



Welcome

- 2 Weir St
  - Science
  - Art
  - Geography
  - History
- 1 Finlay St
  - Science
  - Social Sciences
  - Ethics & Philosophy
  - Business Studies
  - Mathematics
  - 6
    - ICT
    - Lydia Library
    - Meeting Room
- G James St
  - Technology
  - Language
  - James Hall
  - Newcastle
  - Sport
- Zouche St
  - Musical



# Durham Johnston Prospectus





# Welcome to Durham Johnston Comprehensive School

**SAPERE AUDE - DARE TO BE WISE**

## **Fulfil Your Potential At Durham Johnston**

Durham Johnston was founded in 1901 as a mixed grammar school and is now an 11-18 comprehensive school with 1680 students. We have a first-class reputation for excellence in Durham, the wider region and nationally.

We provide a high quality, aspirational learning experience for young people from a wide range of backgrounds in a truly comprehensive and inclusive school.

Generations of Durham families have had the best start in life with us. We think carefully about how each individual develops over 5 or 7 years and

offer a broad curriculum and wide variety of extra-curricular activities for all students.



the ROMAN MYSTERIES  
**The Thieves of Ostia**

CAROLINE LAWRENCE



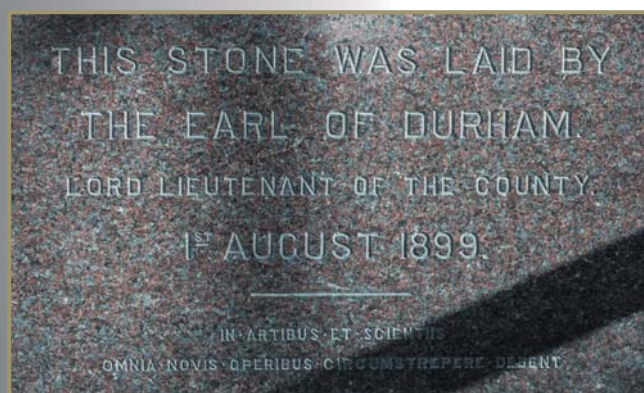
What do we aim for ?

Sapere Aude

Since 1926 our motto has been Sapere Aude; Dare to be Wise. This is the integral to our ethos, which is based upon academic excellence for all, the acquisition of knowledge, the importance of social justice, public service and ensuring that a large number of opportunities are available for our students, locally, nationally and globally. We believe in collective endeavor and the importance of the school community.

We aim to build on our history, to adapt as society changes and maintain our position among the best schools in England. As we plan and develop each year we consult with governors, staff, students and parents, and note the findings of other assessors such as OFSTED who judged the school outstanding in February 2015. We strive to assist our young people to fulfil their potential so that they leave us with the confidence, skills and knowledge for a successful future.

Headteacher: Andrew O'Sullivan



Durham Johnston's Foundation Stone 1899

# What does Ofsted think of the Johnston?

- Durham Johnston provides an excellent education for all of its students.
- Students are happy and feel very safe in school. The school's procedures for keeping students safe are exemplary.
- Students throughout the school are courteous, polite and respectful. They adopt the school's culture of celebrating diversity.
- Students are keen to learn and relish the challenges that their teachers set. Their excellent attitudes to learning contribute strongly to their success.
- Students with special educational needs or who are vulnerable receive superb care and support from staff and fellow students in school.
- There is no one particular teaching methodology or style that dominates at Durham Johnston. Instead, teachers use their deep knowledge about their students and their impressive subject knowledge to adapt teaching approaches to the subject and to the particular learning objective being worked on. This enables students to progress outstandingly well. This agile approach means that students do not get bored and are inspired, excited and motivated as they go from lesson to lesson each day.
- Teaching over time is outstanding. This leads to accelerated progress for students and the attainment of high standards in almost all subject areas that significantly exceed national averages at GCSE, AS and A level. Such high standards of attainment have been the norm at this school for many years now.
- Students who are academically more able are challenged and stretched by their teachers to achieve the highest standards possible. Disadvantaged students make good progress from their starting points in relation to other students nationally. Students with disabilities and those with special educational needs make progress that is generally at least as good as other students in the school, and exceeds that of similar students nationally.
- Student achievement in the sixth form is outstanding.

**“students work extremely hard, are very keen to succeed and really enjoy learning”**

**“Students are punctual, attend school regularly and behave well. Many aspects of their personal development are outstanding. It is these qualities, combined with their high attainment in the basic skills of literacy and numeracy, their high level of competence in using information and communication technology (ICT) and their willingness to take responsibility for themselves and others that make them outstandingly well-equipped for future life.”**



## What are the main differences between your primary school and Durham Johnston?

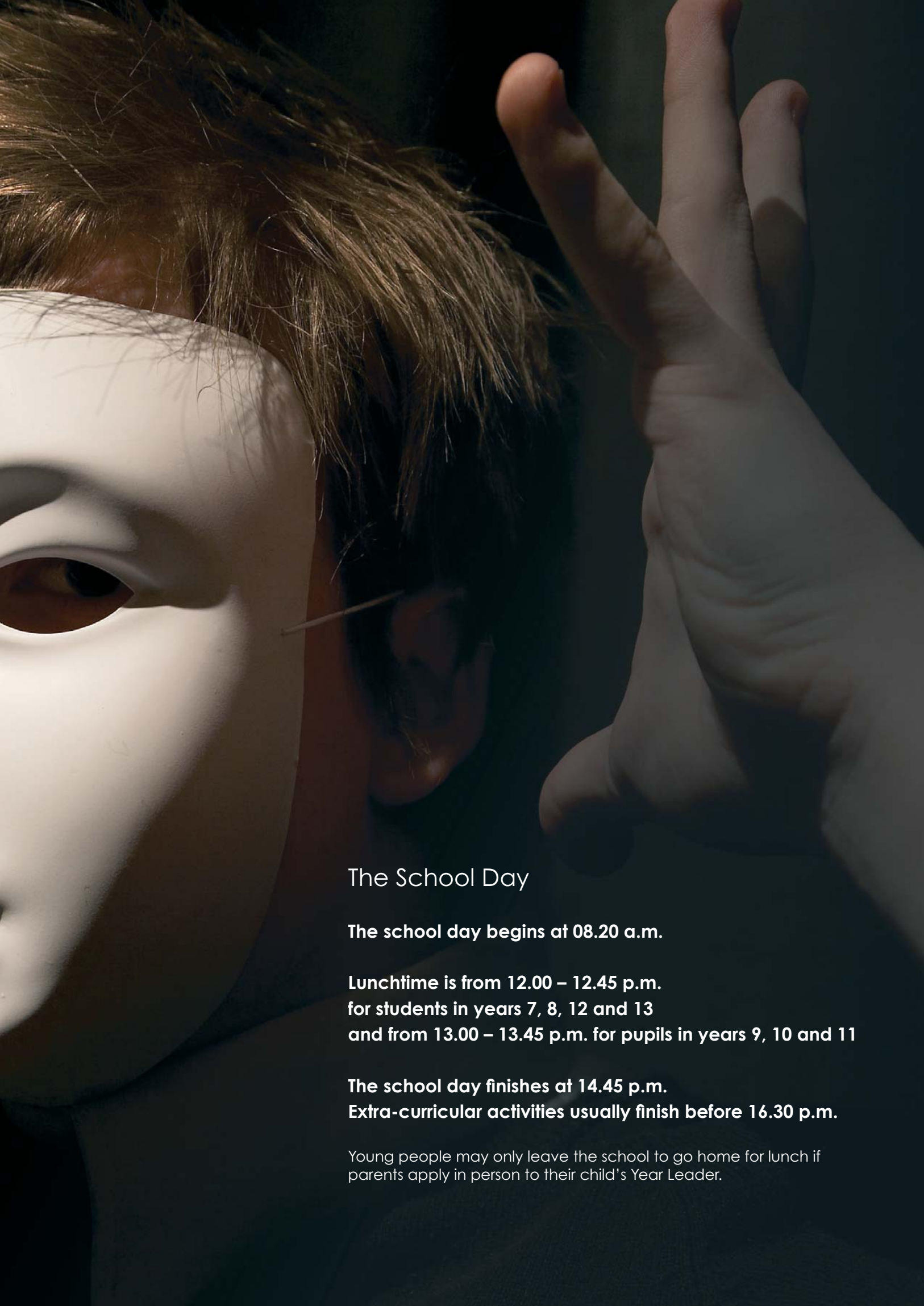
Transition is very important and we work very closely with our primary partners and families to make sure that our new students settle quickly and feel confident. Our Head of 7 and the school's transition team will visit Year 6 and their schools between March and July. New students have the opportunity to visit the school on Induction Day in June to meet with their form tutor, to sample a variety of lessons and clubs and to make new friends. Parents are also invited to come to the school and to meet with our transition team; we always seek to remove any anxiety about changing schools and to reassure parents, as it can be a significant change for parents too. When young people join the school in other year groups, we try very hard to make sure that they also settle in and feel well supported. Parents and students meet key staff and we liaise with previous schools. New students feel part of our community very quickly make friends easily in our happy atmosphere. We often note that the school's size is its strength and new students always find others that they can relate to and share interests with.











## The School Day

**The school day begins at 08.20 a.m.**

**Lunchtime is from 12.00 – 12.45 p.m.  
for students in years 7, 8, 12 and 13  
and from 13.00 – 13.45 p.m. for pupils in years 9, 10 and 11**

**The school day finishes at 14.45 p.m.  
Extra-curricular activities usually finish before 16.30 p.m.**

Young people may only leave the school to go home for lunch if parents apply in person to their child's Year Leader.

# The Curriculum

## Key Stage 3 (Years 7, 8 and 9)

We think that it is hugely important that students have the opportunity to study a wide variety of subjects and that the curriculum isn't narrowed for them too early. During this key stage pupils will study English, Mathematics, Science, Languages, History, Geography, RE, PE, Technology, Music, Art, and Computing. Students will choose an additional language in Year 8 which continues into Year 9. They are then given a significant amount of guidance and support as they choose their GCSE options.

## Key Stage 4

At KS4 as well as the core curriculum and the other KS3 subjects a number of additional subjects are offered, these change with demand, but would typically include at GCSE, Business Studies, Computer Science, Photography, Performing Arts and a variety of technology subjects. We also offer vocational courses. We value Modern Foreign Languages and a large number of our students take at least one language at GCSE. When young people join us in Year 7 at Durham Johnston they are taught in mixed ability groups for all subjects, apart from Maths and English. In those subjects they are taught in sets according to their ability, but our sets do not remain static and we regularly assess the appropriate support and teaching that will help students to learn effectively. Setting increases from Year 8 upwards and we review our arrangements regularly to make sure all pupils are in the right teaching groups. In the Learning Support department, we are committed to enabling young people to have a full, happy and successful time at the school. Our core purpose is to assist students with SEN and additional needs to fulfil their potential. With this aim, we identify the needs of these students in several ways and then use this information to offer tailored interventions and focused support.









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**SAPERE AUDE - DARE TO BE WISE**  
**Be the best you can be at Durham Johnston**

We believe that all the information in this booklet was correct when it was printed. However, we are a dynamic school, constantly improving our policies and practices. Please contact the school if you require updated information.

