

Cockermouth School

Candidate Information Pack

AN EXCEPTIONAL LEARNING EXPERIENCE FOR ALL
aspire • enjoy • include • respect • community



Welcome to Cockermouth School



We are proud to be a high-performing, truly comprehensive school where excellent teaching, high expectations and a strong commitment to personal development underpin everything we do. Building on our established success and reputation, we see ourselves as a “restless” school – one that continually reflects, evaluates and evolves to ensure the very best experience for our students and staff alike.

Our students achieve outstanding academic outcomes, and we believe this is rooted in high-quality teaching across a broad and balanced curriculum. While success in core subjects is vital in opening doors for young people, we are equally committed to providing a rich educational experience that includes the arts, languages, sport and technology. We want every student to discover their strengths and passions, and we know that inspirational teachers make this possible.

Life at Cockermouth School extends well beyond the classroom. A wide range of enrichment opportunities, combined with a dedicated and skilled pastoral team, ensures that students are supported to thrive both academically and personally. Our core values – aspire, enjoy, include, respect and community – shape our culture and relationships, creating a school where diversity is celebrated, individuals are valued, and learning is both purposeful and enjoyable.



Our Sixth Form is a vibrant and ambitious part of our school community. With consistently strong academic outcomes that place us among the top-performing providers nationally, we are proud of the culture of scholarship, independence and aspiration that defines these final years. Students benefit from expert teaching, strong pastoral guidance and a wealth of opportunities beyond their studies, preparing them well for higher education, apprenticeships and employment.

For our staff, Cockermouth School is a supportive and forward-thinking professional environment. We are committed to collaboration, professional growth and the continuous development of teaching and learning. We value colleagues who share our ambition, creativity and belief that education transforms lives.

If you are passionate about making a difference, have high aspirations for all pupils, and excited by the opportunity to contribute to a thriving and reflective school community, we very much look forward meeting you.

Mr R J King
Headteacher



About Cockermouth School

Vision

At Cockermouth School, our vision is to inspire and empower every learner to achieve their full potential within a supportive, inclusive and ambitious environment. We aim to create a community where students develop confidence, resilience and curiosity, enabling them to achieve highly and develop a lifelong love of learning. Alongside academic success, we are committed to nurturing compassionate, responsible young people who are well prepared to contribute positively to society. Our staff play a vital role in shaping this environment, and we are proud of the strong culture of collaboration, care and ambition that defines our school community.

Values

Our values underpin everything we do at Cockermouth School and guide the way we learn, work and interact with one another.

Aspire

We encourage every member of our community to aim high and challenge themselves. By fostering ambition, determination and resilience, we support students to realise their potential and achieve their goals.

Enjoy

We believe learning should be engaging, stimulating and rewarding. By nurturing curiosity and enthusiasm in the classroom, we create an environment where students enjoy learning and develop both academically and personally.

Include

Inclusion is central to our ethos. We celebrate diversity and ensure that every student feels valued, supported and respected. Our culture is one where differences are embraced and all students have the opportunity to succeed.

Respect

Respect is fundamental to our school culture. We promote positive relationships between students, staff and the wider community, creating a safe and nurturing environment where everyone is treated with kindness and consideration.

Community

We believe that strong relationships are essential for success. By working closely with parents, carers, local organisations and one another, we create a supportive community that enriches the experience of every learner.

Maths

Maths teaching and learning is one of the strengths of our school. The Department has a range of staff from recently qualified teachers through to a number of very experienced teachers who have taught both tiers at GCSE as well as the full range of A-Level Maths and Further Maths content.

It is a collaborative department who are supportive of one another, sharing insights and looking to improve practice where possible. There is a lot of time committed to subject-specific CPD in which the leaders of the Maths team plan for staff to:

- look at topics where common approaches will support better student understanding in the long-term
- develop teaching knowledge of how to deliver content that promotes positive first-time learning
- how to support learners well within lessons when the learning is challenging

The Department is a calm, focused place for learning with high levels of engagement within lessons and a number of extra-curricular sessions taking place during and after school to interest and support learners.

The Learning for Life Trust

Cockermouth School is part of The Learning for Life Trust, a network of Cumbrian schools committed to providing outstanding education for young people.

The Trust works to strengthen collaboration between schools, share expertise and create opportunities for both staff and students to grow and succeed. Together, we are dedicated to serving our communities and ensuring that every young person receives the highest quality educational experience.

Academic Achievement

Cockermouth School is proud of the consistently high outcomes achieved by our students at both GCSE and A Level. Our results place us among the highest performing schools in the region.

The school has been recognised as the highest performing school in Cumberland and ranked among the top ten comprehensive schools in the North West in The Sunday Times Parent Power Guide.

GCSE Results 2025

Our 2025 GCSE results demonstrate the continued strength of teaching and learning at Cockermouth School.

- 57.4% of students achieved grade 5 or above in English and Maths, significantly higher than the national average of 41.5% and the Cumberland average of 36.4%.
- Our Attainment 8 score was 51.8, well above the national average of 43.7 and Cumberland's average of 42.2.
- 53.4% of students were entered for the EBacc, with an average point score of 4.78, again exceeding both national and local averages.

Many of our students continue their education in our thriving Sixth Form, while others progress to local colleges, apprenticeships and a wide range of high-quality post-16 opportunities.

A Level Results 2025

In 2025, our students achieved the strongest A Level results in the school's history, continuing our trend of consistency in academic excellence.

- Average points score: 41.25, well above the national average of 34.85, placing the school in the top 15% nationally
- 39% of students achieved AAB or higher, compared with 17.2% nationally
- 26 students achieved all A/A grades* across their subjects
- 10 students achieved A grades in every subject studied*
- 7 students achieved four A grades*

The majority of students secured places at their first-choice universities, while others successfully progressed to competitive apprenticeships, employment, the armed forces, or chose to take a gap year before beginning the next stage of their journey.

The Future – A Brand New School

An exciting new chapter lies ahead for Cockermouth School with the development of a new state-of-the-art school building, with work on site due to start this year.

Extensive feasibility work has been completed to ensure the site is fully prepared for development. The new building will be a net-zero school, incorporating modern, sustainable and environmentally responsible design.

Outstanding Facilities - The new school will include:

- A four-court sports hall and enhanced outdoor sports facilities
- A new astro pitch
- Dedicated bus and student pick-up areas
- A three-storey horseshoe-shaped building surrounding a central courtyard
- A secure design allowing community access to sports facilities outside school hours

Modern Learning Spaces - The building will also feature:

- A large multi-purpose assembly and dining hall with retractable theatre seating
- A flexible activity studio for dance, sport and enrichment activities
- Modern science laboratories with central preparation facilities
- A larger library and ICT-rich classrooms
- Specialist teaching spaces for Art, Design Technology, Food, Music and Drama
- Enhanced staff workspaces and collaborative areas

This exciting development will provide exceptional facilities for teaching and learning and reflects our ambition to continue delivering an exceptional educational experience for generations of students to come.

Job Description

Teacher of Maths

Responsible to: Director of Maths

Responsibilities

TEACHING

- To teach Maths to all abilities.
- To ensure lessons are well planned with clear aims and objectives.
- To ensure lessons are in line with the objectives within the schemes of learning.
- Liaise with relevant colleagues on the planning of units within the schemes for collaborative delivery.
- To assess and take account of students' prior knowledge and use the information to determine relevant start points for learning.
- To consider differing needs of students and adapt lessons appropriately.
- To encourage students to be actively involved in the learning process and in reviewing their own performance.
- To clearly communicate the purpose and framework of the lesson.
- To encourage intellectual curiosity.
- To deal with inappropriate behaviour quickly and effectively, applying the school's behaviour systems effectively.
- To check that subject matter is effectively communicated and understood through well-chosen worked examples and initial sequence of questioning.
- To set appropriate tasks and challenges for homework, ensuring that it is regularly marked and responded to with appropriate explanation and feedback.
- Set appropriate work for students absent from school for long-term health or disciplinary reasons.
- Set appropriate and demanding expectations for students' learning, motivation and presentation of work.
- Promote good attendance and monitor in accordance with the school's attendance policy.
- Work in collaboration with Teaching Assistants to support learners effectively.
- The person appointed will be expected to play a part in the school's extra-curricular programme.

ASSESSMENT, RECORDING & REPORTING

- Maintain notes and plans of lessons undertaken and records of students' work.
- Mark, monitor and return work within a reasonable and agreed time span providing constructive feedback and use the information to plan appropriate intervention and/or inform future planning.
- Carry out assessment programmes (e.g. reports) as agreed by the school or department.
- Attend the appropriate parents' evenings to keep parents informed as to the progress of their child.
- Be familiar with the Code of Practice for identification and assessment of Special Education Needs and keep appropriate records of plans for students.

PASTORAL WORK

- Undertake responsibility for a tutor group.
- Be the first point of contact for parents of students in the tutor group.
- Promote good attendance and monitor in accordance with the school's attendance policy.

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

- Support and promote the aims of the school.
- Set a good example to students in terms of appropriate dress, standards of punctuality and attendance.
- Promote the aims of the school by attendance at and participation in events such as open evenings, celebration evenings and the like (as appropriate to their responsibilities).
- Set yourself challenging yet realistic targets that contribute to school improvement and own professional development.
- Take responsibility for your own professional development and participate in staff training when provided.
- Reflect on your own practice as well as the practices of the school with the aim of improving all that we do.
- Read and adhere to the various policies of the school.
- Participate in the management of school by attending various team and staff meetings.
- Undertake duties as prescribed within school policies.
- Ensure all deadlines are met as published in the school calendar.
- Be proactive and take responsibility for matters relating to Health & Safety and the legal framework within which we operate.
- Undertake professional duties that may be reasonably assigned to them by the Headteacher (eg. cover, etc).
- To undertake such daily or other duties or meetings as are assigned as part of the school's professional expectations of staff (eg. Break Duties, Before & After School Duties, Parents' Evenings, Departmental meetings).
- To play a full part in the life of the school community, to support its ethos and values and to encourage students to follow this example.

This job description may be changed by the Headteacher, in consultation with you, to reflect or anticipate changes in the job commensurate with the grade and job role.

It is not an exhaustive list and teachers are reminded to read the Teachers' Pay and Conditions document.

Person Specification

Teacher of Maths

	ESSENTIAL	DESIRABLE
QUALIFICATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Degree or equivalent.• Qualified Maths teacher.	
EXPERIENCE Recent and successful experience of	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ICT knowledge.• Recent relevant INSET.• Good organisational and decision making skills.• Ability to communicate well both orally and in writing.• Excellent classroom practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Delivering across the age and ability range.
KNOWLEDGE Understanding of	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Good subject knowledge.• Principles of effective teaching and learning.• Models of behaviour management.• Raising standards in education.	
PROFESSIONAL SKILLS Ability to	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Deliver outstanding lessons.• Use ICT to raise achievement.• Communicate effectively with a variety of staff, parents and governors.	
PERSONAL ATTRIBUTES: Evidence of	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Personal qualities which enable successful relationships with students, staff, parents and governors.• Integrity and sound professional judgement.• Drive, enthusiasm and a willingness to initiate and contribute to new developments, and the ability to inspire others.• Ability to work under pressure.• Creative and imaginative.• Hard working with high energy levels.• Team player.• Enthusiastic.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Willingness to get involved with extra-curricular activities.

Whether you already live locally or are looking to relocate, Cumbria is an amazing place to live...

What's so special about Cumbria?



Unrivalled Natural Beauty & Outdoor Lifestyle: Home to England's highest mountain (Scafell Pike), deepest lake (Wastwater), and longest lake (Windermere), it is a paradise for hiking, climbing, cycling, and water sports.



Unique Food & Drink: Renowned for local delicacies such as Cumberland sausage, Kendal Mint Cake, and world-class dining, including Michelin-starred restaurants.



Rich Culture & History: Features Hadrian's Wall (UNESCO World Heritage Site), The home of William Wordsworth, historic market towns like Cockermouth, Keswick and Kendal, and a vibrant arts scene



Affordable Housing & Cost of Living: Housing, particularly outside the immediate tourist hotspots, is often more affordable than the national average.



Safety & Community: With low crime rates, it is considered one of the safest and most family-friendly counties in England.



Connectivity: Despite its rural charm, Cumbria is connected by the M6 corridor, offering good road and rail links to major cities like Carlisle, Newcastle, and London.



For those seeking a blend of scenic solitude and vibrant, close-knit communities, Cumbria offers an ideal, picturesque, and peaceful environment.

Cockermouth School

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Cockermouth School is part of the Learning for Life Trust
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