



School Description

Baldon is a school located in a former mining community. The school is situated centrally for the three villages of Baldon Colliery, East Baldon, and West Baldon, in a neighbourhood with a strong sense of community. Students are also attracted from a wide area of South Tyneside. The location ensures a good social mix as we receive students from a former colliery village, council and private residential areas in fairly equal numbers. The school is a true comprehensive and our aim is to support, challenge and help every young person to achieve their potential.

At Baldon, we enjoy outstanding facilities as we moved into our new school, constructed under Private Finance Initiative, in November 2006. The £18 million development has provided a second to none educational environment for the 21st century and our student and staff community benefit hugely from this wonderful building.

In the summer of 2015 99.4% of our students gained 5+ A*- G grades: 64.7% gained 5+ A*- C grades: 57.5% gained 5+ A*- C grades including English and mathematics.

Our school has state of the art amenities including a 25 metre 4 lane swimming pool, large sports hall, gymnasium, multi gym and all weather floodlit football pitch.

All specialist teaching areas are large and well equipped. Classrooms are large and rich in ICT providing a first class learning and teaching environment. Complementing this provision is a 220 seat theatre which along with our school hall provides flexibility of provision. The ground floor is open and spacious providing break out areas for each year group, and our dining area, "Baldon Bistro" is managed by Catering Academy, who are responsible for our catering.

Our school can accommodate 1100 students, currently we have 650 on roll and teaching and classroom support staff of 58 and approximately 40 associate staff.

All students follow the national curriculum. In Year 7, students remain in their mixed ability tutor groups for most of the week with setting taking place in mathematics. As students progress through the school they are grouped according to ability for more subjects and at Key Stage 4 there is a personalised pathways programme incorporating traditional and modern courses aimed at meeting the needs of all learners in the 21st century.

We have post 16 education at Baldon through a partnership with Harton Technology College. We offer a variety of level 3 courses and there are 46 Year 12/13 young people studying at our school. This is a major development for us as we look to the future with Raising Participation Age and government legislation.

The school was awarded specialist sports college status in 2009, and although this government programme does not formally still exist, all students continue to have the opportunity to participate in an extensive variety of sports, both for enjoyment and accreditation purposes. The school attracts other funding and this is used to help with our extensive community links and provision. We also enjoy a Football Academy linked with Martin Gray and a Dance Academy.

We have established a virtual learning environment on our extensive network and are developing learning platforms to support teaching and learning. Pastoral care is organised on a year basis with a Director of Learning and an Assistant Pastoral Leader leading a team of tutors.

Excellent attendance, punctuality and student achievement are celebrated and commended through our extensive rewards system. We have recently changed the school code of dress in response to student voice and our young people look smart and ready to learn.

The home school partnership is crucial to the success of all of our students and parents are regularly informed about their children's progress in a variety of ways.

Boldon School is very proud of its extensive range of extracurricular activities which are available throughout the year. This includes numerous sporting opportunities, musical activities and excursions, locally, nationally and overseas.

Our motto is 'innovate, focus, achieve' – three key words for us here at Boldon School. We hope you are inspired by what we can offer and hope that you apply to join us.

Elizabeth M Hayes
Head Teacher

April 2016