

We are
Tapton
SCHOOL



Welcome to **Tapton School**

DEAR PARENTS

We are an 'outstanding' 11-18 school (Ofsted 2012) with 1,660 students, including a Sixth Form of around 500, pleasantly situated in the south west of Sheffield and close to the Peak District National Park.

We aspire to improve the life chances of all our students through ongoing progress and improvement in learning. Education should be a positive and transformational experience, regardless of ability or background, and our record of sustained success reflects our commitment to raising achievement for everyone. We have the highest expectations of all our students in every area of school life.

Our school is a caring and ordered community with an atmosphere of calm and purposeful learning. Students are treated as individuals; we recognise and celebrate different abilities, aptitudes and interests and believe that everyone can develop through dedication and hard work. We aim to create a love of learning and a resilience that is essential for achieving excellence. We work hard to ensure every young person is happy, safe and successful – a credit to themselves, their family and Tapton School.

Excellent teaching and learning is at the heart of everything at Tapton. Strong classroom practice, combined with an appropriate and personalised curriculum,

rigorous tracking and monitoring of progress, commitment and positive behaviour for learning from students and support from home ensure the best possible outcomes for all.

We are proud to have such a large proportion of staff heavily involved in teaching and learning developments and, in 2014, we were designated as a National Teaching School. We also see ourselves as a learning school, always focused on developing both students and staff.

Nationally, we are experiencing the greatest changes in education since the introduction of the National Curriculum in 1988. We are working hard to use all available information to ask the right questions and make the smartest decisions to continue to lead the school to a position of strength year after year. This evaluation of our context, forward planning in our curriculum innovations, continued development of assessment and reporting, along with our unflinching focus on outstanding teaching and learning are the key strands in the Tapton Vision. These will lead us through change and development to ensure that all our students continue to thrive and succeed.

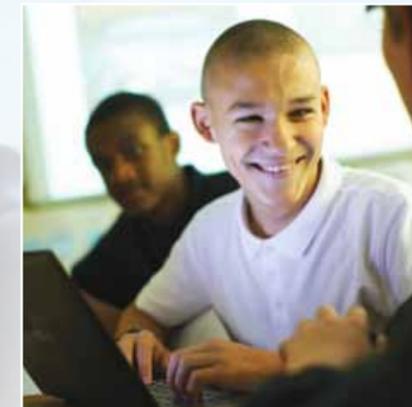
We look forward to welcoming you and your daughter or son here next year.

David Dennis and Claire Tasker
Co Head Teachers



“
It is not just the academic – it is the sense of community that makes Tapton outstanding. The teachers are interested in your well-being as well as your academic achievement. They invest in us.
”

STUDENT



“
Students are exceptionally well prepared for the next stage in their education, training or employment.
”
OFSTED (2012)

We are
Tapton
and we...
value everyone

We believe that valuing everyone, caring for each other and constantly striving to achieve excellence define the Tapton School community.

Because we value the achievements and contributions of all our students, we asked for their views about what they feel defines our school. The pages of this prospectus combine their views with the external verification of comments from our most recent Ofsted inspection. It is interesting to see Ofsted's views alongside those of our students and we hope you find them useful.

“
The curriculum is very well matched to students' needs.

OFSTED (2012) ”



“
The school has lots of exciting clubs and responds to requests by trying to start new clubs when we ask.”

STUDENT

“
Students' attitudes to learning are exemplary.”

OFSTED (2012)



We are
Tapton
and we...

“
I love how we get to move around and have a variety of different lessons. I feel like a grown-up even in Year 7.”

STUDENT

“
The behaviour and safety of pupils are outstanding.

OFSTED (2012)

care for
each other

“
The feel of the school is great – a community in which we all respect each other.

STUDENT

“

The leadership and management are outstanding. The school leaders are uncompromising about the pursuit of excellence in all of the academy's work.

OFSTED (2012)

”

We are
Tapton
and we...

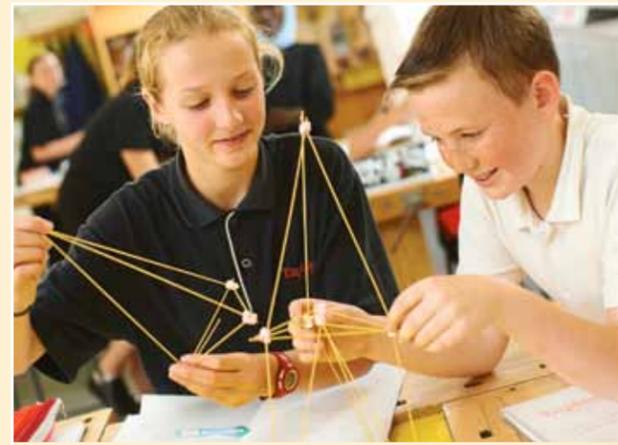
achieve
excellence

“

Standards in almost all subjects, and especially in English and mathematics, are high. This is because teaching is consistently strong in lessons and teachers and other adults support all learners exceptionally well beyond the school day.

OFSTED (2012)

”



“

The past success and results show that the school cares and sets high standards.”

STUDENT



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“

Extensive sporting, musical and performing opportunities, and a wealth of extra-curricular activities, make strong contributions to students' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

”

OFSTED (2012)

The story of **Tapton School Academy Trust**

When Tapton School was judged 'outstanding' by Ofsted in 2007, we were invited to become a National Support School. Governors supported the idea that Tapton's expertise should be used to support other Sheffield schools. This outward-looking ethos, and increased emphasis on partnerships, brought about a huge change for us all; and as our partners improved, so did we! Our relationship with the Local Authority strengthened and set the scene for our future move to becoming an outstanding academy.

Tapton became an academy in 2012. Governors, staff and parents believed that our inclusive school, with its unrelenting focus on high-quality teaching and learning, could become the best school in Sheffield and provide the strongest support to our partners. We kept young people at the heart of everything and set ourselves the goals of giving them the best life chances while providing a valuable service to the wider Sheffield school community.

In August 2011, we were asked to support Chaucer School after their students achieved exceptionally poor outcomes and, as a result, Tapton School Academy Trust was created. Our Trust was formed to support Sheffield's young people and their families in its most challenging communities and to ensure that together we could make a real difference. Now Scott Burnside and his Chaucer team are doing just this.

To succeed quickly, we needed to work closely with our primary school partners Hillsborough, Southey Green and Meynell primaries. Hillsborough is the most recent member of the trust, bringing with it much needed drive and capacity to help us support other primary schools beyond the Trust.

Tapton School now has two talented Co Head Teachers, David Dennis and Claire Tasker. Our journey continues and we are now supporting Forge



Valley School which became a member of the Trust on 1 September 2014.

Close ties to the Local Authority and our patrons, David Blunkett MP, Lord Coe and the Trust Board continue to be important. Together we will make Tapton School Academy Trust grow and prosper with more schools joining us over time. We will never lose sight of our founding principles that hard work, dedication and commitment - which were needed to take Tapton to outstanding in 2013 - are essential for all our schools. Our resolve is absolute - Tapton has achieved the highest GCSE and A-level results in Sheffield. All our Trust students can be proud of themselves, their school and their city.

David Bowes
Chief Executive, Tapton School Academy Trust



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