



THE DURHAM FEDERATION

Welcome to The Durham Federation, where learning is exciting and challenging



The Durham Federation is a partnership between two secondary schools, Durham Community Business College and Fyndoune Community College and it is an exciting place to learn.

We make a sincere promise to all of our parents and carers that we will nurture your most precious possession – your child, and ensure that they achieve their absolute best. Our standards and expectations are very high and result in excellent examination pass rates.

As a Federation we have many advantages:

- We operate as two small colleges where every young person is well known to us. This enables us to provide a caring and safe environment. Our students are happy and want to come to college to learn.
- Having two colleges we can provide more subject choices than most single schools. This means that all of our students have a personalised curriculum which enables them to achieve the very highest standards in their exams.
- Our colleges are a significant part of our local community which encourages our young people to be moral citizens who care about people and their environment. We have worked hard to ensure that both of our local communities now have the very best educational opportunities right at their heart.

- We make best use of our shared resources. This means that together we really do provide best value enabling more money to be spent on providing the best education for our students.

Our promise to all of our students is that you will achieve the very highest of standards with us. We will enable you to be successful in life and not only to have a dream – but also to achieve it!

Anne Lakey
Chief Executive





Working

Together

Our Vision

We work hard to achieve academic and vocational excellence. We help students to unlock the doors to achieving their true potential.

Our students are safe, valued and respected and free to enjoy all of the experiences that college can provide for them.

We want all of our students to leave us self confident, ambitious, successful members of our community.

We achieve this by:

- Creating a caring environment where every student is known as an individual and their needs are addressed personally
- Offering a broad curriculum which engages and motivates
- Promoting the highest standards of teaching
- Setting high standards and encouraging everyone to maintain them

We believe all of this can best be achieved when college and home work as a partnership. We value and encourage feedback and comment from parents and carers and will meet with you regularly to talk about your child's progress.



Our Beliefs

Our core belief is sustainability. In college this means we help students to learn how to:

- Care for themselves
- Care for others
- Care for the environment

This belief allows all students to develop a strong moral purpose and a set of values to help them become responsible citizens.



**Outstanding
Achievement**

Examination Results

Examination results are key to helping students fulfil their ambitions. Over recent years both colleges have improved their performance significantly as a result of better teaching, changes to the curriculum and a strong drive on standards. The result has been both colleges are now regularly in the top 5% of all schools in England for value added. Both colleges attain outstanding GCSE pass rates including Maths and English – an achievement that acknowledges the exceptionally high standards that we maintain.

Student Leadership

We have a thriving Student Council that all students are able to join. The Council leads a variety of projects across both colleges, and undertakes fund raising for local and national charities.

We also have four Student Governors who are part of the Governing Body of the Federation. Their role is to represent the student view in high-level decision-making and gives the Student Governors a taste of real leadership.



Joining Year 7

If your child has attended one of the local primary schools you will have had some experience of our Primary Transition Programme. We are part of a partnership programme with the local primary schools called 'The Durham Federation of Schools' which allows us to work closely with all of our primary partners. Children start to visit our colleges in year 2 and from then onwards take part in a range of learning activities every year, culminating in the July of year 6 when they spend a full week with us.

The rationale for such an extensive programme is as follows:

- We are keen to share our specialist resources and equipment with our primary partners, particularly in areas like science and technology, helping to enhance the learning experience of the children.
- We want to ensure that when students join us in September they are confident, happy and eager to get on with their learning.
- We get to know our new students academic achievements and can rapidly build on them.



Achieve and Enjoy

Our Curriculum

A good curriculum is the driver of successful learning and it should excite and ignite young people's curiosity, inspiring them to become independent learners. Our curriculum is designed to do just that. We are always adding new challenges and opportunities to keep learning fresh and invigorated.

Key Stage 3

This includes English, Maths and Science, ICT, Technology, History, Geography, Art, Music, Physical Education, Religious Education, MFL and Citizenship. The learning prepares students for the most appropriate pathway for them into key stage 4. There are lots of additional and enriching opportunities along the way such as the Engineering and Mathematics Challenge competitions to keep students focused on success.

Key Stage 4

In years 10 and 11 students study English, Maths and Science, RE, PE and ICT. In addition they will take a number of other subjects according to their special interests and aptitudes at Durham Community Business College or Fyndoune Community College and in some cases at one of our partner secondary schools. All students have the opportunity to undertake meaningful work experience to broaden their horizons.

Personalising Learning

Because we believe in developing the individual potential of every student, we also provide opportunities for early exam entry and to study additional subjects where the opportunity arises.

Specialist Status

Durham Community Business College is a Specialist Technology, Business and Enterprise College and Fyndoune Community College is a Specialist Humanities College with a Rural Dimension.

Our specialist teachers take responsibility for helping other schools raise their standards in these subjects, whilst improving their own skills and expertise further than they ever thought possible. We use this additional knowledge to drive up standards in every subject across the colleges. This approach has led the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust to acknowledge both colleges as amongst the best in the country.



Our Community

We are proud to be a significant part of the local community. Both colleges work in partnership with the respective Community Groups and offer extensive Community Learning opportunities for people of all ages both after college and during the day. Along side learning we have a wealth of leisure opportunities available ranging from sport to sugar craft! We believe in serving our wider community whilst also providing the very best education for our young people.

We Recognise that Everyone is Different

At the Durham Federation we believe that to be successful, the learning experience has to be personalised. That means developing the whole student to fulfil their potential. This involves the provision of a broad range of experiences, both inside and outside of the curriculum.

We are fortunate to have our very own construction centre, hair and beauty salon, fully equipped farm, business suite, extensive sports facilities and CAD/CAM workshop. Such resources allow our students to enjoy a unique experience at school and to develop their own passions. We have now won the Engineering Challenge four times and the Future Business Magnates Competition twice.

In sport we participate in an extensive range of fixtures and championships and have many students who compete at local and county level.





High Expectations and High Standards

At the Durham Federation we have exceptionally high expectations of our students in both behaviour and achievement. We believe that everyone has the right to learn in an environment which is calm and purposeful. At the Durham Federation our positive and caring learning environment is based on our values of mutual trust and respect and, with the support of parents and carers and our community, we believe we can truly work in partnership to support our students, your children.

Both inside and outside the classroom we aim to promote a culture of achievement where every child matters and is encouraged to reach beyond their dreams.

Progression – Post 16

We prepare our students well for moving into further education when they are 16. Our students go on to further study at New College Durham and Durham Sixth Form Centre or at other local schools. To support this we have developed a partnership with all of the local post 16 education providers. This means that all of our students and their parents and carers are able to access top quality advice and information when they are deciding what to do next. Our students really do have the very best opportunities because of the range of choices available to them. This leads many of them into successful university education.



Aspire and Lead

The Durham Federation is a partnership between Durham Community Business College and Fyndoune Community College

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