

Durham
School

STRETCH & CHALLENGE

AT DURHAM

2022/23



CONTENTS

**“THE MORE THAT
YOU READ, THE MORE
THINGS YOU WILL
KNOW. THE MORE THAT
YOU LEARN, THE MORE
PLACES YOU’LL GO.”
DR. SEUSS**

4. Welcome



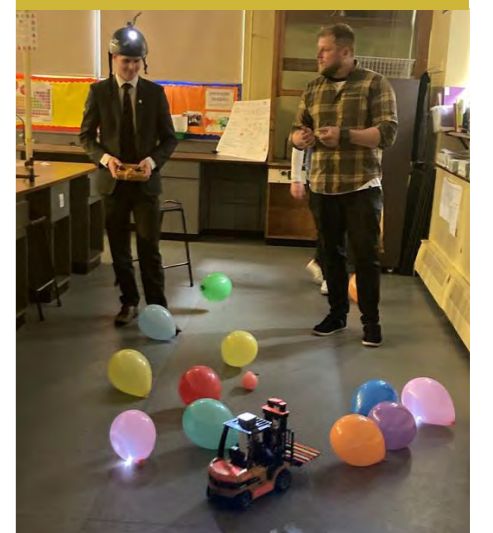
5. Academic



6. Co-Curricular



8. Departments





Durham School aims to bring out the very best from its pupils, providing opportunities for everyone to discover a gift or talent and then build on their strengths. There are a huge amount of ways that every pupil can progress through stretching and challenging themselves, either as part of the academic curriculum or within the extensive range of activities outside the classroom.

Many of the activities listed in this booklet are aimed at improving the ability and fostering the aspirations of our most able pupils, but every pupil should expect to be stretched and challenged, both inside and outside the classroom. We have high expectations of our pupils and challenge them to meet them. To that end, access to this programme is open to all who wish to make progress in a particular skill or challenge themselves with something new.

Within the curriculum independent study and research projects are encouraged, which can be particularly satisfying for

high-ability students. This allows them to explore areas of interest in more depth and develop skills such as critical thinking, problem-solving, and research.

In the broader curriculum there are a huge variety of co-curricular activities, including clubs, sports, and music groups, which provide students with opportunities to pursue their interests and develop their skills outside of the classroom. Many of these activities are highly competitive and challenging, which makes them ideal for the most able students.

The School prides itself in giving all pupils confidence that they can rely on and develop throughout their lives beyond school. One of the most effective means of achieving this is to provide leadership opportunities and promote independent learning and discovery. This booklet highlights what is on offer both within the curriculum and beyond to help pupils set their goals high, and achieve further success in a variety of different activities.

Academic Opportunities

In the classroom, teachers automatically vary their styles and approaches to learning, differentiating work as appropriate. But there is also a wealth of academic opportunities available to pupils to build and extend their skills in other ways.

There are four academic societies which are organised and run by the students themselves. The Heretics Society meets several times each term to debate contentious issues and those pupils belonging to the Tristram Society and MedSoc (Medical Society) organise speakers, mostly from leading universities, to come into the school to deliver lectures on scientific topics not normally covered as part of the normal curriculum. The Hillard Society is run on similar lines but with a focus on modern and

ancient languages and their cultural context. Junior King's Scholars meet regularly for discussions and debates, and participate in external ethics seminars and other educational trips, most recently to the Houses of Parliament.

To broaden pupils' perspectives and extend their thinking there is a weekly lunchtime Critical Thinking club for older pupils, with its allied Big Questions Society for younger pupils, where a range of 'big' ethical and philosophical questions are considered from a variety of viewpoints. There are close links with Durham and Newcastle universities. Durham allows our sixth formers to use the university library and access its online resources. Pupils regularly visit both institutions for

seminars and admission tutors readily give advice on university applications. Durham University also provide the opportunity to watch and participate in the university union debates. Many departments host guest lecturers, including some famous names in a variety of different disciplines.

On a more day-to-day level, there are a variety of clubs organised by departments which pupils can join to increase their expertise and knowledge.

The school publishes its own newspaper, 'The Durham Eye', where the editorial team consists entirely of students, using the school's own printing resources.

Sixth formers can elect to take the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ), where they select a topic and

Co-curricular opportunities

write a dissertation. This is increasingly encouraged by many universities since it shows evidence of independent learning and study.

All departments offer an extended reading list, with access to current journals and other publications of interest.

Occasional study days are organised either in school or elsewhere, which focus either on non-curricular topics or general study skills in order to learn about the way we learn and put education into a wider context.

The school offers one-to-one mentoring, providing a personalised approach and every pupil is assigned an academic tutor to ensure learning is progressing as expected.

There is a vast array of

activities on offer before, during and after the school day, as well as weekends and during part of the school holidays. One of the fundamental aims of the school is for every pupil to discover something that they enjoy and reach the highest possible standard. This might be a hobby or

a real sense of vocation in a particular field. Many of the school's staff are experienced in areas beyond the curriculum and lay on a wealth of experiences for pupils.

Chief amongst these is an extensive sporting programme, and the school

is justifiably proud of its strong reputation, not only in rugby, cricket and rowing, but also in a wide variety of minor sports, which include horse riding, fencing and skiing.

The Duke of Edinburgh award scheme is a popular option and many pupils also take part in World Challenge, offering the opportunity to travel to far-flung countries.

The school is renowned for excellence in performing and visual arts, and there are many opportunities both in school and further afield to showcase their skills in world-class venues.

The school has an ancient history dating back to 1414 and was originally founded as part of the Durham Cathedral foundation. In 2021 Durham Cathedral Schools Foundation was formed in a merger

between Durham School and The Chorister School. As a result the schools enjoy close links with one of the most iconic buildings in the world, forming part of a World Heritage site.

Scholarships are available in a variety of disciplines: academic, music, drama, design technology and sport and there is a programme for each in which the most gifted and talented participate.



Below is a list of activities, curricular and co-curricular laid on by various departments to enrich our pupils' experience:



ART, DT AND PHOTOGRAPHY

Visits to art galleries and exhibition's both locally and nationally enable students to experience live art and design which can then be then used to enhance their own studies

Links with The Baltic creative programme provides workshop opportunities as well as online learning platforms

Annual inter-house art competition

This is Creative Enterprise - opportunity for students allows students to experience art, design and photography in industry

Artist workshops delivered in school from various artists and universities aimed at enhancing students technical ability

In department we have various visual arts based clubs including animation club and design hub where students get the opportunity to further explore the arts

'Open studio' during lunchtimes and after school where pupils can extend and enhance work

Various art, photography and design competitions take place throughout the year giving students the opportunity to showcase their skills





ECONOMICS & BUSINESS:

Inviting a variety of visiting speakers to address our students, including:

- Nima Beni OD - Managing Director of Prima Cheese
- James Sproule – Chief Economics at Handelsbanken
- Regional representatives of the Bank of England
- North East Chamber of Commerce
- Dr Arnab Basu – Kromek Group Plc

A range of industry visits, including:

Prima Cheese Ltd, De La Rue, Nissan

Regular use of high quality economic and business journalism in lessons to develop real-world awareness

External competitions such as the BASE Business Challenge, where pupils compete in a team against rival schools in a finance / business simulation.

Students are encouraged to participate in the Student Investor Challenge (online stocks and shares investment simulation).

Quarterly subscription to Economics Today magazines targeted at students of A level Economics.

LATIN, CLASSICAL CIVILISATION AND GREEK

Classical Greek is run as a lunchtime club for interested pupils from Y9 who wish to learn the basics of the language.

Classical Greek GCSE can be undertaken off-timetable as an extra GCSE during Y10 and Y11 with sessions before school and during lunchtimes as appropriate.

Attendance at talks by Professors or postgraduate students from Durham and Newcastle University at student conferences or given in school.

The department has close links with local university Classics departments and the Durham and Northumberland Classical Association.

The department runs the Bg Questions Society (BQS) and Critical Thinking club to develop pupils' ability to analyse and evaluate important issues.

Participation in the Latin and Classics Quiz, which takes place in Newcastle and involves a number of regional schools, and the Latin Recitation Competition.

Trips to sites of local interest and further afield such as Rome and Pompeii.

The department has a very well-stocked library of scholarly books, journals (both



academic and for school-age pupils) and historical fiction.

Opportunities exist for our older pupils to work with younger pupils on Classics-related subject matter including at the Cathedral Site.

External essay competitions (aimed at Sixth Formers) are advertised and we have entrants every year.

Interested pupils can participate in the UK Linguistics Olympiad through the department, with supporting materials and assistance offered.



DRAMA

Visits to art galleries and exhibition's both locally and nationally enable students to experience live art and design which can then be then used to enhance their own studies

Links with The Baltic creative programme provides workshop opportunities as well as online learning platforms

This is Creative Enterprise (TICE)

opportunity for students allows students to experience art, design and photography in industry

Artist workshops delivered in school from various artists and universities aimed at enhancing students technical ability

In department we have various visual arts based clubs including animation club and design hub where students get the opportunity to further explore the arts



'Open studio' during lunchtimes and after school where pupils can extend and enhance work

Annual inter-house art competition

Various art, photography and design competitions take place throughout the year giving students the opportunity to showcase their skills

ENGLISH

More challenging reading and discussion set for the most able and weekly reading circles.

Visits from established authors, with writing workshops.

Poetry writing and recitation competitions.

Public speaking

competition.

University conferences and lecture days.

Entry into external competitions such as the Tower Poetry competition and Radio 2's 500 words competition (in which a pupils recently came second).

Links with Cuckoo Young Writers and New Writing North.



HISTORY

History club.

Essay competition.

Visiting speakers, eg authors and lecturers from Durham university.

Seminar and

study days at the university, via the RSA.

Trips and visits, most recently to Ypres and Berlin.

Twitter feed links to scholarly articles.

MATHS

Pupils take part in the UKMT national Maths Challenge competitions.

Many pupils are invited to take part in follow on rounds, including the British Maths Olympiad, for which specialist training and support is provided.

Further Maths GCSE is available, and encouraged for those with an interest.

At Sixth Form we have links with the University and are invited to lectures there.

Third year undergraduates spend part of their

final year in the Durham School Maths Department providing stretch and challenge opportunities for all ages.

Popular Maths texts are available in the Library and in the department including:

The Man Who Loved Only Numbers

Paul Hoffman

A Beautiful Mind
Sylvia Nasar

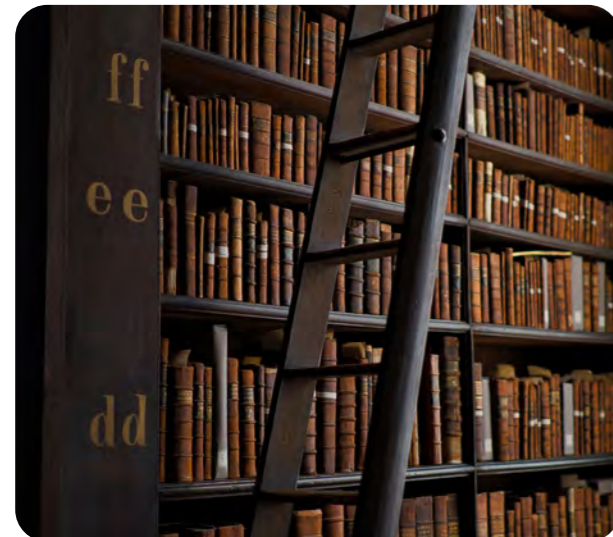
It Must Be Beautiful
Graham Farmelo

Why Do Buses Come in Threes?

Rob Eastaway

The Music of the Primes

Marcus du Sautoy





GEOGRAPHY

Y10 pupils undertake fieldwork at Seaham

Y12 spend a week on the Isle of Arran.

Lecturers from Durham University, most recently speaking about global warming and glacier retreat and on development in SE Asia.

Every two years, pupils in Y 9-12 have the opportunity to visit Iceland, experiencing glaciers, volcanoes and spectacular waterfalls at close-hand.

COMPUTER SCIENCE

Cyber club runs weekly which allows students to experiment with programming problems, games creation and computerised music development software, among many other pieces of software available. Some students come to the club with things they would like to learn which is away from what they have been learning in their timetabled curriculum and we also accommodate this too, for example some KS3 students are interested in some GCSE content, and we can explore this in Cyber club.



Problem solving activities are built into every lesson to allow all students to extend their computational thinking skills in various forms.

Students are encouraged to enter computer science and computational thinking national challenges, for example the Bebras and Cyber Discovery challenge.



ACADEMIC PE

Visits to Newcastle University Sports Science facilities to complete Sports Science workshops.

Annual visit by a Dietician and Nutritionist to deliver a workshop for GCSE and A Level pupils extending their practical knowledge of the topic.

A Level revision workshops

delivered by the OCR Chief PE Examiner.

Strength and conditioning support and sessions to broaden the knowledge of the fitness aspects of the courses.

Video analysis of performance via the VEO cameras. This supports the practical coursework section of the courses and helps develop performance.



MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Modern Languages' Film Club is run as a lunchtime activity for those budding linguists who want to experience a range of different films both old and new.

Talks given at school by visiting speakers, Professors and Postgraduate students from local universities.

The Hillard Society which combines a range of topics and lectures presented by speakers who specialise in both Modern Languages and Classics.

Trips to local universities for lectures and conferences.

Visits to the cinema and theatre.

Trips abroad, most recently to Normandy with Y8 and Y9.



MUSIC

A wide variety of ensembles and performing opportunities.

Specialised instrumental tuition from a team of experts.

Durham Cathedral choristers receive their education from the Foundation.

Several ensembles and chamber groups are auditioned, allowing the most gifted musicians to be developed and stretched through the rise in standard.

A newly-developed Performance Pathway is offered for exceptional musicians, whereby an option is provided from Y9 onwards to pursue extra music in place of one academic subject.

Pupils are entered regularly for ABRSM exams, with some going on to achieve diplomas.

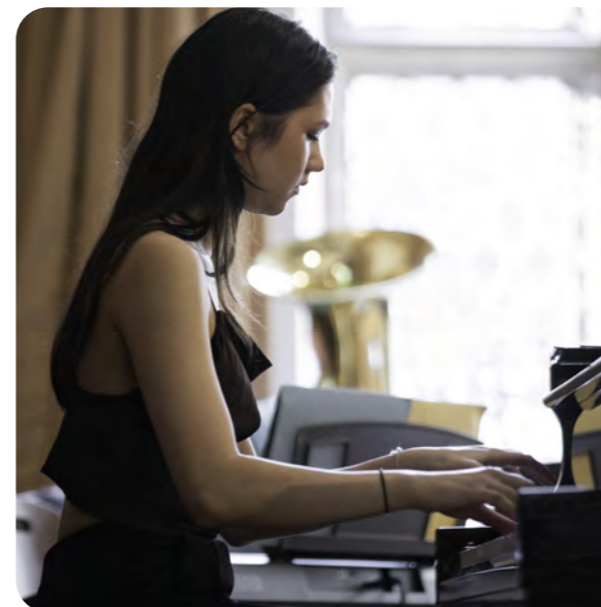
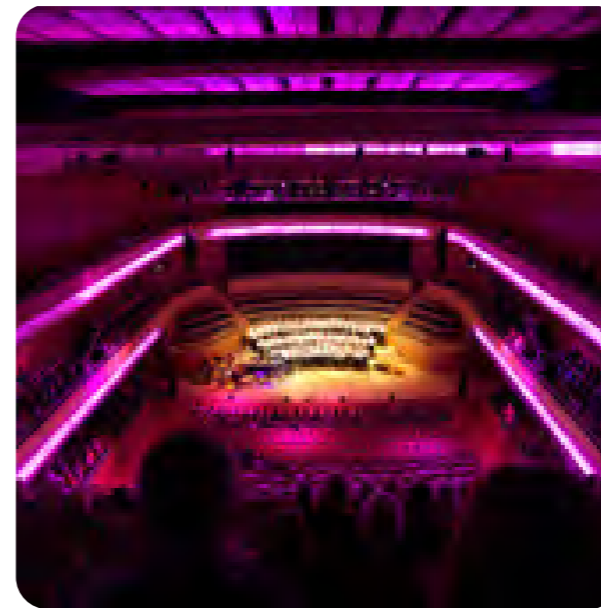
Masterclasses, concert trips and visits from professional musicians.

Performers and composers are entered for regional or national competitions.

Regular concerts both in and out of school in venues including Sage, Gateshead and Durham Cathedral.

Many pupils of sufficient ability are encouraged to join ensembles such as the National Youth Orchestra and National Youth Choir.

Personalised advice on higher education options and careers as professional musicians





POLITICS

Frequent opportunities for students to engage in critical thinking during teaching.

Webinars with Peers from the House of Lords.

Outreach from the Parliamentary Education Service.

Students have a personal two-year subscription to A Level Politics Magazine.

Students have access to the annual update books for extension reading.

Range of thought-provoking podcasts.

Visits to national and regional parliaments.

PSYCHOLOGY

Extension reading from psychology journals, magazines, etc (often sent out via twitter and the department website).

Psychology at Newcastle University experience days

Attendance at Psychology conferences.

Psychology essay competition.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES, PHILOSOPHY AND ETHICS

GCSE revision workshops.

6th Form Philosophy & Ethics conferences.

Regular opportunities to attend Durham University lectures.

Events run by the Centre for Catholic Studies at Durham University.

Visits to Durham Cathedral.

Trips to the Franciscan Friars in Alnmouth.

A wide variety of visiting speakers.

Access to Durham Union Society Debates.

SCIENCES

Y9 start the AQA science GCSE course.

A range of academic competitions for Y7-13. eg. Top of the Bench, Analyst Competition

Junior Science Club.

Essay competition.

Visiting speakers & Tristram Society.

Current Physics events e.g. Cern, probe landing etc.

'Olympiad' entries in all three sciences.

Gardening Club.

Local University lectures and visits.





SPORT

Extra skills training sessions

Extra Strength and Conditioning sessions specific to the requirements of the athletes' chosen sport.

Video analysis sessions of team and individual player performance.

Assistance with professional contracts for those moving into a playing career.

One to one meetings with parents and elite club directors to assist with training load and academic balance.

Assistance with university applications to use their chosen sport to complement their academic profile and increase the chance of university offers both nationally and internationally.



GET IN TOUCH:

+44 (0)191 731 9270

principal@dcsh.org.uk

dcsh.org.uk

Durham Cathedral Schools Foundation

Quarryheads Lane DH1 4SZ

Registered Charity No. 1023407



Durham
Cathedral
Schools
Foundation

