and other providers.

In addition students receive Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHCE), ICT, Citizenship, Religious Education and Careers Education and Guidance.

To complete their programme of study students also select optional courses from a wide range of subjects leading to a variety of qualifications.

GCSE art, art textiles, business studies, catering, drama, media studies, French, German, history, geography, technology textiles, technology resistant materials, product design, manufacturing electronics, catering, graphics, music and PE.

BTEC equal to 4 GCSEs: Sport or Sport and Exercise, Health and Social Care, ICT, Art and Design, and Business Management.

equal to 2 GCSEs: Travel and Tourism, Performing Arts, Sport and ICT.

Students can opt for linked courses which run in partnership with Gateshead College: engineering, construction, motor vehicle maintenance and hairdressing.

In addition, we offer the Sport and Active Leisure and Creative Media diplomas which include functional skills qualifications in English, maths and ICT.

There are opportunities for early entry (Year 10) in French, German, Statistics, RE and PE.





Delivering the curriculum for students with Additional Educational Needs

In 2010, OFSTED graded the support given to children with additional educational needs as outstanding. Academic progress of children with additional educational needs is also outstanding.

Physically impaired students

The school welcomes disabled students. The school buildings have been modified to accommodate students with certain disabilities. Wheelchair access is available in all ground floor areas and toilets have been adapted to provide an adequate facility for wheelchair students.

Students with additional learning needs

Students with additional learning needs are supported by the AEN department. Those students who may need additional support are identified in a number of ways. Whickham school has a close working relationship with its cluster primary schools and important information regarding individual students is passed on when the students transfer from year 6 to year 7. Regular assessments of student progress throughout their school career allows early identification of any student who may benefit from additional support. The AEN department works in partnership with other agencies such as Health and Social Services, as well as Educational Support Services to ensure that a holistic approach to student support can be taken. The AEN department consists of a number of learning support assistants whose work is overseen by a Lead Teacher for Dyslexia and Statement Support and a Lead Teacher for Autism.

Child Protection

The school takes its role in Child Protection very seriously and has a comprehensive policy which is reviewed annually. All staff new to the school receive appropriate Child Protection training. A copy of the policy is available on request or from our web site.

Equal Opportunities

A copy of the school Equal Opportunities Policy which includes details of arrangements for students with disabilities is available on the school website.

Healthy Schools Award

Whickham School has gained the National Healthy Schools Award for over 10 years. We aim to continue to improve student and staff well being through promoting health issues, healthy eating and exercise opportunities. We believe by promoting health issues we can improve pupil achievement as well as the physical and social environment of the school.

Gifted and Talented

The school has a policy for gifted and talented students and provides additional support for them. These students are identified on entry and monitored through their school career. They are provided with an educational experience which will challenge them and stimulate their development.

School Uniform

Whickham School has introduced a new school uniform for all KS3 / 4 students. The uniform identifies Whickham students as proud members of the school and community. At all time students are to wear the uniform with pride and respect for all that it represents.

We believe that the school uniform sets the standards for our school and will be adhered to by all students.

Left is the uniform, which can be ordered through school. Details of the uniform are available on the school web site.





SPORTS COLLEGE SPECIALISM

Whickham School has held Sports College status for over 10 years and during this time has developed a wide range of sports related programmes in healthy life styles, sport participation, student leadership, coaching, international leadership exchange and exam qualifications. Ensuring that every student has the skills, confidence and knowledge to become independent, healthy and successful young adults.

Sporting Opportunities

A wide range of activities are offered to all students. Representative sports teams in school total over 25 different sports, thus enabling every student to find their niche and develop their talent. Students can take part in sport to develop their health and fitness, to represent school or for fun or to achieve national qualifications in coaching, leadership, umpiring and event management.

Whickham Sports College is proud of its primary school transition work. Every child in our Primary cluster of schools has the opportunity to take part in a range of sporting events at Whickham School throughout the year.



Leadership

We place a very strong emphasis on developing student leadership in school, enabling students to develop and fine tune their skills to have the confidence to 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 students can achieve a variety of national qualifications such as Step into Sport (bronze, silver, gold), Level 1–3 leadership Award and Sports specific leadership awards.

Curriculum Developments

Since achieving Sports College status the PE department has developed and introduced a range of academic qualifications to suit the needs of all students. These include BTEC Sport and Performing Arts at level 2 and 3, GCSE and A level PE and Diploma in Sport and active leisure.

Community Links and Coaches

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

Specialist Coaching

There are four specialist coaches employed by Whickham School. Our students receive coaching in these sports within school hours and at after school clubs. All students can access these clubs.

Tennis

Our tennis coach is Jonathan Newton who works in our primary schools and with our school teams.

Right: Gemma Lowther, winner of the Gateshead Young Leaders Award



Basketball

Our basketball coach is Billy Spragg who runs the national league squads from school.

Trampolining

Linda Appleby manages and coaches the Trampoline teams, who have won the National Schools Competition on a number of occasions.

Dance

Dance is led by Cheryl Day.

Duke of Edinburgh

The school runs the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme at all three levels. This is open to students from years 10 to 13. There are four sections to the Bronze and Silver scheme, (five for Gold) - Volunteering, Physical, Skills, Expedition and for Gold, a Residential.

Over 50 students each year complete these awards. This will give them skills, confidence and a view on life that everyone is looking for, from employers to colleges and universities.

World Challenge Expeditions

These are 4 week expeditions which take place every 2 years to remote locations in distant countries. They are open to students in year 10 to 13. The venture is designed to let students develop their leadership qualities. Students take a direct responsibility in organising all aspects of the trip including transport, finance, food, accommodation and the purchase of material for the project.

Students take turns in leading the expedition. They go to places that are not normally visited by tourists and work within the local community. These can be life-changing trips and the experience they gain is highly prized by universities and prospective employers. All students fund raise over a period of 15 months to help meet the cost of this expedition.

Previous destinations have been to Namibia, Ladakh in India, Bolivia and Mexico. The next expedition may be to Ethiopia.

Top left: Tyne & Wear School Games Rugby Champions





Performances and Productions at Whickham School

Whickham is committed to the value and excitement that extra-curricular productions can bring. Not only do we provide the opportunity for two whole school productions annually (a play and a musical), but we also run a Key Stage Three Drama club throughout the year, that culminates with their own productions in the summer term.

We pride ourselves in utilising students in all areas of productions from cast to crew and front of house. Last year's productions were Disney's Beauty and the Beast and Lorca's Blood Wedding, as well as the club's very own interpretation of a family favourite with Charlie and the Chocolate Fountain - all playing to packed houses and picking up critical acclaim from the audiences. We are dedicated to challenge in our material, high-standards in our performance, and to the growth and development these activities bring out in our 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. This band has been in existence now for forty three years, which is another fantastic achievement for Whickham School - few schools in the country would be able to make such a claim.

We frequently play for St. Mary's Church in Whickham, at their annual fair or for the ladies' group called Whickham Wives. Gibside School is also a favourite audience of ours, especially when we play for them each Christmas. Over the years we have performed in several of the local primary schools, many of the churches, at residential accommodation and out-of-doors at special events. Past students are welcome to join our ranks and a number of parents also enjoy playing with us. So dust off those instruments and come and join in!

Right: Year 11 Creative Media students presenting a cheque to PC Rathband for his Bluelamp Foundation in June 2011





COMMUNITY LINKS

Parent's Forum

Hearing the voice of our parents is extremely important to us. It has the sole purpose of discussing school matters, which are of concern to both students and parents.

We meet of each half term in the evening for a couple of hours of healthy debate. Sometimes a member of staff is brought in to deliver information on a topic requested by our parents, and frequently the agenda is made up of issues which are topical at the time. Although the Parents' Forum does not have the brief to make decisions in its own right, the comments it provides informs our decision-making process and creates a balance of opinion.

All parents are welcome to join the forum and we are always pleased to see new faces - check out the school calendar for dates and the website for reminders.

Police Liaison Group

A group of about a dozen interested students, both male and female, constitute the Police Liaison Group. They meet approximately half-terminally with our local Community Support Officer, Toni McKie to learn about the work of the Police Force in our local community and discuss mutual concerns

connected with safety, security, drug and alcohol abuse. This year we have visited our local police station to view the work first-hand and also received information from older students about the work of the police cadets. Student voice is central to the group to develop positive links between the police and school.

Art Installations

Following requests from Whickham Library Garden and Gibside School, young Arts Leaders, supported by the Key Stage Three Art Club, have created artworks for external viewing, now on show to the general public.

Murals in Whickham Library garden represent plant and animal life; each student from Gibside School made and decorated a ceramic tile which was then mounted and varnished to very pleasing effect. The garden received a prestigious award from Britain in Bloom and this was attributed to the community involvement evidenced by our artwork. Our Arts Leaders did a fantastic job.

Work is currently taking place on another mural made from coloured bottle-tops to be situated in Gibside School grounds; we have also recently been approached by a local care home to work with their residents. Our artistic acclaim is clearly being noticed!





Thanks For Life Project

Whickham School has a longstanding commitment to working with Whickham and Clavering Rotary Club, who have donated a prize for community commitment for many years. This year we have worked more closely together on the 'Thanks for Life' project, raising money to eradicate polio forever. We planted crocus bulbs in school, symbolic both of spring and new life, but also the purple paint which is placed on the little finger of each child in India who is immunised.

We raise funds to donate to the Rotary Club's project. A magnificent total of £1,208.49 was raised. Well done, Crocus Club! We were very proud to support this very worthwhile project.

International Links

Whickham School is proud of the many ways in which we have developed our students' awareness of cultural diversity. Many pupils have taken part in visits to France, Germany, Italy, Greece, Holland, Spain, Iceland, Africa, India, America, Egypt and Mexico.

We have recently set up links through the British Council with Taiwan and South Korea and work is being completed

on curricular projects which help students share their cultures to increase understanding. Visitors from these countries have expressed great delight in learning about British education in general, but specifically about the many opportunities which Whickham School offers its students.

Pride of Whickham

It is very important that we publicly acknowledge the wonderful community role which our students perform. Last year we introduced the 'Pride of Whickham' awards ceremony which is now set to be an annual event. This recognises voluntary work, charity fundraising and sustained participation in groups and institutions which are part of Whickham. Students who freely give their time, energy and enthusiasm are an inspiration to us all.

Last year, approximately forty students were given awards in the form of a certificate and Metrocentre voucher, after being nominated by parents, staff and fellow students. The overall prizewinner, Francesca Riani, received a cheque for £100 donated by Whickham and Clavering Rotary Club.

Bottom middle: Francesca Riani winning Pride of Whickham, 2011





APPLIED LEARNING (SPECIALISM)

Whickham school places great emphasis on developing students learning through relevant and exciting applied learning courses.

In Key Stage 4 students are given the opportunity to choose options from a range of interesting courses, which are designed to appeal to students who would like to pursue practically based subjects and prefer a more "hands on" approach to learning. Many of these courses are delivered in partnership with TDR Training and Development, First Degree Training (NEETA) and Gateshead College. External courses include: Engineering, Motor Vehicle Maintenance, Construction and Hair and Beauty, which complement our in-house vocational qualifications: Art, Business, ICT, Travel, Sport, Drama, Science and Health and Social Care.

Applied Learning in Whickham School has increased curriculum choice for students and has enhanced personal learning and career opportunities. Many of our pupils are recruited to Apprenticeships and employment at the end

of the course or choose to go onto advanced courses in their chosen field. The applied learning curriculum has played a major role in driving up achievements and employability of our students and as a result post 16 participation has increased leading to further employment and university opportunities.

Rebecca High achieved 2nd place in the National Young Apprenticeship Finals for her commitment to Applied Learning through sport.





THE SIXTH FORM

The sixth form is a source of great pride to the school and the local community. Such is the reputation that a significant number of students join the sixth form from other schools to take advantage of the wide range of courses and enrichment on offer. The sixth form is the largest in Gateshead.

Academic progress is outstanding and the sixth form is one of the top performing post-16 institutions in the North East. In 2011 a new sixth form centre was opened that provided students with the outstanding facilities they deserve.

Curriculum

The sixth form's size puts us in the position of being able to offer one of the most diverse range of courses of any sixth form in Gateshead. This range of courses allows us to ensure that students are well matched to qualifications in which they are likely to succeed and is one of the reasons why the success rate is so high.

Subjects offered at GCE Advanced Level (AS and A2):

- Art ■ Business studies ■ Economics
- English Language ■ English Literature
- Media Studies ■ French ■ German ■ Biology
- Physics ■ Chemistry ■ Applied Science
- Psychology ■ Mathematics ■ Further Maths
- History ■ Government and Politics ■ Geography
- Religious Education ■ Sociology ■ Music
- Physical Education ■ Textiles ■ Critical Thinking
- General Studies ■ Design Technology.

Subjects offered at BTEC National level:

- Art & Design ■ Business ■ Health and Social Care
- ICT ■ Performing Arts (Acting)
- Performing Arts (Dance) ■ Sport ■ Travel & Tourism

In addition we also offer the Level 3 Creative and Media Diploma as well as the Level 3 Extended Project.

Facilities

The brand new sixth form centre includes a common area, study area, cafeteria, classrooms and a suite of computers for sixth form use.





Pastoral Care

All sixth form students are assigned to a tutor group and this forms the basis of the pastoral care provided. Tutorial and mentoring support includes personal, social and academic mentoring.

Enrichment

There is an extensive enrichment programme on offer to our sixth form students. One of the highlights of the year is the school's charity week, which is organised and run by Yr 12 students. Students raise around £10k over the week of events and the money goes to a local charity selected by the Yr 12 students.

In addition students can opt to do additional qualifications, take part in the World Challenge, the Duke of Edinburgh award, level 2/3 leadership Award, or a range of other clubs and activities.

Progression beyond Sixth Form

The vast majority of our sixth formers are successful in applying to universities including Oxford and Cambridge. The school has an

experienced team of staff and places a great deal of emphasis on supporting students during their applications through UCAS to university. In addition all students are given extensive support through the external Gateshead careers service. We also provide support for students who wish to make applications for further education or who wish to go into employment.





ADMISSIONS

Choosing the correct school is important and in order to help parents make the right choices staff are available to provide as much information as possible. Parents can arrange to visit the school individually by contacting the Head of Lower School Mr M Grimes on the number provided on the back page of the prospectus. In addition to individual arrangements, all parents of Year 6 pupils interested in seeking a place at Whickham are invited to attend an open evening in October. This provides an opportunity to hear the Headteacher speak and also meet a range of staff, pupils and members of the school's Parents Forum. We are confident that attendance at this meeting will enable parents to make a fully informed decision on the choice of secondary school for their child. Once the admissions procedure is completed both the pupils who have accepted places and their parents will visit the school in the summer term.

Located on the south-western side of the Gateshead Local Authority, the school serves a catchment area that incorporates Whickham, Sunnyside, Swalwell and Marley Hill. The majority of pupils gaining admission are drawn from seven primary schools namely:

- Clover Hill Primary
- Front Street Primary
- Washingwell Primary
- Swalwell Primary
- Fellside Primary
- Marley Hill Primary
- Whickham Parochial Primary

In addition to pupils from the above schools, some children are admitted from locations outside the catchment area. The annual admission limit is 266. The school is generally over-subscribed and the number of admission requests for September 2011 were as follows:

1st choice – 288 2nd choice – 141 3rd choice – 55
Total - 484

Provision of Gateshead Local Authority's policy on admissions is a statutory element within the school prospectus and this is outlined below. The criteria it contains are used to allocate places to successful applicants.

Gateshead Council Community Secondary Schools Admission Policy 2012/13

We allocate places at our Community Secondary schools using our policy below and we co-ordinate the admissions to our schools using a co-ordinated admission scheme.

The admission policy is as follows:

- Secondary schools will normally admit pupils between the ages of 11 and 16, or 11 and 19, depending upon the school.
- We will accept pupils up to the school's agreed planned admission number for the year group unless we feel there are lawful grounds not to do so.

Oversubscription Criteria

We will consider applications from parents who have named the school as any ranked preference on their application form this is called the Equal preference system. If there are more applications for the number of places available at the school we will then allocate places by using the following order of priority:

- 1** Children in Public Care (and as deemed under Section 22 of the Children Act 1989)
- 2** Children who live in the school's catchment area.
- 3** Children who will have a brother or sister at the secondary school during the coming academic year.
- 4** Other children who have exceptional medical and social grounds see Point 1 on the next page.
- 5** All other children.



Point 1 We can consider individual applications in cases involving exceptional medical or social needs. This kind of application must be supported in writing from relevant registered health professionals i.e. a doctor or social worker. The evidence must demonstrate why the chosen school is the most suitable and what difficulties would be caused if the child were to attend another school. We will not consider such applications if the relevant evidence is not provided. If provided the evidence will be assessed by the LA Admission Panel. No assumption should be made that submission of the relevant evidence will, in itself, be sufficient to allocate a place.

Tie breaker If within any of the above criteria there are more applicants than places available priority will be given to those children based on the distance they live from the school, measured 'as the crow flies' in a straight line from the centre of the home residence to the school's main entrance. Children living nearest to the school will have priority.

Sibling link For your child to receive priority because of an older brother or sister in the sixth form at the school, the brother or sister must have been at the school at the start of Year 11.

Address For the purposes of deciding whether a child lives in the catchment area of a school we will use the parent or guardians address or the address of a relevant adult who has parental responsibility, as defined under the 1989 Children Act, for the child.

Waiting list If places become available we will consider all relevant applications using a waiting list. The waiting list will be maintained by the council from the start of the academic year and be kept for the rest of the academic year. All applicants on the waiting list are placed according to the admission criteria and priorities set out above. However, children who are the subject of a direction to admit by the LA or who have been referred for admission and have been allocated a place through the Fair Access Protocol will take precedence over any child on the waiting list.

Important Dates From Friday 10 September 2011 Gateshead Residents can apply on-line at www.Gateshead.gov.uk Applications must be submitted by **Monday 31 October 2011**.

If your child lives in Gateshead and attends a Gateshead School and is due to transfer to secondary school you will receive information through your child's school on 10 September 2010. If you complete a paper application form you must return it to the Head Teacher of the school your child currently attends in Gateshead by **Monday 31 October 2011**.

If your child does not attend a Gateshead school but lives in Gateshead, you must write to School Admissions, Regent Street, Gateshead, Tyne & Wear, NE8 1HH to request an application form. Alternatively you can apply on-line. Applications must be submitted by **Monday 31 October 2011**.

If you live outside of Gateshead and want to apply to a Gateshead school you must obtain an application form from your own Council and return it to them by their closing date or apply through their on-line application system. However you must still consider the information in Gateshead Council's "Admission to Secondary school" booklet so that you know what the admission arrangements are to Gateshead schools. This information is available at www.gateshead.gov.uk Your own Council will send us notification of your application and they will let you know the final allocation of a school place for your child.

General information and definitions

For information on our admission arrangements and definitions of the terms used in this policy please refer to our "Admission to Secondary school" booklet for 2012 at www.gateshead.gov.uk

The co-ordinated admission scheme and Catchment areas referred to in this policy can also be viewed at School Admissions Team, Civic Centre, Regent Street Gateshead NE8 1HH and on our website given above.



Community Secondary Schools Sixth Form Admission Policy - September 2012, Applications for Year 12

We the Local Authority (LA) are the admitting authority for the school our policy is as follows:

The school provides courses of study for post 16 (6th form) students. The majority of the 6th form students transfer from year 11, but we generally have places available for external students.

The entry requirements for 6th form are largely dependent on the course of study that a student wishes to access. They are the same for internal and external students

In general, students wishing to access Advanced Level courses must possess a minimum of 4 GCSEs at grade C. To access Intermediate Level courses, some GCSE passes at grade D/E and /or appropriate Level 1 qualification(s) are required. There are no specific qualifications required for entry to Foundation Level courses.

Details of specific entry requirements and courses available may be obtained from the school. The availability of courses is dependent upon the number of applicants and the financial sustainability of the course and the governing body of the school determines this in consultation with the LA.

In the event of oversubscription, priority will be given to:

- 1 Students who have attended the school in the previous academic year (during Year 11) and who satisfy the school's entry requirements for the course available.
- 2 All other students of the relevant age who satisfy the school's entry requirements for the course available.

Where there are more applicants than places available in any of the priorities above we will then give priority to children in the following order:

- a Children in Public Care (and as deemed under Section 22 of the children act 1989).
- b Students who live in the school's catchment area.
- c Students who will have a brother or sister at the secondary school during the coming academic year.
- d All other students.

Applicants refused admission to a 6th form are entitled to appeal to an independent appeals panel.

Community Secondary schools in Gateshead with 6th forms are as follows:

- Heworth Grange Comprehensive School
- Joseph Swan School
- Lord Lawson of Beamish Community School
- Charles Thorp Comprehensive School
- Whickham School



WHICKHAM
Fiftieth Anniversary Year

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Whickham School and Sports College

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