

Keswick



School

Keswick School has 1,284 pupils on roll, aged 11-18 years. The school is co-educational and comprehensive. There are 241 students in the Sixth Form and 50 boarders.

Keswick School was re-established in September 1980, through the amalgamation of Keswick Grammar School and Lairthwaite Secondary School, although the origins of the school date back over 600 years to the middle of the 14th century. The school has been recognised under a number of designations including Leading Edge, Science Specialist, High Performance Specialist, Gifted and Talented consultant, Training School and now Teaching School and lead school of the Western Lakes Teaching School Alliance. Partnerships therefore form a vital role for the school. The school is rated as outstanding by Ofsted in every category and recognised as Secondary School of the Year in Cumbria at the CN Media Educational Awards twice in the last 6 years.

STAFF STRUCTURE AND PASTORAL ORGANISATION

The school has 80 well qualified teaching staff. There is a Senior Leadership Team consisting of the Headteacher, two Deputies and three Assistant Heads.

Nearly all teaching staff are Form Tutors and work in support of the senior pastoral staff. The staff share a good local knowledge of the pupils and the school has a high reputation for pastoral welfare. The school has had no trouble in recruiting high quality staff and turnover is low.

CURRICULUM

The school aims to combine the best new ideas and practices with traditional values. To this end, there is an orthodox organisation of separate subject departments and the Heads of Department meet regularly to keep the curriculum under constant review.

Years 7 to 9 follow a broad curriculum. Science is taught as separate subjects and most pupils study two foreign languages. Pupils are encouraged to take part in a range of further cultural and recreational activities.

In Years 10 and 11, all pupils study English Language, English Literature, mathematics, personal development and physical education and most study separate sciences and a foreign language. Last year 79% of students achieved a 4 or above in English and maths and 76% of students achieved a 4 or above in at least five subjects including English and maths.

At A-level students achieve impressive results with exceptional performance across the board. We are extremely proud of our fully inclusive Sixth Form and the encouragement and specialist support given to all the students who commence on our courses.



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At A-level last year 31% of grades were at A*-A and 78% were at A*-C grades. In English Language, Physics, Biology, German and Music Technology students made progress in line with the top 10% nationally. In almost every other subject students made progress in line with the top 25% nationally

The school has an excellent record of admissions to Oxbridge, other universities and to Institutes of Higher Education. Some students enter the professions and work in local businesses or travel abroad.

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITY

The school provides a wide range of activities. Rugby, football, cricket, netball, hockey, tennis and rounders are strong. Athletics, sailing, orienteering, cross-country running and horse riding are also popular. There is a dry ski slope and acres of fine playing fields.

The school has a well established reputation in music and drama at both junior and senior level. There is a tradition in the school of voluntary service, both in the local community and overseas. We enjoy well established links and cultural exchanges with schools in Germany and France, and make regular visits to Austria, Italy, Poland and Germany.

Outdoor Education plays a significant part in the life of Keswick School, placed as it is within the centre of the Lake District National Park. Colleagues undertake mountaineering, water sports, skiing and The Duke of Edinburgh Award, with pupils studying for awards.

BOARDING

Keswick School has a long tradition of boarding, with 50 boarders who come from all parts of the UK and overseas, currently including Saudi Arabia, Tanzania, Hong Kong, Brazil and Spain. They range in age from 11-18 and reside on site in a specifically designed boarding house called Lairthwaite House.

THE SCHOOL AND THE COMMUNITY

The school enjoys excellent relationships with the local community and its reputation is high in the Lake District and beyond. This is well illustrated by the presence of over 650 day pupils from out of the catchment area who are in attendance.

The school is well supported by an energetic Governing Body. The school converted to a Multi Academy Trust in January 2017 and has a local governing body of 14 governors who have responsibilities for Keswick School and are overseen by a Board of 11 Directors. Bassenthwaite Primary School joined the MAT on 1st January 2018.

LOCATION

Keswick is the natural focus of the tourist trade of the Northern Lake District. The town is well linked by road to the M6 and the coast. London is three hours away by the West Coast main line. Newcastle, Liverpool, Leeds, Manchester, Edinburgh and Glasgow are all about two hours away. There are active cultural and recreational societies within Keswick. Not least, the town is surrounded by an area of exceptional natural beauty (now designated a world heritage site) and close to opportunities for climbing, walking and sailing.