



## DALLAM SCHOOL

### Milnthorpe and Heversham, Cumbria



Dallam School has a very long and successful history. Our earliest roots lie in the foundation of Heversham Grammar School in 1613. Four hundred years on Dallam is a very popular school with an innovative curriculum designed to ensure that every student meets or exceeds his or her potential.

In essence we are a local comprehensive school committed to serving our community, however there is a great deal more to Dallam. While half of our students come from our natural catchment area in South Cumbria over 400 travel to us daily from a very wide area that stretches into Lancaster, Morecambe and the Lune Valley. In addition we have 127 boarders living on our Heversham site during term time. They are all UK or EU passport holders which entitles them to education in the UK. They come from across the globe including Europe, Nigeria, Hong Kong, Cambodia, Mexico, Chile and the USA. This means that many different languages are spoken by our students and we are truly an international school.

In spite of popular demand for places, Dallam remains small enough (around 1000) for every student to be known as an individual. It is friendly, yet purposeful. All students know that high standards of academic and personal achievement are expected of them. The emphasis is on preparation for an ever changing, modern world and a lifetime of learning. There is respect for the traditions of the school, including good behaviour and smart school uniform for students in Years 7-11.

Dallam is an exceptional place in which young people can learn, achieve and thrive. Having become an Academy in 2011 we have recently formed the South Westmorland Multi Academy Trust. This means that we enjoy considerable freedoms and financial benefits whilst maintaining close links with our neighbouring secondary schools and Kendal College in the South Lakes Federation.

Academic achievements at this fully comprehensive school are high. Every year 70% or more of Year 11 students gain 5 or more A\* - C grades at GCSE including English and maths. We regularly perform very well in the Cumbrian league tables. The majority of students stay on into the Sixth Form and in turn go on to university, college and apprenticeships. We run a unique three pathway curriculum post 16 which enables us to offer the International Baccalaureate and the International Baccalaureate Career Programme alongside A' Levels. Our International Baccalaureate results are amongst the highest in the world.

The school was a specialist language college and is committed to providing significant opportunities within modern languages. The programme of international visits and curriculum links with partner schools abroad is extensive. There is an international dimension that pervades the curriculum, and many staff have participated in visits or professional development abroad. Bilingual teaching has attracted a great deal of national attention; winning the

British Academy Language Award for the UK in 2013. The school also has a formal agreement with the Spanish Government to promote bilingual education as a “Sección Española”.

Dallam has many other strengths, as well. Along with the International Schools Award, it also holds the Artsmark Gold, Healthy Schools, Gifted and Talented Lead School and Football Association Charter Mark awards.

Our curriculum provision is based around the Dallam Learner Profile. This means that all teaching encompasses the key soft skills that are often associated with outdoor and adventurous activity. Principles, such as teamwork, inquiry, intellectual risk-taking, resilience and wider personal development are vital in helping students to prepare for their place in the modern world.

A £13m building programme was completed in 2010. This includes a new entrance and car park, reception, front offices and staffroom, learning resources centre, dining rooms, science building, an arts centre with new music rooms, dance and drama studios, a sports centre with sports hall, gym, fitness suite and 3G all weather pitch, and a general teaching block. There is also a magnificent, new, boarding accommodation block and a fully refitted technology and IT building.

In 2015, we opened the new sports pavilion on our Tristrams playing fields as well as refurbishing the community education and conference facilities on our Heversham site. A new Common Room was opened in September 2016 and in 2018 we will further consolidate boarding provision with the opening of a 12 bed extension.

Dallam is the southern-most secondary school in Cumbria and very close to the Lake District National Park. It is a regional centre for outdoor education, and an Operating Authority for the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme. Other extra-curricular activities are as diverse as Art Club, Young Enterprise, Public Speaking and Geek Club. There is a full sporting programme making use of facilities that include all-weather tennis courts, excellent outdoor pitches, and another sports hall at Heversham in addition to the main sports centre at Milnthorpe. Many students participate in the dramatic performances and musical activities that are the lifeblood of the school.

There is a full range of Sixth Form studies. The great majority of students starting in Year 7 can expect to continue all the way through to Year 13. Expert staff, specialising in their subjects up to International Baccalaureate and A' Level, teach throughout the school. Sixth Form students also have access to Cumbria's largest adult education programme offered through the Community Education programme. Thousands of people of all ages take advantage of courses ranging from philosophy to yoga, or life drawing for medical students to Spanish or Italian for beginners.

Dallam is a unique school. Our students are wonderful and receive excellent support from a very committed teaching and support staff. All this makes Dallam an excellent place to work.

William Bancroft  
Headteacher  
November 2016