



# Longridge Towers School



## Why Longridge?

Here are just some of the reasons why parents and pupils choose Longridge:



### Community Ethos

"Carpe Diem" - "Seize the Day" is the School motto, and everyone is encouraged to do so. At Longridge Towers School, we encourage our pupils to immerse themselves in the opportunities which arise through our holistic, whole person, approach.

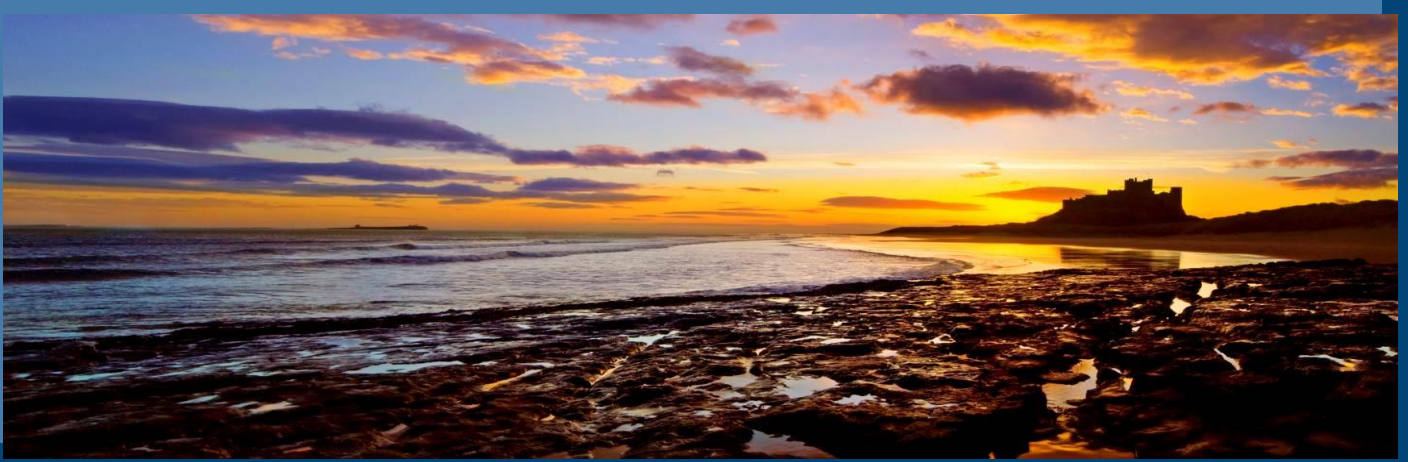
Longridge is characterised by its nurturing and caring environment. Individuals develop and gain confidence throughout their experiences at school. We challenge our pupils and have high expectations of them as scholars and young people, offering them a curriculum that is broad as well as inclusive, innovative and exciting. This provides our pupils a learning environment that is safe and invigorating. Caring for our pupils is of equal importance: our ethos at Longridge is our supportive approach to education, and the core values of respect and kindness are reinforced in everything we do.

This ethos permeates the School's aims and mission and is supported by the School's values and beliefs. We have an active school community where everyone plays their part in ensuring that this ethos is an enduring one.



### Location & Facilities

Our secluded extensive grounds and countryside location provide a secure, clean air environment for all pupils, whilst our proximity to the historic cities of Edinburgh and Newcastle allows for enriching cultural days out and easy travel access. The grounds are used as an outdoor classroom for science study, projects, nature watching, art and treats such as camps and treasure hunts, and of course our younger pupils always enjoy a Teddy Bear's Picnic.



We are privileged to have on our doorstep some of the most beautiful and scientifically important landscapes in the country. Pupils have access to pristine beaches strewn with fossils, whilst the coastal geology is world renowned. Nearby St Abbs Head and Seahouses are famous for seabird breeding colonies and boat trips to see the Farne Islands. The River Tweed system was a crucible for engineering developments for centuries such as the nearby Union Bridge, and we are close to the outstanding historical sites of Bamburgh Castle, Alnwick and Holy Island. We, as a school community, are enriched by these local important and exciting places, and pupils have many opportunities to value, enjoy and benefit from them.

Our onsite facilities include a library, science laboratories, a specialist music room, dedicated art studio, design centre, sports hall and an elegant Main Concert Hall as well as a theatre. Outside, the setting for our sports fields is breath-taking, with mature trees and open views across the Tweed Valley. We have extensive grass areas for rugby, hockey, cricket pitches, an athletics facility and we benefit from an all-weather sports pitch. Cricket, football and rounders are often played in our walled garden area, and cross-country routes can be through dense woodland, up and down hills and across flat country, with plenty of mud along the way.

## Well-rounded, Contemporary Education

Longridge offers a flexible range of academic subjects, together with exciting programmes in art, drama and music which encourage participation, creativity and individuality. Our library provides a bright and comfortable environment in which to study, read or research. Our sports teams enjoy regular local and regional success, often against much larger schools. Beyond the classroom, we provide a diverse and interesting range of activities, trips and events which are designed to engage our pupils in skills and experiences they may never have come across before, and which help develop their Life Skills and aspirations.



## Academic Results

We provide small year groups and small teaching sets. Public exam results are always above the national average for a non-selective school. We carefully measure a pupil's progress and provide individual, targeted support to enable each pupil to achieve at their best personal level. The majority of Longridge pupils go on to full-time University education at their first-choice institution.

- *The Times* – ranked 8<sup>th</sup> in North East, 2022  
(Top independent secondary schools: *The Times* Schools Guide).
- *The Telegraph* – ranked 19<sup>th</sup> in the UK, 2019  
(A-Level results: small independent schools)

## Excellence for Our Pupils

Here at Longridge, we strive for excellence in all aspects of school life. This approach pervades pupils' approach to their academic and extra-curricular activities, as well as to the way we create a nurturing environment in School and in boarding. Our teaching staff are of the highest calibre and our administration systems ensure that pupils, staff and parents are well informed at all times.



All our pupils are encouraged to believe in themselves and their individual abilities. We encourage them to grow, to grasp every opportunity and to challenge themselves, be it on the field, in the library or in front of the class when acting or presenting. All pupils are supported to realise their own goals, be they personal or academic. Preparation is supported for important steps such as entering the Senior School, the Sixth Form, or moving on to university or employment.

## Beyond the Classroom

At Longridge, we push beyond the academic curriculum by including activities in the school day which complement the subject specific timetable; we consider the development of pupils outside the classroom to be vital for their self-confidence and sociability. Our enrichment programme of activities is an important feature of integrated school life; pupils can develop independence, problem solving, leadership, communication, self-awareness and self-confidence. Designed to enable pupils to learn more of themselves by expanding on existing interests and discovering new ones, they also create the foundation for friendships, pastimes and pursuits which generally last long into the future.



Some life skills take place as part of activity periods which are timetabled during the school day. Others take



place at lunchtime or after school. We offer an exciting and diverse range of enrichment activities ranging from: car mechanics, robotics, Duke of Edinburgh Award to archery, cycling care and safety, choirs and sports. Over the years, we have offered over sixty interesting options. These listed are but a few as the activities on offer can change depending on the take up of places and the availability of tuition and supervision.

Study or coursework support sessions are also available as an enrichment option. These sessions offer pupils a constructive and supportive environment in which to work towards completing homework or on-going coursework tasks. Pupils are able to select their options at regular intervals throughout the year.



*"The aim of this programme is not just to develop pupils' practical ability but also their personal skills. The activities are open to all pupils with staff encouraging each individual to participate in those courses that will increase their own particular expertise. We hope that this will not only develop existing talents but also be an opportunity for pupils to experience something different. The school is already well known for its excellent academic achievements but life at Longridge is about more than simply passing exams. We want all our pupils to have a well-rounded education and to leave with a range of practical, creative and interpersonal skills."*

**Mr Jonathan Lee, Headmaster**



## Sport

At Longridge Towers School, we know that access to and enjoyment of physical exercise can benefit every aspect of a pupil's school life and beyond.

It will:

- Improve physical strength, stamina and general health
- Increase self-confidence, resilience and self-belief
- Enhance mental health and wellbeing
- Build friendships, teamwork and leadership skills
- Engender positive behaviour and a 'can do' attitude
- Create openness to learn new skills and embrace new experiences but above all, at Longridge we ensure that sport is a lot of fun!

The sporting facilities we have at Longridge Towers School allow all our pupils, from Early Years to Sixth Form, to access the widest range of sports as part of the curriculum – netball, hockey, football, lacrosse, cricket, rounders, tennis, gymnastics, badminton, basketball, volleyball, athletics and cross country can all be delivered on site in our extensive grounds. In partnership with Live Borders, the pupils from Early Years to Form 2 attend regular swimming lessons. This enables all our pupils to experience the widest possible range of sporting activities as part of their PE lessons and games. Our enrichment sports clubs encourage everyone to practise skills and techniques and be part of our competitive teams. We have also fostered strong links with other local sports clubs.



## Forest School



Forest School is a child-centred inspirational learning process, that offers opportunities for holistic growth through regular sessions. It is a long-term program that supports play, exploration and supported risk taking. Our Junior children and Forms 1 to 3 have Forest school every week throughout the year. It develops confidence and self-esteem through learner inspired, hands-on experiences in our natural woodland environment. The children have opportunities to gain knowledge and skills in shelter building, rope, string and knots, wood craft and tools, fire lighting, cooking and nature. The children often choose to explore cross curricular themes, taking their classroom learning outdoors. Forest school provides children with many opportunities to explore problem solving tasks and to experience success which helps to develop resilient, confident, independent and creative learners.

## Music and Drama

Music and Drama are a vibrant and exciting part of Longridge life. They are supported within the curriculum, through our enrichment programme and by peripatetic specialists.

Music groups include Junior and Senior School choirs and orchestras, as well as specialised ensembles. There is an Inter-House Music

Festival during the year, with all pupils participating in the House Choir Competition. There are many opportunities for our young musicians to perform, including formal recitals and informal concerts, as well as at major school and public events. Music tuition on an individual basis is available for a variety of instruments in our dedicated music building, used by peripatetic teachers. There is the option to prepare for

Associated Board of Royal Schools of Music examinations, which are frequently held at Longridge as an examination centre, thereby reducing impact on timetables.

Drama performances are scheduled throughout the year, and there is an Inter-House Drama Festival during the year, as well as Senior and Junior drama productions. The Music and Drama Departments perform an annual production which is held at a local venue. Our recent productions include: 'Oliver', 'Matilda', 'Alice', 'Dr Dolittle' and 'Our Day Out'.



# Junior Department

At Longridge we aim to help our younger pupils develop their individual talents and interests from an early age in a friendly, safe and stimulating environment.

## About Us



The Junior Department is semi-autonomous within the School, and it has its own Head. The department holds its own assemblies, has a different lunch time to the Senior School and, of course, 'Juniors' enjoy a variety of exciting extra-curricular activities and visits to enhance their learning.



## Our Curriculum

Whilst we place particular emphasis on literacy and numeracy, pupils are also encouraged to develop their creativity and independence. The curriculum is based on the National Curriculum but is considerably enhanced according to the personalised needs of our pupils. Good behaviour, good manners, high levels of self-esteem and a sense of fun underpin everything that we do.

## How it Works...



Younger pupils are taught in the Jerningham building while the older 'Juniors' are taught in the Stobo building which in addition to other classrooms has sports changing rooms.

From Nursery to J2 (3-7 year olds) the class teacher does most of the teaching while from J3 to J6 (7-11 year olds), there is increased input from subject specialists.

Regular contact between parents and teachers is actively encouraged to ensure that each individual pupil benefits fully from his or her time in the Junior Department.

## Senior School

The Senior School caters for pupils from 11 years of age. Teaching takes place in small classes.

We aim to provide our pupils with the very best possible care as they grow and mature, fostering their talents, nurturing and developing them to reach their full potential as they work towards the next important stage of their development, GCSEs. We endeavour to maximise the opportunities available to pupils so that when they leave for the wider world, they are capable and confident young adults, ready for the next steppingstone in life.

## Our Curriculum

Our modern curriculum is broadly aligned with the National Curriculum (NC) but is enhanced to provide breadth and depth. Pupils make their final choice of GCSE subjects at the end of Form 3 (Year 9). Our options system is designed specifically to be flexible and adaptable in order that we can cater to the individual needs of most pupils. We consult closely with parents and pupils to help them make the best choice of subjects for the pupil.



## Pastoral Care

Longridge is small enough to focus on the individual needs of every pupil yet large enough to offer a broad, flexible curriculum. The School's inclusive ethos enables us to take the welfare of our pupils very seriously. In the Senior School, each pupil has a Form Tutor and a Head of Year responsible for individual welfare and pastoral care. We welcome regular contact from parents to discuss any aspect of pupils' well-being, academic performance, achievement and personal development.



## The Duke of Edinburgh's Award

At Longridge Towers School, we are delighted to be associated with the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme. The DofE award helps pupils gain essential skills and attributes for work and life such as resilience, problem-solving, team-working, communication and drive, enhancing CVs and university, college and job applications.



# Sixth Form

## Entry Requirements



Generally pupils must have at least 5 GCSE grades 9 – 5 or equivalent Scottish Highers qualifications for entry to the Sixth Form. Internal candidates are very likely to exceed this minimum requirement with an average 9 GCSEs. It is usual for a pupil to have achieved a Grade 6 or higher in their chosen areas of study.

## Timetable

Students are invited to choose up to 4 A' Level subjects for study over Lower and Upper Sixth. The Extended Project Qualification, Sport, Careers and UCAS lessons complete the weekly timetable. The Sixth Formers have study time in the library or Sixth Form study area and school community service which can include mentoring or coaching sport alongside members of staff.

## Pastoral Care

The Head of Sixth Form and the team of dedicated Sixth Form Tutors ensure that the pastoral needs of the students are fully supported. All staff involved with the Sixth Form students offer an 'open door approach', recognising them as young adults.

## Executive Committee and Prefects



The Executive Committee is made up of School Captains, Deputy Captains and Heads and Deputies of the three School Houses. They are appointed through a rigorous application process including an interview with the Headmaster, Governors and the Head of Sixth Form. The Executive Committee are given office for the academic year and are in charge of the Sixth Form Common Room, school charity events and regularly represent the School at public events.



## University Application and Other Post 18 Pathways

The vast majority of the Sixth Form students go on to university. Pupils receive dedicated careers and UCAS advice, and continual support and guidance from the Head of Sixth Form. The School community makes a very valuable contribution to the Sixth Form with parents, former pupils and school friends visiting the school to informally discuss with the pupils their professions and the pathways that they took to get to their employment.



At the beginning of the Upper Sixth parents and pupils are invited to a UCAS information evening which also details university funding arrangements. Visits to local universities are also included on the School calendar alongside representation from further afield universities. For those pupils wishing to apply for Oxford, Cambridge, Medicine, Veterinary Sciences or Dentistry, tailored tutorial support is made available.

Other pupils leave to join local colleges often to complete foundation degrees in areas such as Fine Art. These students are given the appropriate support through their application process. Equally those wishing to continue directly into work or an apprenticeship are advised and tutored accordingly. A number of students each year choose to pursue a 'gap' year, often in a voluntary capacity. A number of presentations from the voluntary agencies such as the Worldwide Voluntary Service are made to the Sixth Form to help them make a well-informed decision.

## Extended Project Qualification



The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) is a Level 3 course which is taken alongside A' Levels. Pupils will be required to complete a project on a topic of their choice. The project can be in the form of an essay or report or an artefact e.g., a musical composition, piece of artwork or dramatic project (although these must be backed up with a written report). Depending on the grade you achieve, you can gain between 8 - 28 UCAS points.

An EPQ will help develop a useful range of extra study skills, helping you prepare for the demands of university work. It is valued by higher education institutions as it demonstrates your dedication to independent learning and is often included in offers made by institutions to applicants.



# Boarding

Longridge has a happy, thriving boarding community and our commitment to strong pastoral care is aimed at ensuring pupils are supported, encouraged and nurtured while they are with us.

The non-teaching, dedicated House Parents maintain excellent and supportive relationships with the boarders and create a homely atmosphere. Every effort is made, particularly in the case of young or first time boarders, to ensure they settle happily. House Parents are very quick to spot occasional signs of homesickness, dealing with it sensitively and with understanding, creating 'a sense of belonging' for all. There is a culture within the school and boarding house of mutual trust and support, with very positive relationships amongst the boarders themselves and with staff.

Boarding is never boring at Longridge! Birthdays are always celebrated with a cake and there are trips every weekend; perhaps a simple day out to the beach, or an intense, thrilling experience tubing on a lake, ice skating, go-carting, indoor climbing or the fun-filled trampoline centre. All activities take place under safe, licensed, and expert guidance and supervision.



The centre of boarding house life, shared by all boarders, revolves around the large common room with its comfortable, relaxed furnishings and wide screen television while the games room includes table tennis, pool, a TV and other games. All our bedrooms are either single or shared by a maximum of three, have been recently redecorated and each contains facilities for individual study.

Longridge's extensive facilities, combined with the all-inclusive boarding fees that cover tuition, textbooks, meals, trips and laundry along with the stunning, safe and accessible location, make ideal as a 'home-from-home' environment.

Please note we do not have exeat weekends. Generally, the only time that the school is shut is during the half term holidays.

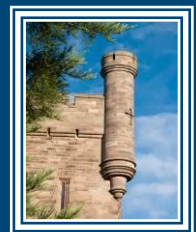
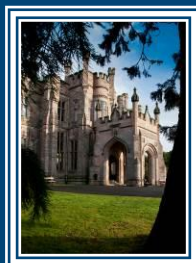


# Location

- Main East Coast Rail Line from London which stops at Berwick upon Tweed Railway Station which is 5 minutes from School
- Newcastle International Airport: 1 hour 15 minutes
- Edinburgh International Airport: 1 hour 15 minutes



**Mr Jonathan Lee**  
**Headmaster**



For more information and to discover all that  
Longridge Towers School has to offer,  
please visit: [www.lts.org.uk](http://www.lts.org.uk)  
email: [enquiries@lts.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@lts.org.uk) or phone: 01289 307584