



# Bedlingtonshire Community High School

Dfee Designated Technology College





Bedlingtonshire Community High School

# Welcome to Bedlingtonshire Community High School

## From the Headteacher

I have faith in the ability of all young people to achieve great things. It is our responsibility at BCHS to provide students with the resources and opportunities to do this.

I am delighted to be the Head of a School which includes all its students and is brave enough to seek engaging ways of educating them to be independent life long learners.

We have talented teaching and support staff who will get to know each student quickly and strive to work with the latest resources to ensure a personalised and motivating programme for them.

The only thing that we ask of the students is that they do their best to make the most of the opportunities we offer and that they adopt a positive approach to all they do.

We are proud to be an active community school and, in partnership with West Sleekburn Middle School, we aim to ensure that the learning goes way beyond the traditional school day across our federation.

As a Specialist Technology College we ensure that we celebrate success at every level within the broad and balanced curriculum that we offer. Our students achieve the highest results in examinations and progress on to the best universities and colleges, but more importantly they become effective citizens.

I hope you find this booklet informative and we look forward to you sending your child to us for his or her secondary education.

**Ian Towson**





If we work together we can achieve much more

## School aims

### Our Beliefs

- That everyone is important and everything that they do matters
- That learning gives us life chances
- That doing 'the best we can' is fantastic
- That we should all be honest with ourselves and others
- That the world is a wonderful place and we owe it to everyone to ensure that we:
  - o Make the most of it and every opportunity it offers
  - o Understand that we share it with others
  - o Take care of it and all those in it

### Our Aims

- To prepare students to be independent life-long learners and to be successful and positive members of society
- To promote creativity, confidence and determination
- To encourage students to have high expectations
- To develop self esteem and mutual respect
- To show that if we are positive we can achieve more

This will be done through:

1. Recognising and providing for individual needs.
2. Valuing and respecting all forms of achievement.
3. Creating a supportive physical and social climate.
4. Helping individuals review their own progress and establish challenging goals for the future.
5. Ensuring that everyone knows what is expected of them.
6. Working together with the community.
7. Valuing people equally.

We are very proud of the achievements of all our students new and old and we welcome every opportunity to promote their achievements.

We are a comprehensive school of about 850 students with just under 200 in the Sixth Form. The school stands in extensive grounds on the edge of the A189 Spine road. The grammar school building, built in 1926 is still in use, but the main school buildings were constructed in 1974. These buildings are constantly being upgraded and refurbished as we increase our school's specialist and high quality resources.

*"Professional relationships between teachers and students are very good" Ofsted 2005*



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## Code of Conduct

We have a clear code for everyone working in this community and it is based on: **honesty, mutual respect and social responsibility.**

*'Everyone will act with courtesy and consideration to others at all times'*

This means that pupils must:

- o Attend and arrive on time, in correct uniform, correctly dressed.
- o Be punctual and prepared to start every lesson on time. This includes removing outdoor clothes and organizing books and equipment ready to start.
- o Have with you your bag, equipment and all necessary homework.
- o Behave sensibly and politely at all times. Have respect for people and their property.
- o When you are asked to do something by a teacher, do it first time.
- o Put litter in the bin. Keep your rooms and school tidy.
- o Don't eat or drink in class. No chewing.
- o Aim to achieve your best at all times.
- o Cigarettes, matches, offensive weapons, laser pens, alcohol, lighters and any harmful materials/substances are not allowed to be brought to school.
- o Stimulation drinks like 'Red Bull' and 'Red Rooster' are not allowed in school.
- o Students must carry all essential equipment in a **suitable school bag every day**. Equipment- pens, pencils, ruler, rubber, calculator, geometry set, a reading book and books/ kit for the day.





If we are negative then things become harder





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## Our Learning Environment

We are proud to have 'state of the art' ICT facilities provided across the school through designated suites of rooms as well as in discrete subject areas. Our Library Information centre provides up to date books, periodicals and newspapers as well as ICT facilities including networked internet access and video conferencing facilities. All teaching areas have interactive whiteboards and we also have sets of lap tops for student use.

- **Grammar School Block** - Geography, English, Sociology, Modern Foreign Languages and the Mathematics Suite with ICT room. The Axis ICT Centre, Drama workshop and newly refurbished School Hall.
- **History/Psychology Block** - teaching classrooms.
- **Learning Resource Centre** - Library
- **Multi-storey Main Block** - with administration, business education, biology, chemistry and physics as well as four newly refurbished ICT suites.
- **Music Area** - Newly refurbished classrooms, individual practice rooms and music technology centre. New keyboard technology and steel pan drums are a focus of our music provision and we have a new recording studio and music IT facilities.
- **Physical Education Centre** - provides changing facilities, a sports hall, activities area, dance studio, fitness centre, classroom, extensive sports pitches and full size running track.
- **Sixth Form Centre** - study area, common room, kitchen and toilets.
- **Technology Block** - contains refurbished workshops & kitchens- providing for all Technology related subjects alongside art, textiles, digital applications, ceramics, multi media applications and a digital art room.
- **Year Blocks & Food Hall** - provides a cashless, self service food hall next to dining rooms. The Learning Support Unit, Student Services, Extended Learning and Connexions.

*"Students have good access to trusted and conscientious adults in school"* **Ofsted 2005**







Everything is done more easily with a smile





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## Our Curriculum

We aim to match learning to need. We continually develop and offer learning opportunities to students that reflect their learning style, level of attainment and areas of interest. Not all students in the same year will work at the same pace therefore a flexible personalised programme is available to all students across Year9 – Year 13.

This curriculum is built around a core of essential life skills that includes Literacy, Numeracy, ICT, Teamwork and Presentation Skills, Citizenship and Ethical topics.

Following appropriate guidance students will choose relevant additional courses that lead to a variety of accreditations to ensure that they all have the opportunity to achieve their personal best.

Subject areas:

Science, Drama, Art, Digital Art, Creative Textiles, Graphics, Resistant Materials, Electronic Products, Design Technology, Food, Health & Social, Travel & Tourism, ICT, Media, Photography and Film, Music, Music Technology, Psychology, Sociology, History, Geography, Business, Modern Foreign Languages, Drama, PE Studies, wider Key Skills

### Sixth Form

In the Sixth Form we presently offer 23 subjects to A/S and A' level GCE as well as AVCE and Intermediate courses in 5 vocational areas

*"Sixth form students value the greater responsibility that they are given for their own work and independence" Ofsted 2005*

### Extended Learning

Many after school learning activities are available through our Extended Learning Programme at both the nearby Open Learning Centre or BCHS in the evening, after school and at week-ends/ holidays.

*"The school offers a good range of additional activities to enrich the curriculum" Ofsted 2005*

After school activities and clubs are many and varied. Youth opportunities take place at various venues around Bedlingtonshire as well as on site in the High school.

Duke of Edinburgh Award groups meet regularly to plan and participate in expedition and field work within the county.

*"Links with the community and other schools are very good" Ofsted 2005*





If we work together we can achieve much more





Bedlingtonshire Community High School

## Parent Teacher Association

Each year the Parent Teachers Association sponsors a subject department and raises money so that every individual student benefits from their efforts. Any parent can join and just give a little of their time to this most worthwhile cause. Send an E mail to: [bchspta@hotmail.com](mailto:bchspta@hotmail.com)

### Governors

Bedlingtonshire Community High School is federated with West Sleekburn Middle School. This means that Mr Towson is head of both schools and that one governing body oversees the work in both schools helping to ensure continuity, progression and high standards.

*"Governance is good- they support as well as challenge" Ofsted 2005*

### Community Links

We have state of the art computer facilities and run many ICT classes at all times of the day- from beginners to pre-degree level.

*"Links with the Community are very good" Ofsted 2005*

### Partnership & Inclusive Access

Bedlingtonshire Community High School is proud of its inclusion policy that provides learning opportunities for all age groups. We are a non-selective school because we feel that we can meet the needs of all mainstream young people and we focus our energy on providing a relevant curriculum to achieve this aim. To this end we work very closely with all our Partnership First and Middle Schools.

*"The School Provides a Strategic Staff Development Role Through its Federation With West Sleekburn Middle School" OFSTED 2005*







Learning doesn't stop when you are away from school

## Student Services

Students are organised into groups of about 25 students each with a personal tutor who plays a continuous and key role in the life of your child during their time in our school. Tutor Groups are made up of students from each year group in the school and are grouped into 'communities' led by a Pastoral Head. The tutor and Pastoral Head are supported by our Student Support Services department who will be your son or daughter's initial contact in school. They can solve most problems concerning the students in their care but all senior members of staff make themselves available and will respond to your telephone calls as quickly as they can.

Students also take part in activities and guidance that is year based when appropriate.

We encourage all our students to share any problems and always try to deal with them effectively. The anti-bullying code is reviewed regularly by staff and students at school council and by the Sixth Form Peer Support Group C.H.I.P.S. (Childline in Partnership with Schools) who visit all our middle schools to talk to younger students.

BULLYINGBOX@hotmail.com is a BCHS service developed by the C.H.I.P.S. team. Please use it!

*"Students say that they feel safe in school as there are few instances of bullying, and that staff respond effectively to them". Ofsted 2005*







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## Achievement and Inspection

- Our students achieve the highest standards in all curriculum areas. From Key Stage 3 through GCSE and A/S & A level, GNVQ studies we are very proud of our ever improving results which reflect the true nature of our high achieving mixed ability students.
- Students from all curriculum areas progress into work with training; modern apprenticeships; further and higher education including the best colleges and universities in the country.

*“Teachers have good subject knowledge; through their good knowledge of examination requirements they prepare students thoroughly”* **Ofsted 2005**

*“This is a very inclusive school with a very good ethos & climate for learning”* **Ofsted 2005**

*Good leadership together with good teaching & learning and very good relationships has improved standards overall”* **Ofsted 2005**

*“All staff have respectful and caring relationships with students and encourage them to get along together”* **Ofsted 2005**

- Above national average for students achieving 5 or more grades at GCSE
- Increasing number of students staying on into the Sixth Form
- Increasing number of students applying to higher education
- Increasing number of adults and young people using school facilities out of school hours

*“The school provides good leadership & staff show students that they are valued and respected”* **Ofsted 2005**



Experiences last a lifetime

## Opportunities

- Activities days with over twenty activities on offer
- Advanced level subject conferences
- ASDAN Youth award
- Basic Food Hygiene Award
- Breakfast club
- Connexions Advice Centre
- Community Service & Youth Groups
- Counselling Skills
- Science Awards & Competitions
- Design Technology Regional Competitions



- Drama Workshops, productions & Youth Theatre
- Duke of Edinburgh Award schemes
- First Aid Certification
- Foreign Exchange Programmes – France, Germany, Spain
- Fund Raising for various charities
- Geography & Biology Field Trips & Visits
- Gifted & Talented Master Classes

- Health & Safety/ Food Hygiene Certification
- Music Tuition, Ensembles, Band, Steel Pans
- Peer Support Groups- HATS & CHIPS
- Successful Sporting Teams, Fitness Centre
- Young Enterprise & Youth Clubs & Activities







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## Opportunities

*"BCHS is a good effective school providing a very inclusive & supportive environment for all its students"*  
**Ofsted 2005**

### **Citizenship and RE**

Citizenship gives pupils the knowledge, skills and understanding to play an effective role in society at local, national and international levels. It helps them to become informed, thoughtful and responsible citizens who are aware of their duties and rights.

*"Provision for students' personal development is very good, enhanced by the very well planned introduction of Citizenship"* **Ofsted 2005**







Understanding is as important as knowledge

## Independent Learning/ Homework

This is an opportunity for all students to begin to work on their own, to plan their time and accept responsibility for their own progress. Success in external examinations is directly related to how well students have learned these skills.

We acknowledge that many students are involved in other activities after school and time spent on extended learning must be seen as reasonable. Parents are the best judge how long a child spend each evening and below is just a guideline:

Year 9	Up to 90 minutes per day in total
Year 10	Up to 2 hours per day in total
Year 11	Manage own time around coursework & revision
Sixth Form	Teaching time should reflect study time

The tasks set will vary but the student planner is an excellent way to monitor progress and communicate informally with the personal tutor.

At KS4 and 5 coursework all subjects have compulsory coursework - those who fall behind may need to attend after school catch-up sessions.

A full policy statement is available on request

### **WORK RELATED LEARNING**

***We encourage all our students to develop the skills and qualities they will need when they leave school. This is achieved through a 3 strand approach***

- learning through work, by providing opportunities for students to learn from direct experiences of work (for example, through work experience or learning through vocational contexts in subjects) All students undertake a 2 week work placement in year 10, and some students will have the opportunity to undertake extended work placements in year 11.
- learning about work, by providing opportunities for students to develop knowledge and understanding of work and enterprise (for example, through vocational courses and careers education)
- learning for work by developing skills for enterprise and employability (for example, through problem-solving activities)

We also encourage students to develop Enterprise capability. We see this as the ability to handle uncertainty and respond positively to change, to create and implement new ideas and ways of doing things, to make reasonable risk/reward assessments and act upon them.



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## Learning Support (SEN Provision)

The Special Needs department and Learning Support Unit (LSU) offer an integrated support service for students with all types of special educational need.

All students, whatever their need, are enabled to take part in a broad and balanced curriculum. Students are not isolated from their peers but are supported within normal lessons wherever possible.

Support in the classroom or the LSU is given by learning support assistants (LSA) or learning support teachers who work alongside subject teachers.

The Learning Support Unit staff offer identified students in all year groups a personalised programme to support their learning.

Parents are informed and included in every stage of the reviewing and planning, which goes to support each student. Often parents can help directly in the education of their son or daughter using material provided by us.

*"Support advice & guidance for all students are very good"* **Ofsted 2005**





If we believe we can then we probably will

## Information and Communications Technology

ICT facilities are excellent and constantly upgraded to provide cutting edge facilities for all our students. The latest multimedia, digital and wireless technology are essential tools for Citizens of the twenty-first century. Students are taught to be critical and autonomous users of ICT to help them learn and achieve.

Courses are available at all levels as part of the curriculum and extended learning provision. High level ICT is embedded across the curriculum with easy access to high grade equipment.

*"A good variety of strategies are used to engage students"* **Ofsted 2005**

## Sport

The PE department at BCHS has a great reputation for success at all levels. As holders of the Sport England 'Sportsmark' Award we strive to maintain excellence, and quality provision in everything we do. All our students are encouraged to participate in a wide range of activities and always achieve their personal best. Many represent the school in successful teams as well as participating at club level after school. Many represent the county in Athletics, Netball, Rugby, Cricket and Swimming.

We promote good health, physical fitness and the importance of working together as a group or team.

Through our excellent facilities and experienced team of teachers we promote high expectations and strive to build effective working relationships which will lead to high quality physical education.

*Students enjoy physical education, they are enthusiastic and eager to learn"* **Ofsted 2005**

*"Behaviour is good and students display positive attainment towards physical education and sport."* **Ofsted 2005**





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## Gifted and Talented

At BCHS we have some students with exceptional academic/artistic/linguistic/sporting/musical/dramatic ability who have the opportunity to shine in their area of expertise.

More able students are identified and are encouraged to make the most of their abilities. All teachers are aware of these students and strive to further develop and motivate them through numerous enrichment activities.

### **CELEBRATING SUCCESS - We celebrate success at every opportunity -**

- Merit system & prize draw
- School newsletter and local press entries
- Letters home & weekly student commendation
- Merit & celebration assemblies
- Annual Awards evening in November

### **OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDY SUPPORT -**

Study Support is available throughout the school and beyond-

- Evening, week-end & holiday opening at BCHS & OLC
- E Learning through school website, SAM learning and dedicated Study Support website & E mail





Technology must be relevant and useful

## Uniform

We are proud of our school and ask our students to wear their uniform with pride. School uniform is compulsory and must be worn by students at all times in school.

### Years 9, 10 and 11

- Black regulation tracksuit bottoms (with school badge) which can only be purchased from the PE department. Tracksuit bottoms cannot be worn for gym or dance.
- The Aztec jacket is also available for general school wear and after school activities.

**The year tie, sweat shirt and PE Tracksuit are only available from the school.**

### Special Clothing

An apron or overall is needed for both boys and girls in Design and Technology, Home Economics and Ceramics classes. These items are required under the Health and Safety Act.

### SUPPLIERS:

Other items from:  
Official Outfitters

Snowden Sports  
Manor Walks  
Cramlington

Saville Fashions  
34 Bowes Street  
Blyth







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## Sex Education

All students are taught sex education in mixed teaching groups and this may occur in Drama, English, Guidance, Citizenship or Science. The programme includes the biological aspect of human sexuality, contraception, aids awareness and sexually transmitted diseases. The topic is taught with due regard to personal relationships and to the age and maturity of the students. Any parents who wish to discuss this further, or who wish to withdraw their child from the non statutory elements (National Curriculum) are invited to contact us.

## Examination Policy

- To provide opportunity for all students to gain accreditation for work carried out in school.
- To formally record and prepare achievement via external accreditation.
- To ensure as far as possible that all students finish their formal education having gained qualifications.
- To ensure that all students maintain access to the full curriculum throughout their time in the school.
- All students have the opportunity to be entered for an examination if they have followed a course of study. Poor achievement is not a reason for withdrawal from an examination.
- To ensure that all students gain full access to their examinations, and where necessary, receive support to enable exam completion.
- An appeals procedure exists for the internal assessment of work for external qualifications.







Education needs customising .... not mass producing

## Admissions Policy

Opportunities are provided for prospective parents and children to visit the school by arrangement and to do so parents are invited to contact the school to meet the Headteacher personally and to look round. An 'Open Evening' is also held early in the Autumn Term. The admissions limit is 270 per year with a current maximum capacity of 1075 students. The aim is to keep class sizes low.

If the school reaches its admissions limit then the County Council Admissions Policy is enforced and in summary priority is given as follows: pupils residing within or are moving into the catchment area; exceptional medical or social need; the need to maintain continuity of educational provision; pupils who have an older brother or sister already at the school; pupils who have expressed a preference to attend the school.

**A copy of the full policy is available from the school office.**





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## Jewellery and Personal Property

In years 9, 10 and 11 jewellery may be worn in moderation but must be removed for PE and practical activities. Body piercing is not acceptable except for reasonable and discrete ear studs or sleepers; no tongue piercing will be tolerated; conventional hairstyle and colour. The school reserves the right to make a judgement on the grounds of health and safety.

Personal property is the responsibility of students, anything lost can be reclaimed from Student Services or Reception. Please do not bring valuable items to school- if you do it is at your own risk. Use of mobile phones is not allowed during lesson time - any abuse of this may result in the mobile phone being left at home.

## Health & Safety

During the school day staff act "in loco parentis" and have responsibility for the health and safety of all students in their care. All students are asked to stay on site at lunchtime unless they have a lunch pass to go home. Responsibility cannot be taken for those who leave the site at unauthorised times.

It is essential that all students obey our rules and regulations which ensure a safe and pleasant environment. Parents are asked to emphasise the need for cooperation in this respect.

*"Health & welfare are actively promoted through the Healthy Schools Programme" Ofsted 2005*





If we look good we will be judged as good

## Lunches

All Year 9, 10 and 11 students are asked to stay on the school site at lunchtime. The only exceptions made are those students who live very near to the school site and whose parents wish them to come home to each lunch. Parents will then be responsible for their child and must write a letter to request a lunchtime pass- a photograph should be provided. Students are now allowed to visit local takeaway shops at lunch time.

Sixth Form students do have permission to leave the site during non-contact time.

We operate a cashless self -service food hall where students may purchase hot or cold meals, snacks and drinks with their "swipe card". Food is available before school, at morning break and at lunchtime. Please contact school if you think you may be eligible for Free School Meals - money is directly credited to student meal cards so no-one need know.

### **Water**

We are increasingly concerned that youngsters have access to chilled water throughout their working day. At our own expense we have installed four Aqua Cool Water Systems so that all youngsters may fill a water bottle whenever they need it.







## Bedlingtonshire Community High School

## Communications

Communications between home and school include a half-termly newsletter, Head's letters and information booklets. We regularly request feedback from parents and students on a range of issues and welcome suggestions for development.

Parents who wish to see copies of School documents, for example, Minutes of Governors' Meetings or DfES publications may do so by prior arrangement with the School.

### Bedlingtonshire Community High School

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