

SCHOOL PROSPECTUS



Wellfield
COMMUNITY SCHOOL



Contents

Learning at Wellfield	4
Working in Partnership	6
Extra Curricular	8
Moving Up	10
Our Governors	11
Parental Comment	11



“Go the extra mile”

Welcome

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

I have been Head teacher 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 as an amalgamation in 1980 of three schools, Wellfield Grammar School (previously AJ Dawson), Wingate Secondary Modern School and Wheatley Hill Secondary Modern School. Yohden Hall School closed in the 1980's and pupils and staff from this school also joined Wellfield.

The school has just benefited from an £8m refurbishment under Building Schools for the Future (BSF). The rebuild began in April 2012 and was completed in July 2014. We now have a very good 21st century environment with excellent ICT facilities to support learning.

We rebranded the school by introducing a new uniform, school badge, smart PE strip, and a new motto (taken from the original school). In order to take the school forward we looked at its past. The school as well as the area has a rich heritage and we wished for this to be reflected in the new uniform and motto, hence we used the traditional blue colours, the Pegasus emblem and a similar motto to Wellfield Grammar School.

Since 2012, Wellfield has been transformed into a school that the local community can be proud of. As Head teacher 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.

In the Wellfield you see today, teaching is at least good or outstanding and we have developed many opportunities for our students outside of the classroom. We are very proud of the fact that the school was graded as good with outstanding for safety in March 2014.

We now fully intend to build upon our current success and continue to go the extra mile.

We work in partnership with staff, governors, parents and local businesses and our vision is that the school is at the heart of the community

Linda Rodham

Linda Rodham
Head Teacher





Learning about culture

Residential visits to France, Spain, Germany and South Africa give our students the opportunity to learn about life and cultural diversity in different countries as well as practice the language skills they learn in the classroom. Visits to the Christmas markets are particularly enjoyed by students in lower school.

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 to 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; we ensure that the students in our school 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 each teacher 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 the students in their care 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 the 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 are closely linked to other schools, Durham Local Education Authority and wider federations of schools across the country and are often called upon to deliver training and advice to other schools and education authorities.

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

Parental Feedback



Parent feedback collected on the parentview.ofsted.gov.uk

97%

agree that their child feels safe at this school

98%

agree their child is happy at this school

96%

agree their child is well looked after

"Go the extra mile"



'Exceptionally motivated and driven headteacher that promotes a strong ethos for learning'

Working in Partnership

Wellfield School is proud of its international link to South Africa. Since 2008, we have enjoyed a well-established partnership with Schietsdrift Combined School in Kwazulu-Natal.

Since first finding out about the rural and very disadvantaged Zulu school, staff and pupils of Wellfield have raised money to support improvements to the building, resources and education there. More recently the schools have enjoyed reciprocal visits so that we can all benefit from each other's experiences of education to improve teaching and learning in our own schools as well as build strong relationships between the two communities.

During a recent visit to South Africa, Wellfield students supported learning and taught lessons in Schietsdrift School and created a library for the Zulu pupils to use to help improve their literacy in English skills. Our visits also give students the opportunity to develop personal skills, to become more independent and to understand that the world is a global community.

We offer a fantastic opportunity for our students to learn about life in South Africa and the Zulu heritage through these visits and our special South Africa curriculum weeks and assemblies.

Ofsted Recognition

'The school operates an international programme with a school in Winterton, South Africa. Some Wellfield Community School students have visited the school in South Africa and helped it to develop classroom resources. This supports their understanding of world cultures well.'

96%

agree that their child is well taught

94%

agree the school makes sure it's pupils are well behaved

'Partnerships have been developed locally and internationally to enrich students' understanding of cultures and communities.'

Ofsted 2014

Ofsted

Extra Curricular

Wellfield School has a wide range of extra-curricular Performing Arts activities. These include the school choir who perform at various events in both local and regional venues (including the Sage in Gateshead) and many 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 "Grease" which featured 75 of our students and played 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 receive workshops in Dance, Drama and Music (including

singing and African drums). The students work with us for the first two weeks 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".



98%

of parents would recommend this school to another parent

93%

agree their child makes good progress at this school

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 make sure the transition between Key Stage 2 and 3 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 pupils. This programme starts before the pupils reach Year 6. The pupils 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 pupils to visit Wellfield School and our staff teach a range of subjects in the primary schools. Pupils from all of our local schools are invited for lunch on a regular basis. Wellfield host the Primary School Maths Challenge. This is an event for every primary school in the county.

Wellfield pupils help with every transition event and the school council organise two of the largest events themselves. These are a Halloween Spectacular and a celebration of Chinese New Year.

We have found that the pupils find many benefits 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.

96%

agree this school is well led and managed

96%

agree the school responds well to any concerns



Our Governors

Here at Wellfield the school's governing body are committed to working closely with the Head Teacher, 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. We are involved in the school's strategic planning and decision making process through attendance at termly and subcommittee meetings, and our governor subject links get first hand experience of what's going on in school through teacher meetings and classroom monitoring visits.

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

Parent's Comment

'I would like to applaud your whole team especially Adele Mutton, for making a very traumatic time in my sons life enjoyable. Adele has given our son Brandon very individual care and attention and made the whole process enjoyable, he also says the school dinners are fantastic.

Brandon has been coming to your summer schools for the last 3 years his confidence has grown every time he attends. We Enjoyed the trip to Wembley this year with Mr Potts who definitely went the extra mile.

During the parents evening I was nearly brought to tears with the pride I felt towards the team, and I can not wait for Brandon to join your school. Improving not only his education but growing into a well mannered young man.

Looking forward to the next several years and challenges working as a team to develop my Sons Future.

Respect and admiration to your fantastic team and school.'

"Go the extra mile"



Wellfield
COMMUNITY SCHOOL

NORTH ROAD EAST
WINGATE
CO DURHAM
TS28 5AX

Phone: 01429 838783
email: contact@wellfieldschool.net
www.wellfieldschool.net

[/WELLFIELDCOMMUNITYSCHOOL](https://www.facebook.com/WellfieldCommunitySchool)
[@WELLFIELDSCHOOL](https://twitter.com/WellfieldSchool)



SOCIAL