

Laurence Jackson School - Context (June 2017)

Laurence Jackson School is an 11 to 16 Foundation School and Specialist Sports College which benefits from its delightful setting on the edge of the North Yorks Moors in the attractive market town of Guisborough (Borough of Redcar and Cleveland).

The school occupies an important place in the history of the town and continues to be a vibrant centre of the local community today. LJS recently celebrated its 50th Jubilee and it was clear from the extensive community participation in all activities that local people care for the school, staff and students. The school and community have significantly benefitted from designation as a Specialist Sports College and our excellent sports facilities act as the local Leisure Centre.

Although the town itself is relatively affluent, the school has a wide catchment area considerably beyond its stated admission zone and caters for a significant number of children who live in deprived wards elsewhere in the Local Authority. Consequently LJS is a fully comprehensive school with a diverse academic and socio-economic intake although it has a distinctly stable population and very few children from ethnic minority groups.

Overall, students are broadly average on entry with APS in line with the national average. However, almost 17% of students have some form of Special Educational Need, including 2.4% with a Statement and 27% qualifying for Pupil Premium funding. We provide specialist provision for a number of autistic students and approximately 10% of the student population are on the Most Able and Talented (MAT) register. Students have a positive attitude to learning and parents are predominantly supportive.

Since 2010, headline results have increased significantly; **5A*-C including English & Maths by 15% and overall 5A*-C by 25%**. This improvement prompted national recognition – inclusion in the top 100 most improved schools, a formal letter from Nick Gibb, the former Schools' Minister, plus two consecutive SSAT awards for improvement. Results in 2013 dipped slightly after a school record in 2012 but we have since recovered to over 57% 5A*-C (E+M). It is difficult to compare precisely with previous years due to the many changes in exam systems but A*-C (E+M) rose to 61%, Ebacc to 24% and both Progress 8 and Achievement 8 showed significant improvement in 2016.

LJS is part of the NE batch of PSBP (Priority Schools Building Programme) and after 2 years frenetic construction, the fantastic new building was completed on time in August 2016. The new building provides us with the state of the art learning environment which we have lobbied for over the past 10 years. Staff and students moved in during the first week of September and are familiarising themselves with the new systems in our wonderful learning environment.

We feel that LJS offers an outstanding educational experience as reflected in our motto of 'Improving Life Chances' (of all children regardless of ability, background or circumstance) and encourage prospective students and staff to visit the school to judge for themselves.

Geographical Setting and directions

If using a GPS system to navigate to LJS, please use the postcode TS14 6RD as your destination.

By Rail

- nearest mainline station is Darlington, approximately 25 miles

By Air

- nearest airport is Durham & Tees Valley, approximately 20 miles

By Road

- from the South follow A1 to Dishforth (approximately 34 miles) and then A168, A19, A172 and A171

- from the North follow A1 to Bradbury (approximately 28 miles) and then A689, A19, A174 and A171

- from the West follow A66 to Darlington (approximately 25 miles) and then continue on A66, A19, A174 and A171

(The A171 goes to Whitby and Scarborough and both tend to be signposted more prominently and regularly than Guisborough)

