



Staindrop School

A Business and Enterprise College

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Learning with the Community
Schools Curriculum Award 2002



Business &
Enterprise



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Welcome to Staindrop School

Staindrop School is an 11-16 school, set on the western edge of the historic village of Staindrop. Overlooking rolling fields and farms, Staindrop is without doubt one of the most attractively situated schools in the region.

Staindrop School is one of the most successful schools in the area and it is no surprise we are often over-subscribed. We have a commitment to high standards in all aspects of school life, which ensures our students reach their full potential.

We have a strong tradition of success built upon a firm foundation of strong pastoral care. Every child at Staindrop is regarded as an individual and the school is a caring place, where everyone is encouraged to do their best in a safe and welcoming environment. Not only examination success but all round achievement of students is given high priority at our school.

There is no doubt that students will only achieve their absolute best if school and parents work together in co-operation and harmony. We value highly, therefore, the interest and support given by parents, who are always welcome to visit us at the school.

This prospectus will give you some idea of what we achieve as a school. However you will only get a true impression of the hard work and commitment of both staff and students by seeing the school for yourself. I hope you can attend the Year 6 Parents' Open Evening, if not you are welcome to arrange a visit and see first hand the calm, well disciplined and caring atmosphere of the school.



Students at Staindrop “enjoy school very much”

Ofsted



Student Support and Guidance

The Pastoral System

Staindrop is a small comprehensive school, which cares and values every student as an individual. No student need feel overwhelmed as they transfer from their small primary school to the “big” school.

The Pastoral System ensures that every student feels safe and has someone to turn to. Each year group is divided up into tutor groups with a tutor looking after each group. The tutor groups are of mixed ability and we hope they will develop into a close “family unit” with their tutor really getting to know each student. Normally it is to the Form Tutor that parents are asked to address their communications in the first instance; but more urgent or serious problems can be brought to the attention of the Pastoral Staff.

To maintain the positive atmosphere of the school, we reward good behaviour and always try to encourage and praise students.

We believe in working with parents to maintain our high standards of behaviour.

Special Educational Needs

Staindrop School believes that all students are of equal worth whatever their ability, gender, social background or ethnic origin. At some time in their school career the majority of students have needs, which will affect their learning. It is our aim to meet these needs as they arise and allow every student to achieve their full potential.

Staindrop has a policy by which students who experience learning difficulties are not isolated, but are fully integrated into the life of the school.

The school has a dedicated room, where students can receive individual and small group support to reinforce basic skills.

Liaison with the local primary schools is a major priority to enable smooth transfer to secondary education. This is particularly important for those students who experience learning difficulties. Staff visit primary schools and Year 6 students visit the school in the summer term before transferring.

Many students also have the opportunity to attend a summer school and be part of the Heron Club where they are supported by older students who are trained as mentors.

At Staindrop “relationships between staff and students are warm, respectful and supportive”

Ofsted



Curriculum and Facilities

At Staindrop we encourage our students to become creative, self-reliant and confident individuals; preparing them for university, work and training. Our broad, balanced and exciting curriculum offering opportunity and challenge matches these key aims. Maximising the success of each individual is our guiding principal and our curriculum, designed to develop the strengths and talents of all students, has a proven track record.

The demands of the National Curriculum are fully met and in addition, in Key Stage 4, the breadth and diversity of subjects offered allows students to pursue both academic and vocational interests. Accordingly the opportunity to study the Humanities, Science, Arts and Languages is matched by courses in Business, ICT, Performing Arts and Health & Social Care.

The Curriculum is complimented by good teaching. The staff at Staindrop are dedicated professionals, all of whom fully support the learning ethos of the school, both through their work as teachers and tutors. Ofsted inspectors recognise their talent and commitment both in terms of the high standard of education they deliver and the warmth of their relationships with our students.

Our Business and Enterprise specialist status allows us to bring additional experts from many different fields into the school which enriches our learning culture still more. And, of course, we constantly strive to improve still further and the school is committed to the ongoing professional development of all our staff and listening to the views of parents.



At Staindrop “students show respect for each other and say they feel secure and safe”
Ofsted



Business and Enterprise

Staindrop gained Business and Enterprise Status in September 2005. As a Business & Enterprise School we aim to use our specialist status to raise standards of achievement and the quality of learning for all our students. We enrich and extend learning by encouraging economic and business understanding, enterprise activities and opportunities for students to follow a wide range of work related learning pathways.

We provide opportunities for our students to develop enterprising attitudes and skills through learning and teaching across the curriculum. In all subject areas enterprise skills such as communication, problem solving, numeracy, teamwork, innovation and leadership are delivered through the curriculum. This will equip students with the skills they need to be successful at school and give them an invaluable edge for further education and future careers. Our students are taught how to use their own initiative and become independent self-motivated learners.

Students have full use of the enterprise room which contains a multimedia techpod, interactive whiteboard, 22 wireless networked PCs, DVD embosser and copier, colour laser printers and video conferencing facilities.

We have several enterprise companies organised by students and linked to curriculum areas including Maths, Art, Business Studies, Science and Technology. These companies have won awards at both regional and national level.

We have designated Business and Enterprise days where whole year groups take part in activities designed to develop their knowledge of the world of work and enhance their enterprise skills. During these days students work with business people from diverse backgrounds such as Glaxo, DTI, local self employed individuals, the Army and Cummings Engineering.

The school in conjunction with HSBC Bank operates a school bank where students from years 7-11 are encouraged to learn about financial responsibility and realises the importance of good personal finance.

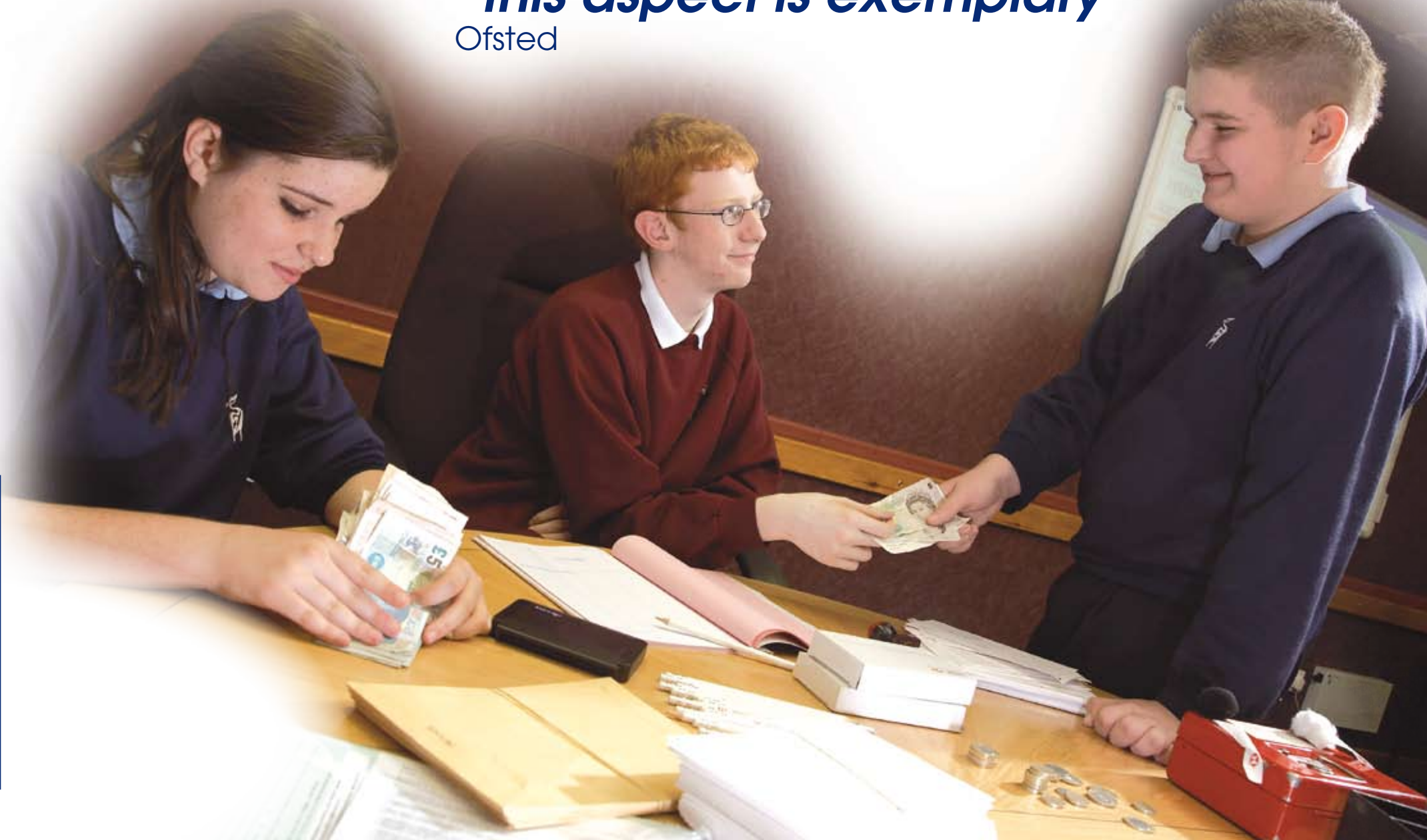
We work very closely with our partner primary schools on enterprise projects where our students provide mentoring support.

We listen to students ideas and help make them happen. Year 10 are following a Mandarin course, helping them prepare for the visit to China where they will investigate business culture



**Enterprise education –
“this aspect is exemplary”**
Ofsted

**Students are “prepared
exceptionally well for their
economic well being”**
Ofsted



Extra Curricular Activities

At Staindrop we believe that it is important to extend the students' experience beyond the classroom. Our extra curricular activities include sporting events with successful teams in football, rugby, netball, cricket and athletics. There are opportunities for all students to take part in sports both in lunchtime and after – school clubs.

Students also have access to a wide range of other activities. They have the opportunity to take part in, for example, enterprise initiatives, computer activities and fly-tying and angling, Warhammer Club, Chess Club, Reading Club, Homework Club and Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme where students can progress to Silver Award and many more.

There are also regular opportunities to be involved in our successful school productions each year either as a performer or as backstage crew.

Students can volunteer to train as mentors and work with the younger students, supporting their transition to the Secondary School.

In addition to the activities in school, we recognise the value of extending the classroom and taking students out on study visits. In the past, students have stepped back in time on visits to Beamish Museum to experience life as suffragettes, to the Roman Fort in Jarrow, have visited the Sage Concert Hall to experience how sound waves work, taken part in geography field trips to Swaledale and Lindisfarne, visited the Good Food Show.

We often have visitors in the school to enhance the students' learning. During Engineering and Science Week for example, students take part in construction workshops.

Our highly successful visits to France and Germany allow students to gain confidence both in speaking the foreign language and in dealing with new situations and cultures.

Outdoor Education flourishes at Staindrop with residential visits to Blaithwaite in the Lake District where students can experience canoeing, fellwalking, cycling etc. Students also take part in the Army Looking at Life residential where they tackle assault courses and orienteering.

We encourage students to be part of the decision making process in school and have a School Parliament consisting of a representative from each tutor group.

Students are involved in the community through various charity activities throughout the year. One of the highlights of the year is the day when our students entertain children from a special school in the summer term.

This represents a small example of the activities available at Staindrop and new opportunities arise each year and added to our already long list.



“Students’ exceptional contribution to the community plays a strong part in developing their understanding of citizenship”
Ofsted



International Dimensions

The international dimension in education has never been more important. Our young people are becoming global citizens and the job market in which they will compete is an international one. At Staindrop we place great importance on incorporating an international dimension into the curriculum. Our aim is to enrich students understanding of the world in which they live. The MFL department offers pupils the chance to experience a residential visit to Montdidier in France and Eickenkreuzheim in Germany.

The Geography Department has connections with Yuri Horjo Junior High School, Japan and is in the process of establishing links with schools in Amman, Jordan. The Business Studies Department is building links with

both schools and businesses in China, with the aim of an eventual visit. The Religious Education Department continues to sponsor a child in Africa.

Outside the normal curriculum the Fair Trade group have also established a strong link with a school in Kenya. All of these activities complement the links we and Ingleton Primary, one of our feeder schools, are developing with a school in Zambia. This is part of a scheme funded by the British Council. Further funding has been secured to develop more curriculum links, staff exchanges and hopefully eventually student exchanges. To further embed an international ethos throughout the curriculum, the school is applying for International School Award.



**At Staindrop
“behaviour is
exemplary”
Ofsted**



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