



BARNARD CASTLE SCHOOL





WELCOME

If you are reading this prospectus, it tells me something has sparked your interest in our unique and wonderful school. That is fantastic; keep on reading, and if at the end of this, we've still piqued your interest, then come and visit us and see what it is like first hand.

We are a remarkable community, where opportunities to succeed in many fields are a given. We are also a place in which our greatest strength is the ability to create an incredibly supportive and welcoming environment which allows each and every pupil to flourish. I often say when I am away from this special place that I wish I could 'bottle Barney' and offer interested listeners a taste. The following pages will offer some insight, but may not fully quench your thirst. So please do get in touch; I look forward to meeting you soon.

Tony Jackson

Headmaster





PRE-PREP

From their first day with us, children are encouraged to discover, explore, create and practise their skills and knowledge in our secure and caring environment. We foster an enthusiasm for learning that will provide an essential foundation for life.

Our broad and balanced curriculum is carefully planned and structured, offering our youngest learners a rich and exhilarating experience. Our activities - both in and out of the classroom - ensure that learning is fun, engaging and purposeful.

We nurture imagination and encourage creativity, and our understanding pastoral care ensures that each child flourishes as they set out along their unique and special journey in Prep School.

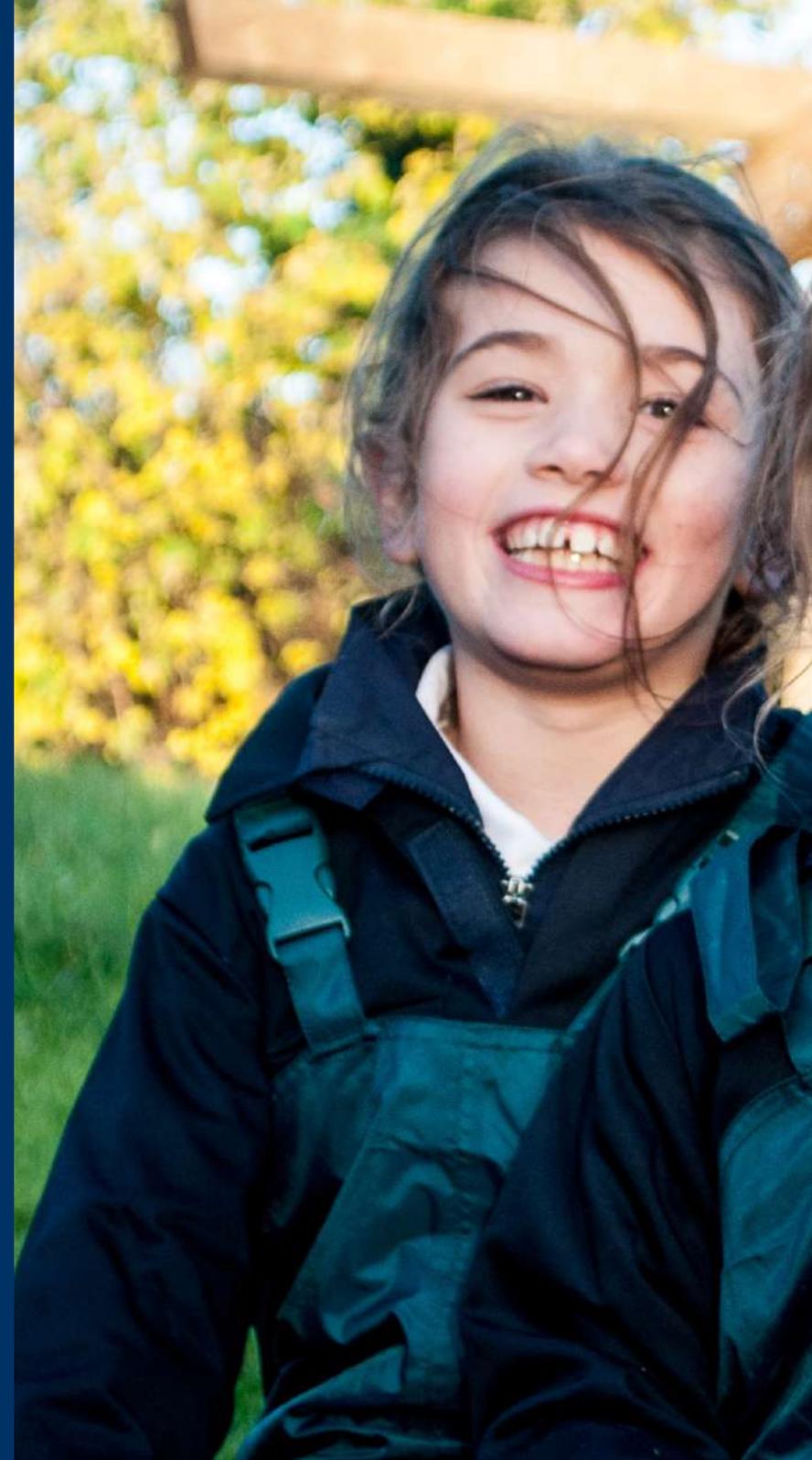
Barney.
Be happy.

PREP

Building on the curiosities nurtured in the Pre-Prep, life in the Prep School encourages children to develop personal interests, establish new friendships and evolve a burgeoning sense of responsibility.

Benefiting from ideal class sizes, our children thoroughly enjoy life in and beyond the classroom. The excellent teaching staff ensure that learning is focused and that each child is encouraged to do their best. Working beyond the confines of the National Curriculum, pupils at the Prep School follow a subject based curriculum that embraces a range of learning experiences. We are keen that children become independent learners as they progress through the school, enabling them to face the future with confidence. Above all, we believe that learning should be a fun and enjoyable experience for all.

Barney.
Be inspired.









SENIOR

Barnard Castle School is where girls and boys grow up with surprising rapidity, entering as children and moving into the Sixth Form on the cusp of adulthood. Fortunately, our space, curriculum and ethos allow them to grow up at their own pace.

Pupils here are naturally curious, creative and competitive. They will find new subjects being introduced by inspirational teachers and new activities and sports being enjoyed with enthusiasm. Our aim is to inspire girls and boys and to prepare them for increasingly independent study, to cultivate in them a love of knowledge, an interest in how they learn, and a desire to keep doing it, which will remain with them long after they have left us.

Barney is a busy place. Here, our day pupils as well as our boarders, benefit from the school's strong boarding tradition and ethos. This means that we never close and there is a real feeling of being part of a vibrant, extended family throughout the entire week.

Barney.
Be humble.

SIXTH FORM

Barney Sixth Form is different. We offer our students the opportunity to develop their own set of transferable skills. This gives them the foundation to embrace challenges in their future, and within the modern workplace. The growing competition for places in higher education from the UK and abroad, an ever-changing global market and the inevitability of emerging industry demands this.

As educators, we look ten years ahead. With the rise of artificial intelligence, softer skills are vital. We equip our students with the ability to make judgements, show empathy and build a moral compass, whilst defining their own academic thread. Barney offers A Levels, Pre-U and the Extended Project Qualification and all subjects are delivered in small classes by expert classroom practitioners. Not only does every student have a personal tutor providing academic and pastoral advice, they have an experienced UCAS advisor and dedicated careers co-ordinator on-site. Furthermore, our bespoke Sixth Form Centre is unrivalled in the space it gives our students to work independently, share conversation and experiences with peers and tutors alike, and of course to relax. Barney encourages a thriving social life and we are keen for students to build influential and lasting relationships.

Barney.
Be ambitious.









BOARDING

At the heart of Barney's family is our boarding community. A tightly-knit group of around 150 girls and boys and 30 resident adults makes boarding in this stunning and well-resourced environment, a fantastic opportunity to make friends for life. It also allows our boarders to improve academic performance and make regular use of the school's excellent sports and recreation facilities.

Boarding is a popular choice for a range of reasons. For some girls and boys it gives them a unique opportunity to experience lasting friendships and stability while their parents' occupations take them away from home. For others, boarding creates valuable time which would otherwise be absorbed by long bus journeys of up to two hours each day. Some appreciate the structure of Prep during week nights and the abundance of support from the range of subject specialists who live in school. Many, particularly those in the Sixth Form, enjoy a level of independence from their parents which, while still being cared for within school, provides an invaluable experience of communal living before they move away to university.

Barney.
Be independent.

IN THE CLASSROOM

The exceptional quality of teaching at Barnard Castle School is reflected in excellent examination results. These are borne out of easy, open and respectful relationships between our teachers and children. That rapport, in the hands of passionate, skilled teachers, gives our girls and boys a formidable academic edge.

For our most able pupils in Senior School we offer enrichment programmes in academia, sport, art and music and our record of success in preparing all for applications to competitive universities is outstanding. For those who need to consolidate a topic or whose confidence needs to be bolstered, we offer Learning Support and subject-specific tutorials as required.

Intellectually, we want all of our children to feel realistically challenged and stimulated to discover more. Therefore, girls and boys are taught in sets in core subjects so that no-one feels either dispirited by the complexity or bored by the simplicity of a task. Our curriculum is designed to offer real breadth and every opportunity is taken to engage our pupils in truly multidisciplinary learning whenever possible.

Barney.

Be curious.









COMMUNITY

We value individuality in our girls and boys and this is also reflected in our Houses, each of which has its own character. Whether joining us as a day or boarding pupil, all girls and boys will be guided and supported by outstanding pastoral care. The Chaplain is also always on hand and the Sixth Form run a highly successful peer support network, emphasising that every member of our community has a duty to support each other.

At Barney the gifted individual, the grafting enthusiast and the team-player can flourish. Music and drama thrive and the Chapel Choir has a reputation that reaches far beyond Teesdale. Yet alongside these and our major sports, there is also plenty of room for those who want to spend time debating and public speaking, playing chess or are interested in world cinema, shooting, dog-walking, learning cross-stitch, exploring the solar system and a host of other pursuits.

At Barney we strive to create a dynamic and talented community, where children can learn from and with each other, and appreciate the diversity of human nature.

Barney.
Be genuine.

ACTIVITIES

It takes courage to dive in, but that is exactly how we ask our girls and boys to approach each of the challenges and opportunities that come their way here. Whether it is preparing to give a speech at a formal Lectern Club dinner, taking a lead role in the latest drama production, pushing the boundaries on a CCF expedition or mentoring a younger pupil, we want all of our children to develop competencies and talents to take them beyond the classroom; to become interesting as well as interested. Through over 100 activities such as the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, Peer Support, a highly active Sixth Form Executive Committee and many others, Barney pupils learn to listen, lead and assert themselves confidently with a light touch.

Barney.
Be challenged.









SPORT

Barnard Castle School has developed a national reputation for girls' and boys' sport. As we endeavour to educate and develop the whole person, sport has an important place in school and in the curriculum. All girls and boys are introduced and coached by experts in a range of team sports. Our reputation is not confined to one discipline and the school enjoys regular competitive success in rugby, hockey, cross-country, football, swimming, netball, cricket, tennis, athletics and squash. Our girls and boys have achieved county, regional and national representative honours in a range of disciplines and many continue to do so after they leave school.

Barney.

Be a leader.

THE ARTS

Music plays a vital and vibrant role in the life of the school. The range of opportunities for musicians and singers is immense and pupils are encouraged to indulge their passion for music and share their talents. They may take part in Chapel choir, the house singing competition, orchestra and jazz bands, ensembles, rock groups, school musicals and charity concerts.

Drama is a thriving academic and extracurricular department; with the recent addition of GCSE as well as A Level, students from Year 10 and above are able to engage with this practical subject both as actors and technicians. Extracurricular drama also continues to grow, seeing no less than six productions in a year, allowing pupils from every year group to participate.

Barney.
Be you.









ONCE A BARNARDIAN, ALWAYS A BARNARDIAN

This is something we take great pride in. When you join Barney, you join something far bigger than yourself. You join a club, a network, a community that reaches far beyond the school gates, and lasts a lifetime.

With a fully connected Old Barnardian network of almost 4,500 names, located in 53 countries around the globe, the opportunities to make the most of Barney beyond your time at the school are endless.

At school, Old Barnardians are regular visitors to give talks, presentations and advice to the next generation. There are offers of work placements, in addition to university and career advice. There is a special connection between those who have gone before, and those who are entering, and this connection lasts forever.

Our alumni network is thriving, with regular dinners and reunions hosted in school, in London and across the globe, with recent events in Hong Kong, New York and Australia.

In a world which is increasingly shrinking with the onset of artificial intelligence, we recognise the vital importance of building lasting relationships, and not only do we educate our pupils in achieving the skills to do this but, upon becoming a Barnardian, they instantly become part of a global, connected network.

Barney.
Be connected.

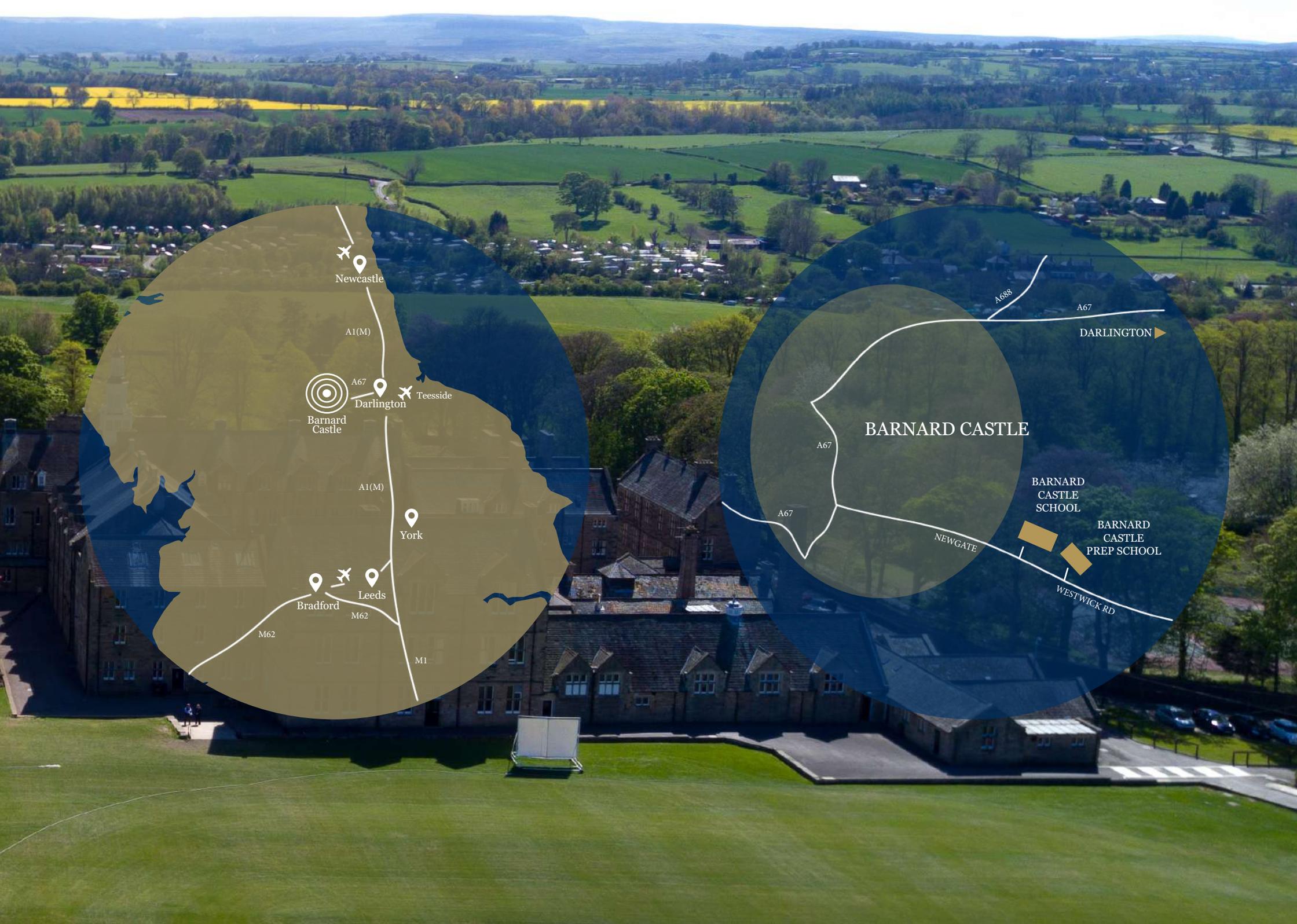
SAFE & SECURE LOCATION

Barnard Castle, a historical market town, is located on the border of County Durham and North Yorkshire. It is surrounded by some of the most beautiful countryside so that in every direction you look the scene could make a perfect postcard.

The school sits within 60 acres of land which allows for a broad range of outdoor activities and sports including our own full size Astro turf hockey pitch.

We are situated in an excellent rural environment but with great transport links to the rest of the country. We are only 20 minutes away from the A1(M) and Darlington Railway Station; the main line to London Kings Cross takes 2 hours, 20 minutes. Barney is also half an hour away from Teesside International Airport and an hour away from Newcastle International Airport. Leeds Bradford is one and a half hours away. Further, we are adjacent to the A66 which is the doorway to the Lake District and the West Coast.





SEE FOR YOURSELF

Our door is always open; everyday is an open day and we would like to extend a warm invitation to come and see first hand what life at Barney is really like. If you would like to arrange a visit please contact our Registrar, who will be happy to organise a guided tour and personal meeting with the Headmaster or the Headmistress of the Prep School.

For further information:

Tel: +44(0)1833 696030

Email: admissions@barneyschool.org.uk

We hope to welcome you and your family to Barney soon.

Barney.
Be part of it.



