

# Welcome To Ashington High School Sports College

Ashington High School was opened in 1960 as Ashington Grammar School. It became a comprehensive school in the mid-seventies and is now a 13 to 18 Trust High School. It was designated a specialist Sports College in 2001 and a High Performing Specialist School in 2006.

The area served by the school is predominantly the west of the town and several outlying villages. Many of our students come to school by bus. In recent years our school roll has risen to the point where we are considerably over-subscribed each year and now have over a thousand students. This is due to excellent liaison work with partner schools, some exciting and engaging projects which have gained publicity for the school and significantly improved performance in examinations

The school has had a great deal of success in recent years. We have a highly committed staff and a strong and enthusiastic governing body. Parents are supportive of the school and are welcome to join our Parents' Advisory Group which discusses issues about the school and makes recommendations for improvement.

As an extended school, we have a thriving programme of youth work, extra curricular activities and adult education. Many of our students are working towards Duke of Edinburgh awards, and most of our students are also qualified Sports Leaders through the Junior, Community and Higher Sports Leadership Awards. We regularly have charity fund raising events - and have a lot of fun in the process of raising thousands of pounds for deserving causes.

A feature of our school which has grown in recent years is our commitment to teacher training. As a SCITT (School Centred Initial Teacher Training) we are responsible for the training of 40 or so post-graduate trainees in Physical Education and Technology. We have been ranked as the top school-based teacher training establishment in the country.

The major challenges identified in our School Development Plan for 2008 to 2011 are:

- To further develop high quality teaching and learning for all
- To develop leadership potential of all members of the school community
- To promote a distinctive specialist school identity and ethos
- Continue to raise aspirations of all members of the school community
- To build effective partnerships with all stakeholders

Students and parents joining the school community will realise that the teaching and learning developments are at the top of our agenda. We are particularly interested in reducing teacher dependency and encouraging students to learn independently. We wish to give students the kind of education that will enable them to reach their fullest potential in a friendly, supportive and well disciplined environment.

We believe in hard work and in encouraging achievement of all kinds. Our approach is founded on a special partnership between you as parents, the school and your child – education is most successful when parents are closely involved in their child's development. We will, therefore, work closely with you to ensure your child achieves the very best.

We believe in setting high standards. We know that with good teaching, a well disciplined environment and a structured system of guidance and support all students who attend Ashington High school will grow into confident, capable young people, well prepared for adult life.

## ETHOS

At Ashington High School we work hard to create a rich learning environment for all our students.

Relationships are based on mutual respect and care for one another. Within this supportive framework, our students are encouraged to work together positively and co-operatively. We place a strong emphasis on achievement and success. Students are encouraged to value both their own achievements and those of others.

A clear disciplinary structure is in place and understood by all. We expect good behaviour of our students but where sanctions are necessary we involve parents at an early stage. Individual guidance is a key feature of our approach.

Students know that bullying is unacceptable. Students are encouraged to report any incidents they see but such incidents are rare.

I look forward to meeting you.



Rob Kitching,  
Principal