



TANFIELD
SCHOOL

HARD WORK | TRUST | FAIRNESS

The background of the entire page is a photograph of two female students in a science laboratory. They are both wearing clear safety goggles and dark blue school uniforms with a striped tie. The student on the right is smiling and looking towards the student on the left. They are standing at a lab bench with various equipment visible in the background. The image is partially covered by a large, semi-transparent gold-colored geometric shape that resembles a stylized 'A' or a series of overlapping triangles.

PROSPECTUS





STEVEN CLOUGH
HEADTEACHER

Welcome to Tanfield School

AT TANFIELD SCHOOL WE HAVE MANY MINDS BUT ONE MISSION: TO GET STUDENTS TO ATTEND THE BEST UNIVERSITY, OR REAL ALTERNATIVE, SUCCEED IN THEIR DREAM JOB AND THRIVE IN ALL ASPECTS OF THEIR LIVES.

It's an important mission to achieve.

All our students are asked to live by our three values of hard work, trust and fairness which are the building blocks of Team Tanfield. We strongly believe that Team Tanfield is a partnership which brings together our students, their families, and our staff. By working together as a team, we will succeed in helping your child reach the seemingly impossible.

The impact of the Team Tanfield ethos alongside our school agenda for consistent high-quality teaching has helped us gain positive recognition from those that matter. A recent visit from the Head of Education and Skills at Durham County Council highlighted Tanfield's success in bringing about improvements in key aspects of leadership which are securing better outcomes for our students.

The behaviour of our students is exceptional. The introduction of our house system and our approach to rewarding positive behaviour has empowered our students and they are motivated to work incredibly hard in lessons.

We are extremely proud of the enhancements we have completed within our learning environment, both internally and externally. Over the last 18 months, we have secured over £1.2 million investment to improve the school buildings and created spaces to enhance our pastoral support to students and families. More recently we secured £500,000 which will help us transform the environment further.

We are versatile in our teaching and have reacted quickly to ensure that all our students are able to access online learning during times when they were unable to attend school. Our response to online learning has been praised by Michelle Rainbow, Skills Director at the North East Local Enterprise Partnership: ***"In these very challenging times, Tanfield School has responded quickly and effectively, adopting new digital technologies so it can continue its excellent work supporting students to make more informed decisions about their futures."***

Tanfield is a rapidly improving school and I believe it should be your school of choice.

I look forward to welcoming you into the Team Tanfield community.

"I am delighted that the school has been successful in bringing about improvements in key aspects of leadership which are securing better outcomes for pupils."

Richard Crane
Head of Education and Skills
at Durham County Council



OUR VALUES

Our core values of hard work, trust and fairness permeate all that we do. From the moment a student arrives at Tanfield, we ask them to live these values.

HARD WORK

We never give up. We remain positive so that we have the strength to persevere with even the hardest work.

We do what it takes for as long as it takes.

TRUST

We are honest. We do what we say we'll do and don't make excuses.

We are loyal and have the courage to do the right thing.

FAIRNESS

We play by the rules. We are respectful, polite, kind, and courteous at all times.

We don't take advantage of others and believe by helping a member of our team we are helping ourselves.



HARD WORK

We never
give up.

Knowledge gives us an advantage. It gives us the confidence to discuss a wide range of topics with those around us. It makes us part of the club that runs the world, and the inside track to change it.

At Tanfield School, we help students from all backgrounds to feel comfortable engaging with the complex world around them. We do this through our knowledge-rich curriculum.

WHAT IS A
KNOWLEDGE-RICH
CURRICULUM?

We design what, when and how we teach, to help our students build powerful knowledge that allows access to engage in all conversations - with peers, teachers, and employers - that is crucial for success.

By building and linking knowledge, students develop complex understanding that connects and supports their learning across all subjects.

HOW
IS IT
TAUGHT?

Every subject is taught by specialists using a specifically designed curriculum that is focused and sequenced. We focus on key language in each subject so that students learn to talk and write like an historian or a scientist.

We use low-stakes testing as part of every lesson. Research shows this is the most effective way to build and apply knowledge and, as a result, excellence is a habit.

ENGAGING PARENTS/
CARERS WITH THE
CURRICULUM

Engaging parents and carers in the learning process is a key part of our strategy for successful curriculum implementation, with the expectation that knowledge will be reinforced at home.

To support our families, we design workshops and encourage attendance so that we can clearly explain our methods and provide easy to track curriculum maps and topic packs to enable our parents/carers to support their child(ren).



TRUST

We are honest.

Tanfield is proud to be an inclusive school where our young people are regarded as individuals and no effort is spared to cater for the particular interests, talents, and abilities of every student.

SUPPORT FOR EVERYONE'S NEEDS

Our SEND support network is unique to our school and we offer an inclusive partnership with students and their families. Below is an overview of our SEND provision:

Members of staff dedicated to providing pastoral care

Dedicated SEND classroom used for a variety of activities and extended provision

Wellness room and social area

Highly experienced Learning Support Assistants throughout the school to facilitate and support 1:1 learning and small group activity

Higher levels of support identified during the transition period from primary school

Students with an education health and care plan identified during the transition process and allocated dedicated hours during the school week

TRANSITION

Transition from Key Stage 2 to Key Stage 3 is a huge part of any child's life. We recognise the importance of bridging the gap between primary and secondary school, academically, socially, and emotionally.

As well as providing your child with their very own information hub where they can meet their new teachers and peers, we'll also plan visits to their primary school, invite them to Tanfield for various events, and offer taster lessons to allow them to get a feel for what it would be like to be part of Team Tanfield.

"I genuinely think the hub is absolutely fantastic. No other school transition parents have anything like it. I'm so pleased she's going to Tanfield. I know she's going to be really well looked after."

Parent of Year 6 pupil

YEAR MANAGERS

Tanfield's Year Managers are unique in that they are dedicated to providing pastoral support. We keep our Year Managers off timetable, freeing up their time to work with students, their families, and other teachers to ensure they reach their full potential at Tanfield School. Your child's Year Manager should be your point of contact if you have any worries about homework, uniform, or areas outside of school that may affect your child.



FAIRNESS

We play
by the rules.

At Tanfield School, it is our mission to help our students achieve their highest aspirations in life. This takes hard work and determination, so we feel that it's unfair for any student's learning to be disrupted by the poor behaviour of others.

We expect our students to proudly represent the values of Team Tanfield at all times, lifting each other higher through being punctual, polite, and supportive of one another.



UNIVERSITY HOUSES

We celebrate positive behaviours and award our students when they have done well using a points-based house system to foster a sense of team spirit across the school.

When your child joins Tanfield, they will be allocated to one of four houses which are based on the North East universities: Durham University, Newcastle University, Northumbria University, and the University of Sunderland. Each member of staff, and even our governors, will also be attached to a house.

Our house system provides opportunities for students to be involved in coordinating fun activities and events throughout the school year as well as the chance to have their say and represent their house at relevant meetings.

FAMILY HANDBOOK

Our Family Handbook gives further details about our school uniform, what a typical school day looks like, our curriculum and much more. You can find this on our website.

UNIFORM

"At Tanfield we are a team and one of the core aspects of this team is our uniform; it represents who we are and what we stand for. It signifies, no matter where we come from, we can all go far. There is no limit to our future."

Sam, Year 9 pupil

At Tanfield School we use Sehgal's as our uniform supplier, based on Scotswood Road in Newcastle. They make purchasing uniforms as easy and accessible as possible for everyone and they have designed a variety of purchasing options for families.

ONLINE LEARNING

Distance, not distant



Google Classroom

Tanfield is ready for all eventualities. We invested in Google Classroom in 2018, and our students are provided with their own Tanfield School Google account which allows them to attend virtual lessons if, at any point, Tanfield needs to close. This means our students and staff are ready and able to begin remote learning immediately.

We supplemented this with our own Chromebook scheme to ensure that all students had access to the kit they required to engage in online learning from home.

In recognition of our online provision BBC Newcastle featured the school twice in 2020 and our use of online learning tools was used as an example to schools all over the world on a global Google for Education webinar.

COMMUNICATION WITH PARENTS



Weduc is an app available on smartphones and other devices which provides fast and tailored communication from school to parent.

With year-group news feeds, a school calendar, attendance and behaviour updates, online payment facilities and the ability to send direct messages, Weduc helps our parents to feel part of Team Tanfield.



At Tanfield School your child's next steps and beyond are important to us. That is why we recently created the Tanfield Futures project. Tanfield Futures is our whole-school careers and further study strategy that enables all students to explore and experience future educational and work paths, as well as develop the essential skills that will benefit their choices.

"Tanfield School's commitment and enthusiasm to improve careers education for all its students has been fantastic to see. The school has been a valuable member of our community of career hubs, working with other schools in the region to adopt, implement and achieve the Good Career Guidance benchmarks."

Michelle Rainbow

Skills Director at the North East Local Enterprise Partnership



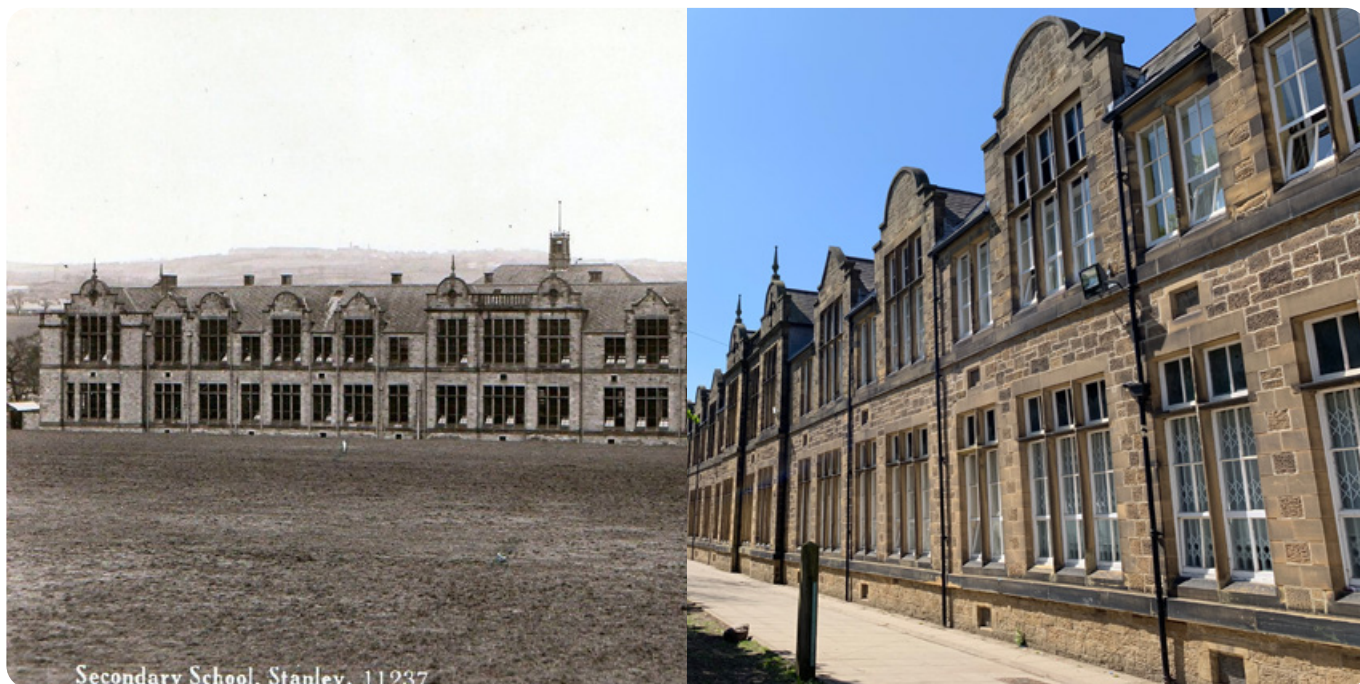
ACTIVITIES AND CLUBS

School is more than just a classroom

Taking part in the wider activities within Tanfield School helps our students to thrive in all aspects of their life. Our aim is for students to enjoy the experiences, develop their interests and try out things that they wouldn't otherwise. They will be ready and equipped for their life after Tanfield and have strategies to keep them physically and mentally safe, ready to contribute positively to the world.

Our clubs and activities help our students to be the very best version of themselves. There are a wide range of activities to choose: from running to robotics, big band to basketball, we believe we have something for every student.





OUR SCHOOL

A prime place for learning

We're proud of our history, but just as our identity has developed over the years, so must our physical environment. This is why we've invested £1.2 million since 2019 to enhance the school buildings and external environment, creating first-class learning facilities for our students.

This investment has enabled us to transform our historic school buildings, creating a student pastoral base and purpose built main entrance with offices and meeting rooms as well as installing brand new student toilet facilities. During the summer of 2020, we opened our brand new student playground, providing recreational space with football and netball pitches and seating areas. We are due to install brand new windows, doors, flooring and lighting in North Block by spring 2021.

Tanfield has history

At over 100 years old, Tanfield's buildings are steeped in history. From its original identity as the 'Alderman Wood School' in the early 20th century, to becoming the prestigious 'Stanley Grammar School' and finally in 1975 to how we know it today, as Tanfield School.

£1.2M
INVESTMENT
since 2019



WHAT OUR STUDENTS AND PARENTS SAY

Don't just take our word for it, read more about the Tanfield School experience from our current students, parents and alumni.

"My son has attended Tanfield School for three years now and I cannot speak highly enough of the experience he has had during this time.

In my opinion, the school has developed and improved significantly over the last three years and the culture and ethos of hard work, trust and fairness exudes throughout Team Tanfield. Staff are nurturing, caring, enthusiastic and driven: all eager for the students to be the best they can be.

Communication to parents is excellent – we are always well-informed and made aware of any changes or initiatives. During this period of closure [during 2020 lockdown] – the provision for home-learning, from the school has been exceptional: really showing the true extent this team will go to to ensure children's education and well-being are not suffering. Again – it demonstrates the vision and drive from the headteacher and all staff to provide the best quality of education possible for the students, even during this exceptionally difficult time.

I would not hesitate to recommend this school to other parents and would like to thank the team for all they do for my son."

- Mrs Goodwin (Parent and Headteacher at Belmont Cheveley Park Primary School)

"The teachers are so PASSIONATE about their work and will do anything to help you and will always be there for you. When I leave Tanfield I aspire to gain access to the aviation academy, as in the future I want to become a pilot."

- Josh, Year 11

"I received a lot of careers advice as we had lots of sixth forms and colleges come into school to tell us about what options were available. The teachers were also really supportive throughout my time at Tanfield."

- Rachel, Year 11

"Be Yourself - Use your time at Tanfield School as a time to figure out who you are and what you want to do with your life. Being a part of Team Tanfield will give you the opportunity without the risk of discrimination and you will be supported every single step of the way..."

- Nadine, Year 11

"My son is in year 9. He is really settled at Tanfield school. He has felt comfortable and secure at school since day one in year 7. The standard of teaching is excellent.

The teachers get to know the students and this brings out the best in them.

Any issues are sorted out quickly and positively.

During these difficult times of school shutdown [during 2020 lockdown], the school has excelled. Normal timetable on Google classrooms, this is the standard of Tanfield and I feel my son's education hasn't suffered at all. This is due to the efforts of the school."

- Mrs Cook (Parent of current Year 9 Student)

"I have had some great support such as career advice and I can honestly say that it has helped me choose the place where I am going. I am going to study at Emmanuel Sixth Form when I leave and then I am planning on going to university and then getting a job with the NHS."

- Cooper, Year 11



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