



# Wellfield School

## Prospectus



# WELCOME

Wellfield is an 11-16 Comprehensive School welcoming everyone from our local community.

I have been Headteacher since 2012 and I am very proud to be part of a school with such a long and distinguished history.

The original school was established in 1930 as AJ Dawson Grammar School. The Wellfield of today started in 1980 as an amalgamation of three schools, Wellfield Grammar School (previously AJ Dawson), Wingate Secondary Modern School and Wheatley Hill Secondary Modern School. Yodhen Hall School closed in the 1980s and students and staff from this school also joined Wellfield.

The school benefited from an £8m refurbishment under Building Schools for the Future (BSF) which began in April 2012 and was completed in July 2014. We therefore have an excellent 21st Century environment with first-class computing facilities to support learning.

We are delighted that the school has recently been awarded a grant from the Premier League and The FA Facilities Fund to install an all-weather, artificial grass football pitch. The £1,000,000 investment will support the school to provide state-of-the-art sports facilities for students during the school day and the community of East Durham during evening and weekends.

Since 2012, Wellfield has been transformed into a school of which the local community can be proud. As Headteacher, I believe excellent education is about having high standards in all areas. That is why I believe in a strict uniform policy; we need to encourage our students to be smart at all times whether they are in or out of school.

The school received its first Ofsted grading of Good in March 2014 and continues to go from strength to strength. This is evident from our recent Ofsted inspection in June 2018 in which the school received a very strong grading of Good. We are committed to building upon our current success and continuing to 'Go the Extra Mile'.



**“We work in partnership with staff, governors, parents and local businesses. Our vision is that the school is at the heart of the community.”**

**Linda Rodham**  
Headteacher



**“The headteacher is an experienced and skilful leader. She communicates high aspirations successfully to staff, pupils and parents.”**

**We  
GO  
THE  
EXTRA  
MILE**

# LEARNING AT WELLFIELD

We have a strong emphasis on delivering a traditional 'Core' education for all of our students

We pride ourselves on being one of the few schools in the area to still offer the triple Sciences (Biology, Chemistry and Physics) as separate subjects at GCSE and we ensure that all students, no matter their ability, study English Literature at GCSE. We believe it is important that all students are offered a strong and rigorous academic education as this is fundamental to employers, colleges and sixth forms; this is the education that they want their future students to have.

## Outstanding Education

Teaching and learning in the 'core' subjects is never less than consistently good and predominantly outstanding, leading to some impressive levels of progress in English, Maths and Science. We offer a varied range of learning activities within lessons, concentrating on individualised and independent learning approaches to tailor the learning experience to each child. We also offer many opportunities for further study both within the school day and also after school, ensuring that our students have the very best chance to achieve their true potential.

## World Class Facilities

Our facilities for a modern-day learning experience are second to none, with all teachers being well-versed in using ICT to aid lesson planning and delivery. Our school resources include banks of iPads, a large number of computer suites and many other resources to help our staff ensure our students flourish.

## Curriculum

Our curriculum teams rigorously monitor, and respond to, national changes including the current GCSE reforms, thus ensuring that our staff and students are always well-prepared for their examinations. One such development is our new curriculum in Maths where the department are one of only three schools in the North-East to have adopted the 'Maths Mastery' approach to learning. This is an extremely well researched programme designed to develop Maths skills in real-life situations, allowing for a stronger depth of learning and more interactive ways of solving maths problems.



Our English department is closely linked to other schools, Durham Local Authority and wider federations of schools across the country, sharing good practice with other schools.

## For our Most Able Students

We offer a wide range of opportunities to develop their skills and talents including the Ray Programme with Hartlepool Sixth Form College, the Brilliant Club with Durham University, and frequent links with universities including Oxford. Our Most Able pupils take part in numerous activities throughout the school year. These include after school masterclasses, foodbank collections, and running our 'Fairtrade Fortnight'. We also hold an annual Most Able and Talented Parent Conference. Previous guests at these events include, internationally known motivational speaker, Richard McCann, and the renowned Ian Warwick of London Gifted and Talented.

It may seem a cliché but we really do "Go the Extra Mile" to ensure the success of our students.

# VIRTUAL LEARNING

Teaching and learning is at the heart of Wellfield School and our Virtual School empowers students to extend their learning beyond the classroom



Our Virtual School is hosted as a bespoke learning platform and is the essential foundation for powering our modern learning experience, bringing together all the online resources we use to promote teaching and learning as well as providing a safe environment for collaboration.

Here students can participate in class discussions, access school emails, their timetable, as well as other platforms such as Class Charts, Accelerated Reader, Kerboodle and Maths Watch.

In addition to this, students will also have access to lesson resources and content uploaded by teachers allowing students to revisit taught lessons or to catch up if a lesson is missed due to absence.

Transcending traditional classroom boundaries, our Virtual School is secure, easy to use and accessible anytime, on any device, both at school and at home.

**100% GCSE**  
Success Rate (2020)

**OUTSTANDING**  
Year for GCSE

**SIGNIFICANTLY**  
higher than national  
average for Maths and  
English

# MASTERING MATHEMATICS

The Mathematics Mastery approach has three key principles: deep understanding, mathematical thinking and mathematical language, with problem solving at the heart of our curriculum

## Deep Understanding

We believe students should make connections between previous learning and their creative thinking and deepen their understanding through the application of a concept with research and seeking information.

## Mathematical Thinking

We encourage our students to explore, wonder, question and conjecture. We aim to hone their skills to compare, classify and sort. We encourage experimentation, playing with possibilities, varying aspects and seeing what happens. Students learn to make theories and predictions, to act purposefully and see what happens, and to generalise.

## Mathematical Language

We believe that pupils should be encouraged to use mathematical language throughout their maths learning to deepen their understanding of concepts.

## Problem Solving

Problem solving is at the heart of mathematics. We believe that problem-solving is both how and why we learn mathematics, and that it should be integrated throughout every lesson to develop students' depth of understanding of the subject. Students are encouraged to explore, recognise patterns, hypothesise and generalise in their learning. Straight-forward tasks can be converted into opportunities for students to investigate, seek solutions, make new discoveries and reason about their findings.



## C+P+A

We use a concrete-pictorial-abstract approach in lessons, so students can deepen their understanding of mathematical concepts through a variety of representations.

## Concrete – the doing

At the concrete level, tangible objects are used to approach and solve problems. Almost anything students can touch and manipulate to help approach and solve a problem is used at the concrete level. This is a 'hands on' component using real objects and it is the foundation for conceptual understanding.

## Pictorial – the seeing

At the pictorial level, diagrams and other visual representations (e.g. bar models, number lines, diagrams, charts and graphs) are used to approach and solve problems. These can often be pictorial representations of the concrete manipulatives, in which case it is important for the teacher to explain this connection.

## Abstract – the symbolic

At the abstract level, symbolic representations are used to approach and solve problems. These representations can include numbers or letters. It is important for teachers to explain how symbols can provide a shorter, often more efficient, way to represent mathematical relationships and operations.



“Parents comment positively on the quality of support and teaching.”

“Headteacher’s high aspirations have secured a culture of care, respect and high expectations.”

**We EXCEL IN WORLD CLASS FACILITIES**

**EXCEPTIONAL leadership and high quality teaching in Maths**

Ofsted Inspection Report - June 2018

# EXCELLING IN ENGLISH

The English Department is committed to developing a love for the English language and for English literature. We are a passionate department who are keen readers ourselves and want to foster this desire in our own students

Our schemes of work are designed to allow students the opportunity to develop the vital skills needed to succeed in English. As a core subject, we encourage students to recognise the importance of accurate communication, written and spoken, for themselves and their future, through both rigorous and exploratory teaching and learning. We champion language at every opportunity and continuously challenge students to expand their vocabulary and offer alternative perspectives of the text they are studying. We also aim to inspire pupils to express themselves creatively in their own writing, through a range of different forms.

Throughout the year, we celebrate and promote English through various competitions and events. These include: World Book Day, an author visit and presentation, Shakespeare's birthday, the BBC Radio 500 words competition, theatre trips and a spelling bee. The Department also runs a weekly creative writing club.

In KS3 students follow the English mastery course and study a breadth of prose, drama

and poetry from across the literary canon. These include texts such as Oliver Twist, Sherlock Holmes, A Midsummer Night's Dream and The Tempest. We also study a range of poets. Students also develop writing skills in non-fiction and fiction formats. Students are assessed using fortnightly quizzes and end of unit essays.

In KS4 students begin studying the course content for their GCSEs in AQA English Language and English Literature. Students study: Romeo and Juliet, A Christmas Carol, An Inspector Calls and poetry. We complete the spoken language endorsement of the course in Year 10 – a recorded presentation on a topic of their choice.



# PERFECTING P.E

The PE department at Wellfield School offers the opportunity for students to participate in a range of sports both within and outside the curriculum. We also have the new addition of the all-weather, artificial grass pitch which will further enhance our sporting facilities

The department ensures it meets the needs of all students through participating in a range of events throughout the County. We run a successful after school programme, with the 'Wellfield Sports Academy' having had notable successes in many sports including athletics, boccia, cross country, dance, football, netball, New Age Kurling and rugby.

The department also works alongside several outside agencies. In particular the 'Foundation of Light' which gives students the opportunity to gain further accreditation in Core PE though the Sports Leaders Level 1 award. For our most able students we run an 'Elite Performance Pathway' in partnership with Hartlepool Sixth Form College. In year 9 we also offer students the opportunity to study either a GCSE or vocational qualification in PE or dance.

The PE department at Wellfield not only encourages students to achieve their best, with both staff and students 'Going the Extra Mile' but also celebrates this success through our annual sports awards.



# SCHOOL TRIPS

Each year we try to offer a range of school trips to our students at Wellfield. These are some of our most popular

## Ski Pila in the Italian Alps

A fantastic opportunity to learn a new skill in the wonderful Italian Alps. Staying half board in an excellent hotel, students ski for 6 full days with instruction from professional BASI Qualified ski instructors. In addition to a full skiing programme, students also enjoy an extensive programme of evening activities, including snow tubing, ten-pin bowling, an evening visit to a traditional Italian restaurant and a shopping trip in the historic town of Aosta. Students receive Interski Snowsport School awards and certification at the end of the week.



## Humanities London Weekend Visit

This hugely popular and over-subscribed study experience is now a “standing dish” at Wellfield. The children have a unique opportunity to take a guided tour of The Houses of Parliament. This includes watching a debate in the House of Commons and a tour of the House of Lords. Then, to the world famous West End Theatre District to see a West End Show. Other attractions include a visit to The London Dungeon and The Tower of London. Next, it is off to The Strand for “an all you can eat” Pizza Hut Buffet, followed by a night flight on The London Eye. Finally, the visit climaxes with a morning at Thorpe Park



## History Visit to Ypres in Belgium

Pupils have the opportunity to visit Ypres in Belgium. Whilst there they go to preserved World War 1 trenches, explore the experiences of soldiers on the battlefield, visit various cemeteries, both Commonwealth and German, and participate in the emotional Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate in Ypres. Pupils who attend the trip gained an invaluable insight into many aspects of the Great War and the importance of Remembrance.

## Lake District Outdoor Activity and Literacy Support Residential Study Weeks

A good level of literacy supports achievement in all curriculum areas. Consequently, each year we organise a range of study opportunities to raise levels of literacy and support development in student confidence and basic skills. The aim of the residential experiences in the Lake District is to give students the opportunity to try new activities and enhance their ability to work in a team. It is also our aim for students to improve their communication skills, develop self-confidence and support their literacy development. The study trips include a wide range of fun activities including:

- Orienteering in Whinlatter Forest Park
- Visit to Carlisle including Ten-Pin Bowling
- Visit to Brockhole, the Lake District National Park Visitor Centre
- Visit to Keswick Leisure Pool for swimming, water slide and wave pool fun
- A day at the Glaramara Outdoor Pursuits Centre near Keswick with qualified and experienced staff to support students with a choice of outdoor adventure activities including Ghyll Scrambling, Climbing and Absailing



## Year 10 GCSE Geography Fieldwork Study Day

As a part of the GCSE Geography specification students must complete two pieces of fieldwork in both a physical and human context. All students complete a Fieldwork Study Day in the Lake District National Park completing a river study at Easedale Beck near Grasmere with support from staff from the Blencathra Field Studies Centre.



# WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

Wellfield School is proud of and values its international links with South Africa

We offer a fantastic opportunity for our students to learn about and experience global cultural diversity through our South Africa partnership. Students and staff at Wellfield School have enjoyed and benefitted from our long established and successful partnership with Schietsdrift School, a rural Zulu school situated in Winterton, Kwazulu-Natal. Since 2008, we have worked together to help improve the education and facilities of the Zulu pupils through fund raising, exchanging of letters and reciprocal visits.

Many Wellfield students have accompanied school trips to South Africa where they have supported learning, prepared resources, taught lessons and improved facilities by repairing basic equipment such as desks, creating a library for the Zulu students to use to help improve their literacy in English skills and renovating classrooms. In addition, they have supported the training of the Zulu staff and students in the use of IT resources by sharing their own expertise and confidence. More importantly, students in both schools have built strong friendships and developed a genuine understanding and appreciation of each others' cultural heritage. Always enjoyable are the opportunities to discover the delights of the Kwazulu-Natal province through, for example, battlefield tours, game drives and sunrise safaris. Participating in the South Africa project is a truly unique, life-changing, never forgotten experience!



## OFSTED RECOGNITION

“The school operates an international programme with a school in Winterton, South Africa.

Some Wellfield School students have visited the school in South Africa and helped it to develop classroom resources. This supports their understanding of world cultures well.”

# DUKE OF EDINBURGH

We are proud to offer our students the opportunity to take part in and gain the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze and Silver Awards

These awards offer our students a life-changing experience, a fun time with friends and the chance to discover new interests and talents. The award programmes enable students to develop essential skills for life and work and are a recognised mark of achievement which are respected by employers, further education colleges and universities.

Students can start their Bronze DofE Award in year 9. They must complete a physical challenge, learn a new skill and complete volunteering hours. They then also complete a weekend expedition of two days and one evening: navigating themselves through 'wild country' and sleeping in tents overnight.

When students have passed their Bronze Award, they can progress to the Silver Award with the same challenges - a new skill, physical and volunteering hours completed, however these are over a longer time frame of 6 months and 12 months. The expedition is also longer, over two nights and three days, with more independent, longer walks.

We know that our students benefit immensely from the Duke of Edinburgh Award as, regardless of academic ability, gender or background, they can set targets, achieve personal challenges and push personal boundaries.



# EXTRA CURRICULAR

Wellfield School has a wide range of extra-curricular performing arts activities. This includes the school choir which perform at various events in both local and regional venues (including Sage Gateshead) and peripatetic teachers who cover many different instruments including brass, guitar, drums and voice.

We also produce two full scale productions each year - these shows are an important part of school life and are very well received by our local community.

We recently produced "Oliver" which played out to sell-out audiences during its run. The second show is part of our transition work and takes the form of our Performing Arts Summer School. Students in years 4, 5 and 6 are joined by some of our own students, and they participate in workshops in dance, drama and music (including singing and Djembe drums). The students work with us for the first week of the summer holidays and the Summer School culminates in performances to friends and family.

All of these performing arts events help develop an appreciation for the arts, an understanding of a wide range of cultures and help boost the skills, confidence and self-esteem of participants. We are very proud of this work which is always presented with a professional edge. Our shows really are the very best of youth theatre - much more than just a "school play".



## REPRESENTING WELLFIELD AND COUNTY DURHAM

At Wellfield we have an Elite Performance Programme, where students experience what it is like to be an elite athlete. Our students also enjoy opportunities to participate in sport at an international level.

For example, Wellfield students represented their school and County Durham in an International Sports Tournament in Hungary playing football against students from France, Spain, Italy and Romania. Our students also enjoy the opportunity of playing in our annual football tour of Barcelona.

Our dance groups have experienced particular success, performing in front of sell out audiences.

# MOVING UP



At Wellfield, we are very proud of the links with our primary and junior schools

We see these as vital to making sure the transition from Key Stage 2 is as successful as possible. We know that moving up from primary to secondary school is a big step. The changes and challenges are very exciting but can be quite daunting, even for the most confident child. At Wellfield, we have a full transition programme to support parents and students which starts before the students reach Year 6. The students are introduced to the people who will help to make this transition time as positive as possible.

To make sure each pupil has the best possible start at Wellfield, a lot of time is spent gathering information from primary and junior schools. Assessment information is analysed to ensure every pupil is placed in the correct set for every subject and receives appropriate academic support. In addition, our staff deliver lessons in the primary schools and support with their curriculum development. Pastoral information is also collected and each pupil is given the opportunity to choose at least one friend to be with in the same tutor group.

Throughout the year there are many opportunities for students to visit Wellfield School and our staff teach a range of subjects in primary schools. Students from all of our local schools are invited for lunch on a regular basis and Wellfield host the Primary School Maths Challenge which is an event for every primary school in the County. Wellfield students help with every transition event and the school council organises two of the largest events themselves. These are a Halloween Spectacular and a celebration of Chinese New Year.

We have found that the students benefit vastly from attending these events. They become familiar with the school and learn to do things that they could not do in a primary school setting, for example trampolining in PE and working with Bunsen burners in science.

## OUR GOVERNORS

Here at Wellfield, the school's Governing Body are committed to working closely with the Headteacher, staff and students to ensure that every child receives a high quality local education.

Made up of local authority, teaching staff and parent volunteers the Governing Body acts as a 'critical friend' to the school offering support and challenge where necessary. The role of the school governor is challenging and demanding but extremely satisfying. They are involved in the school's strategic planning and decision making process through attendance at termly and sub-committee meetings, and our governor subject links get first-hand experience of what is going on in school through teacher meetings and classroom monitoring visits.

Expectation across the school is high and our governors are extremely proud of the academic progress we have made so far. We are just as proud of the amazing school performances, demonstrations and events they have attended where the confidence and ability of our students have been allowed to flourish.



"Governors are knowledgeable and committed to ensuring that all pupils achieve highly"



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