



Welcome to **Belmont** Community School



Our Prospectus



INTRODUCTION

Belmont Community School is a popular and successful school for students aged 11-16. It is situated on a spacious green campus site in a leafy eastern suburb of Durham City.

Our vision for the school is quite simple; we want the best for and from our students.



Welcome from Paul Marsden, Headteacher

I am extremely proud to welcome you to our school. This prospectus gives you a flavour of what makes Belmont Community School such a vibrant, happy and special place to learn.

At Belmont we strive to create an environment where we all give our best, in order to achieve the best possible academic standards. We believe every child is an individual and that with clear rules, firm discipline and high quality pastoral care we can give the best opportunities for all children to achieve, irrespective of starting points, background or interests.

Our philosophy is based on the highest expectations, doing the simple things right and that hard work will be rewarded.

I am confident that Belmont's calm and friendly working atmosphere, combined with our strong focus on achievement, the arts and sports, provide children with a great place to learn and succeed in Durham.

MISSION



To create an inclusive environment:

- That is disciplined, happy, safe and caring.
- That does not discriminate and where every child really does matter.
- That is attractive and stimulating physically.

To secure achievement for all:

- Striving to achieve and celebrate every student's personal best.
- Ensuring academic excellence, regardless of starting points or background.
- Providing opportunities for students' intellectual, emotional, physical, spiritual, cultural and moral development.

To secure outstanding 'Teaching, Learning and Assessment':

- Dedication to inspirational delivery of a broad and balanced curriculum.
- Promoting the highest standards.
- Embedding a lifelong love of learning.

To play an active role in our community:

- Ensuring students are fully prepared for life in modern Britain.
- Offering a wide range of quality extra-curricular opportunities for personal development.
- Working with partners to promote local, national and global awareness.

OUR MISSION CAN ONLY BE ACHIEVED THROUGH WORKING TOGETHER, AS ONE TEAM: SCHOOL, STUDENTS, PARENTS AND GOVERNORS.



**WE BELIEVE THAT
REWARDING STUDENTS
MAKES THEM FEEL VALUED,
BUILDS CONFIDENCE AND
MOTIVATES THEM TO
ACHIEVE.**



Facts and figures:

The overwhelming majority of parents (96%) believe that our school meets their child's particular needs
Parental Survey

ETHOS

At Belmont Community School we believe firmly in politeness, responsibility, respect, courtesy and good manners and show our strong care by having the very highest expectations of students in everything they do. This, combined with our continued commitment to the performing arts, sport, and a wealth of extracurricular experiences, ensures that all our students are fully supported and challenged to achieve their unique potential.

We believe that encouragement and praise is central to the promotion of high standards of behaviour; rewards are an integral means of achieving this. Rewarding good behaviour enables students to realise that desirable behaviour, self-discipline and responsibility to self and others is highly valued in our community.

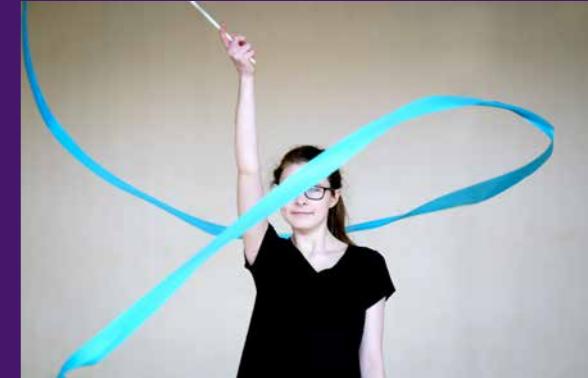
BELMONT HAS A PROUD HISTORY OF SPORTING ACHIEVEMENT AND OUTSTANDING QUALITY IN THE PERFORMING ARTS



Facts and figures:

The overwhelming majority (97%) of parents believe that teaching is good in our school and that their child makes good progress

Parental Survey



ENRICHMENT

We believe learning outside the classroom is as essential to students' development as learning within the classroom, and so ensure our students experience a real wealth of exciting extracurricular opportunities.

We know participating, performing and competing are key to developing students' many unique talents and skills. Again, we offer a real breadth of experiences with students participating in, for example the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, the Northern Counties Young Writers Competition and European Gymnastic Championship. We are immensely proud of all our students' individual and team successes.

Belmont has a proud history of sporting achievement and this continues with the school hosting numerous clubs and sporting events. Alongside the usual offer of football, basketball, gymnastics and athletics we also offer a range of other sports from trampolining, fencing and archery to county badminton in our state of the art sports hall.

Performing Arts has long been a strength of Belmont Community School: We have a specialist performing arts building with dance and performance studios, as well as specialist music and practice rooms. We offer outstanding opportunities in this arena, with visits, plays, pantomime, dance competitions and much more besides.



ALL STUDENTS ACCESS A BROAD AND BALANCED CURRICULUM AND ARE FULLY INCLUDED IN ALL ASPECTS OF SCHOOL LIFE



Facts and figures:

The overwhelming majority of parents (97%) agreed they are happy with their child's experience at our school

Parental Survey

CURRICULUM

The curriculum at Belmont Community School is both challenging and varied.

We set students according to ability in all academic subjects from the start of Year 7 in order to accelerate their learning. Our meticulous tracking of progress ensures we provide the highest level of challenge and support to meet the needs of all students, including those with special educational needs and more able and talented students.

A strong core of compulsory academic subjects is complimented by an extensive range of options, including the arts, sports, additional languages and humanities, design and technology subjects and a range of vocational courses.

Our teachers and support staff ensure a secure and friendly environment which provides an extremely positive climate for teaching and learning. They enthuse, engage and motivate our students to engender high levels of commitment to success in their learning. We have high expectations of ourselves and of all of our students.

SUPPORT

Access to a broad and balanced curriculum is the right of every child. At Belmont Community School all students follow the National Curriculum at a level and pace suitable for their ability. Our SEND philosophy places SEND children at the heart of personalised learning and our curriculum is tailored to meet individual student needs. Please see the website for our SEND local offer.

KNOWING YOUR CHILD AS A UNIQUE INDIVIDUAL IS AS IMPORTANT TO US AS IT IS TO YOU



TRANSITION

We are immensely proud of the strong relationships and personal knowledge we have of all our students. Being a small school enables us to quickly get to know individuals and create a supportive ethos. We believe this is the best possible foundation for them to achieve their full potential.

Our students arrive feeling confident and secure in Y7 having already had experience of working together in their new environment with students from both our school and our partner primary schools.

By providing a range of experiences, including arts, sports and academic subjects we ensure

that all of our new Y7 students already know and have worked with many of their teachers and support staff.

As part of our commitment to building effective partnerships, members of the Senior Leadership Team and Y7 Student Support Team visit all our primary schools to meet with all new parents and students. This ensures both students and parents feel welcomed and a real part of our school community.

Students choosing to join us in other year groups meet with their Student Support Team to arrange a personalised Transition programme.

ENHANCED MAINSTREAM PROVISION

Belmont Community School hosts the county-wide Enhanced Mainstream Provision for students who have a Sensory Impairment.

The students take a full part in the school curriculum and extracurricular activities and are fully included in the life of the school.

Our team of specialist support staff work alongside mainstream teachers to enable students to access the curriculum. We do this through provision of specialist equipment, support within the classroom and pre and post tutoring within the Sensory Base.

If you would like to know more about this then contact the Sensory base on **03000 264530** or email sensoryteam@durham.gov.uk.



ADMISSIONS

Transferring from Y6 to year Y7:

- Parents or Carers of Y6 students are invited to Y6 Open Evening in September (if you are not able to attend and would like to arrange a visit to school please contact us).
- Preference forms are sent to parents or carers of Y6 students in early September.
- Preference forms, or online applications (www.durham.gov.uk/school admissions), should be returned to the Local Authority (please note the deadline for the form to be returned to the Admissions team at the Local Authority is 31st October)
- Parents or Carers are informed in March of the school place allocated to their child.

If you wish to transfer from another school:

- Contact Pupil Casework at the Local Authority on 03000 265 896.
- Contact the Student Support Manager for the year group to arrange an initial discussion and tour of the school.
- Complete a transfer form and submit to Pupil Casework at County Hall.
- The Local Authority will contact Belmont Community School if places are available
- A transfer meeting will be arranged between the current school and Belmont. The purpose of this is to ensure any transfer is in the student's best interest.
- If the transfer goes ahead an admission meeting will be arranged between parent/ carer and Belmont Community School.

SAFEGUARDING

The Governors and Staff at Belmont Community School are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all students in our care. The designated members of staff to contact with any safeguarding issues are Miss L Gibson and Mr C Jones.

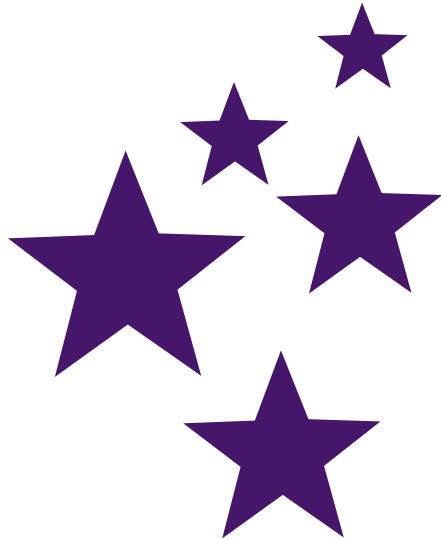
GETTING ORGANISED

Our website is a good place to start. Here you can find all the information you need, from the school calendar and our contact details to timings of the school day, our curriculum offer and all our school policies.

If you have any queries, don't hesitate to get in touch on **0191 3865715** or email school@belmontschool.org.uk.



WE CONTINUE TO BE IMMENSELY PROUD OF ALL OF OUR STUDENTS AND THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS. WE ARE DELIGHTED TO BE ABLE TO OFFER YOU THIS OPPORTUNITY TO BECOME PART OF OUR CONTINUED SUCCESS.



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