

Settlebeck School



Admissions 2024

ACHIEVEMENT FOR ALL

Respect

Responsibility

Aspiration

#smallschoolbigopportunities

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER



Dear Parent/Guardian

Thank you for considering Settlebeck School for your child as they progress towards the next stage in their development. We know that no parent/guardian makes a bigger investment in their child than choosing the right school. At this time of year, we offer parents/guardians the opportunity to visit our school for our annual Open Evening and offer Year 6 the chance to experience life at Settlebeck School on one of our open days. We hope that this booklet and the accompanying information give you a flavour of life at our school.

Settlebeck School is a vibrant, happy school where children of all academic abilities thrive. Where the ethos of the school ensures that children learn within a supportive 'family feel' environment.

Every year students at our school achieve the highest grades at GCSE, placing their achievements amongst the top 7% of students nationally. Alongside this, students across the ability range achieve qualifications that will enable them to progress onto the career of their choice, including those with additional needs.

As a small school, we can focus our attention on the individual needs and aspirations of every young person and this focus, coupled with excellent student/adult relationships, allows all our students to thrive.

If you would like to discuss your child's admission to the school, we would love to hear from you.

Yours Sincerely


Mrs Sarah Campbell
Headteacher

English

At the centre of English is language; the art of language is important in our increasingly complex world as we are exposed to more and more forms of communication, particularly through the media. Knowing how it is used to influence us and how we can use it effectively is therefore essential, and also arguably important to guarantee democracy.



IN KS3 ENGLISH STUDENTS ARE SET BROADLY BY ABILITY. LESSONS FOCUS ON DEVELOPING SKILLS TO WRITE IMAGINATIVELY AND TO HAVE IMPACT, AS WELL AS TO UNDERSTAND WHAT THEY READ AND HOW IT IS WRITTEN TO BE EFFECTIVE SO THEY BECOME GOOD WRITERS AND CRITICAL READERS. TEXTS, BOTH FICTION AND NON-FICTION, ARE CHOSEN TO CHALLENGE AND ENTHUSE.

Literature can include anything from extracts from texts like "Beowulf", Chaucer's "Canterbury Tales" and Shakespeare's plays to more modern texts such as "Animal Farm", "Stone Cold" and "The Boy in Striped Pyjamas". Sometimes texts are chosen to complement themes in history to enhance students' understanding of both subjects and enrich their educational experience.

Maths

Mathematics is a universal language: allowing students to access, solve and explain a variety of problems occurring throughout everyday life. It encourages logical thinking, methodical working and problem solving. At KS3 we place a strong emphasis on number skills as they underpin all areas of this subject. In addition to this we develop our student's knowledge, understanding and application of shape and space, handling data and algebra. Students are set broadly on ability level from Year 7.



AT KS4 STUDENTS STUDY EITHER GCSE MATHEMATICS OR ENTRY LEVEL. THE FREE STANDING MATHEMATICS QUALIFICATION (FSMQ) IS STUDIED BY OUR MOST ABLE MATHEMATICIANS, ENABLING THEM TO DEVELOP THE SKILLS NEEDED TO STUDY THIS SUBJECT AT A' LEVEL.

Science

Science as a subject allows for students to not only engage deeper with the world we live in but also understand it to a greater extent. All children grow up engulfed by a curiosity and a desire to understand more and more about what is going on around them. Typically, this is expressed by a continual need to ask – “why?”. Why



the world we live in whilst comprehending the complexity of the smallest living things that share it with us.

Our aims are to

- Build children’s excitement and curiosity about natural phenomena
- Develop lifelong critical thinking skills
- Provide opportunities to work scientifically and use their findings to explain what is happening
- Allow understanding of how far science has come, how instrumental its development has been in the Earth’s progression and how absolutely necessary it is in the future for maintaining and improving the world we live in.

AT KS3 STUDENTS ARE TAUGHT IN MIXED AGE CLASSES IN YEARS 7 AND 8 WHICH ARE BROADLY SET ON ABILITY. AT KS4 WE OFFER STUDENTS THE OPPORTUNITY TO STUDY EITHER GCSE SEPARATE SCIENCES IN BIOLOGY, CHEMISTRY AND PHYSICS, GCSE TRILOGY SCIENCE OR ENTRY LEVEL SCIENCE.

does it rain? Why is the sky blue? Why do I have to eat fruit? Creative, effective and well planned teaching and learning of science has the ability to go much beyond this and ignite a fire in the minds of young people as they begin to realise the sheer enormity of

‘I am currently studying English Literature, Product Design and Business at A level, and I hope to continue on to study an architecture degree. I thoroughly enjoyed my years at Settlebeck. The school offered me many opportunities and helped me to grow academically; evident in my GCSE results, all of which exceeded predictions. I would undoubtedly recommend Settlebeck to anyone. The school offers opportunities for all, ensuring everyone, willing and unwilling, thrive!’ (Class of 2020)

French

Learning a language provides a way of crossing cultural barriers, allowing students to see the world from a different viewpoint. It encourages them to question what they consider to be ‘normal’ and challenges them to embrace a world that is a rich and diverse place filled with different customs, perspectives, history, arts, literature and ways of communicating.

It also gives students an appreciation of the structure of language and communication, how language in general is built up and how it can be influenced by culture. Students learn to build a firmer understanding of their own language through questioning how others do things and through celebrating diversity.

OUR STUDENTS STUDY FRENCH AT KS3 WITH STUDENTS OPTING TO STUDY GCSE FRENCH AT KS4.



Geography

Geography seeks to develop a sense of place and helps students make sense of their surroundings and to gain a better appreciation and understanding of the variety of physical and human conditions on the Earth’s surface. The subject extends students’ interest and knowledge beyond their immediate experiences, using images and information to help them interpret about people and concepts that they acquire from media, internet and textbooks. Geography develops major skill areas: map and fieldwork skills; cross-curricular skills such as ICT, literacy and numeracy; as well as an increasing awareness of the world around us and the idea of sustainability. We want students to become global citizens and show a keen awareness of the geography around them.

AT KS4 STUDENTS ARE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY FOR FURTHER STUDY AT GCSE.

I was scared when I first came to Settlebeck but everyone is so kind and welcoming. There is so much to do and so many new things to try. All of the teachers are so kind and always open to helping you out. I have never made so many new friends. (Year 8)

History

The aim of the curriculum is to encourage a curiosity about the world around them, to encourage students to ask questions and to use evidence to make up their own minds. There is an emphasis on collaborative learning and developing students' communication skills.

AT KS3 STUDENTS STUDY ASPECTS OF SOCIAL HISTORY WITH IN DEPTH UNITS ON LIFE IN MEDIEVAL TIMES AND THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION. THE AIM IS TO UNDERSTAND WHAT HAS CHANGED AND WHAT HAS STAYED THE SAME.

We consider how Britain shaped the world through the British Empire and how Britain has been shaped by the arrival of migrants from all over the world. There are in-depth

studies on the changing relationships of England, Ireland and Wales and the slave trade. Students also study how the balance of power has shifted from the absolute control of medieval monarchs to the power of Parliament today with in- depth units on Elizabeth I and the English Civil War. We also look at how different people have fought for equal rights – the suffragettes, Martin Luther King and Nelson Mandela. As well as looking at significant battles and wars in British History students are also asked to consider what makes an event significant and to decide what we ought to be studying. There are in depth units on medieval warfare and The First World War.

GCSE HISTORY IS A POPULAR SUBJECT WITH APPROXIMATELY 50% OF STUDENTS CONTINUING STUDY IN KS4 EACH YEAR.

'As someone who came to Settlebeck halfway through my secondary school life, I have a unique perspective on it which allows me to compare it to what is maybe a more standard option for those leaving primary school. I was initially hesitant to move due to the size, assuming it to be of a lesser quality - I can confirm that this is definitely not the case.

Before I arrived my future felt like a complete mystery, and I wasn't particularly happy in general, but Settlebeck really helped me to form a clear direction for my future, both emotionally and in an educational sense. Smaller classes not only allow for more personal relationships with your teachers which elicits a feeling of mutual respect, but also with your peers, who, in my experience, are some of the kindest, most accepting people you could meet.

My GCSEs are coming up this year, and, despite what 2020 would have you believe, I feel as ready as I ever could - all thanks to the environment Settlebeck has created for me - and hopefully some of those reading this!' (Class of 2021)

Religious Studies

Religious Studies is a lively and interesting subject where students will gain an appreciation of how religion, philosophy and ethics form the basis of our culture and cultures worldwide.

IT TEACHES STUDENTS TO BE RESPECTFUL MEMBERS OF SOCIETY WHO CELEBRATE DIVERSITY AND UNDERSTAND OTHERS.

This course will enable students to develop knowledge, understanding and skills to engage in debate and discussions about life in modern society; this includes developing an understanding of non-religious beliefs. Students also learn valuable skills that will help them throughout their lives.

These include

Excellent communication skills and writing skills, how to construct an argument and understand different points of view.

IN KS3 STUDENTS LOOK AT INSPIRATIONAL PEOPLE AND STUDY THE MAJOR WORLD RELIGIONS. AT KS4 STUDENTS STUDY GCSE RELIGIOUS STUDIES WITH A FOCUS ON CHRISTIANITY AND BUDDHISM.

I like Settlebeck School as everyone is so friendly and, as it is a small school, you get the help you need as there are not as many students (Year 11)

PSHE

Ensuring that students receive high quality personal development is a school priority. More than ever we need to equip our young people for an increasingly more challenging world. Knowing how to stay healthy, how to keep themselves safe, manage finances, look after one's own well-being and developing a sense of social responsibility is key for our students to be successful adults.

STUDENTS HAVE ONE PSHE LESSON PER WEEK BUT ADDITIONAL SESSIONS ARE INCLUDED IN THE TUTORIAL PROGRAMME TO ENSURE THAT THE WELL-BEING OF OUR STUDENTS REMAINS A FOCUS.



Art

There is an energy inside every student that can be accessed and ignited through art education.

ART ENABLES STUDENTS TO CONNECT WITH LIFE AND TEACHES THEM HOW TO DEAL WITH THE WORLD AROUND THEM.

It opens up passages and possibilities to think beyond what we already know. Developing the ability to communicate visually allows students to discover and showcase their own identity. It is important for students to find out who they are and be proud of the differences that make us unique and also bind us together. Nothing is more stimulating, exciting and consoling than creating or appreciating artwork. Students are able to explore a wide variety of materials, techniques and processes.

We study

Drawing, painting, printmaking, mixed media, new media, sculpture, photography and textiles.



STUDENTS ENJOY THEIR ART LESSONS IN A LIGHT AND WELL-EQUIPPED ART ROOM ONCE A WEEK AT KS3 AND THREE TIMES A WEEK AT GCSE LEVEL.



Drama

Like the other arts, drama involves imagination and feelings and helps us to make sense of the world.

DRAMA IS A CREATIVE AND CULTURAL ACTIVITY.



The language of theatre is international, understood by everyone. It provides an opportunity for students to explore the world of people from other places, times and cultures, and to examine differences and similarities with their own environment. Drama has its own history and body of work, much of which has a unique and important place in our cultural life. Students have opportunities to devise their own work, use drama techniques to explore themes, issues and ideas, interpret the work of playwrights and theatre practitioners and realise text. Practically, they develop their physical and vocal skills in performing to an audience and explore how meaning is communicated to an audience through choices of form, style and convention.

STUDENTS DEVELOP BOTH A THEORETICAL, AS WELL AS PRACTICAL KNOWLEDGE OF DRAMA. GCSE IS AN OPTION SUBJECT AT KS4.

Music

Music can help to develop the skills, attitudes and attributes that can support learning in other subject areas. This includes listening skills, the ability to concentrate, creativity, intuitions, aesthetic sensitivity, perseverance, the ability to work in a group, self-confidence and sensitivity towards others. In KS3 music there is an emphasis on practical music making to ensure lessons are always fun and engaging. Lessons will focus on developing skills on a range of instruments including keyboards, percussion and ukuleles. Throughout our students learn how to apply the key elements of music to their work, including rhythm, pitch, harmony and melody. They create their own music



and have the opportunity to develop their performance skills too. In addition to the whole class curriculum music, our students have the option to take small group or 1-1 lessons on a chosen instrument.

OUR STUDENTS HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO STUDY GCSE MUSIC IN KS4, USUALLY AS AN AFTER SCHOOL OPTION.

‘Settlebeck School may be small but it is mighty! The subjects that were on offer for GCSE not only helped me academically but gave me practical experiences which have helped me to get where I am today both physically and mentally. After Settlebeck I did BTEC Health and Social Care, equivalent to 3 A levels as well as going to the Dominican Republic to work in a hospital. I have just moved and starting to study Children’s Nursing at the University of Leeds, which I could not have done without my basic GCSEs of Maths, English and Sciences which Settlebeck helped me achieve’. (Class 2018)

Food Technology



lives but the lives of their families in years to come. The ability to confidently prepare food and have the skills to manipulate equipment, both basic and complex, in order to prepare healthy, fun and quality food is a necessary life skill that we value at Settlebeck. Students will get an opportunity to work with a variety of food commodities and cook on an almost weekly basis. In this subject students develop an understanding of raw ingredients and the value of preparing meals for themselves as opposed to convenience foods. Students also gain knowledge of food provenance and manufacturing.

STUDENTS AT KS3 HAVE TWO LESSONS EACH WEEK WITH THE EMPHASIS ON CREATING FAMILY MEALS. THIS IS A POPULAR SUBJECT AT GCSE, WITH MANY STUDENTS OPTING TO EXTEND THEIR STUDY.

The understanding of diet is a major contributor to a healthy and long life. The ability to understand nutrition, its value and its impact on the human body is a lifelong skill that will not only serve our students in their own



Design Technology

In design and technology, students combine practical and technological skills with creative thinking to design and make products and systems that meet human needs and prepare them for adult life in a practical, mindful and creative way. They learn to use current technologies and consider the impact of future technological developments. They learn to think creatively to improve quality of life, solving problems as individuals and members of a team. Design and technology at Settlebeck School gives students the opportunity to study resistant materials, textiles, computer aided design / manufacturing, graphics and electronics.

AT KS3 STUDENTS HAVE TWO LESSONS A WEEK OF DT AND STUDY A 6-WEEK MODULE IN EACH AREA WHERE THEY PRACTISE THE NEW SKILLS LEARNT. EACH MODULE BEGINS WITH A DESIGN TASK AND ENDS WITH A PRACTICAL OUTCOME.

As well as learning traditional skills, students will also be immersed in new and emerging technologies in computer aided design in our well-equipped workshops. We are keen to ensure our students are aware of the environmental importance of good design for their future world, with an emphasis on renewable materials and recycling. This is a popular subject at GCSE, with many students opting to extend their study.



Physical Education

Settlebeck School delivers a high-quality physical education curriculum that enables all pupils to enjoy and succeed in many kinds of physical activity focusing on the following aims:

- To develop competence to excel in a broad range of physical activities
- To ensure students are physically active for sustained periods of time
- To provide the opportunity to engage in competitive sports and activities
- To encourage students to lead healthy, active lives

Our students have the opportunity to develop their skills in the following sports;

football, netball, basketball, rugby, hockey, gymnastics, dance, athletics, handball, rounders, softball and cross country. Every year our students represent Cumbria at cross country.

AT KS4, STUDENTS GO ON TO STUDY A CAMBRIDGE NATIONAL SPORT LEVEL 2 QUALIFICATION AND HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO QUALIFY AS A L2 SPORTS LEADER. OUR STUDENTS ALSO DEVELOP SKILLS IN OUTDOOR EDUCATION FROM YEAR 9.



'I started Settlebeck at the end of 2014 being a very shy, timid person with no interest in sport. Throughout Settlebeck I grew both academically and as a person and gained my passion for sport. As Settlebeck is a small school, it allowed me to experience so many opportunities I know I wouldn't have had in another school. I have been able to go to France, Scotland twice, be captain of multiple sport teams and help with sporting events. If I hadn't have gone to Settlebeck I know I wouldn't be where I am today. Settlebeck gave me the confidence to be who I am and help me know what I am capable of. I have gone on to study 3 A-levels, at the Queen Katherine School, I am a qualified football coach and coach two football teams. After this I am looking to go and study sport coaching and physical education at university with the dream that I will one day be a PE teacher, definitely not what I expected when I first started Settlebeck'. (Class 2019)



Settlebeck School may be small but it is mighty!

Extra-Curricular & Visits



As a school, we believe that providing learning opportunities outside of the classroom are incredibly important and we are committed to providing a wide range of learning experiences.

Educational visits vary from year to year. **Recent visits have included**

- STEM trip – Mini Plant, Museum of Making, Blenheim Palace, Ghost Walk, Diddy Squat Farm Shop, Cadbury World.
- London Trip – Houses of Parliament, Westminster Abbey, Winter Wonderland, River Thames Cruise, Harry Potter Land.
- France/Belgium – including a visit to WWI memorials, The Menin Gate, Ypres.
- Italy – visits Mount Vesuvius and Pompeii.
- Theatre trips – Blood Brothers, Matilda, Macbeth, Frantic Assembly.
- Year 7 Residential at Hawes End

A range of clubs are on offer and these vary depending on the interests of our students. Textiles, model railway, languages club, netball, football, running, athletics, choir, band, games and drama

Headteacher Mrs Sarah Campbell

Deputy Head Dr Jayne Hunter

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