



Breckenbrough

- more than a school

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www.breckenbrough.org.uk

Breckenbrough School, Sandhutton nr Thirsk, North Yorkshire, YO7 4EN

Our history

Breckenbrough School was established in 1935 and has evolved from the ideals of its founder, Dr Arthur Fitch. He believed that young people who experience difficulties could be helped by putting them in a safe, peaceful and secure environment, where they could be given space and time to address their difficulties by their own intellect and skills.

Breckenbrough is a Non-Maintained Special School (NMSS) approved by the Secretary of State for 60 students. We offer day and residential placements for males with a range of complex needs, including Autistic Spectrum Condition (ASC), Asperger's Syndrome (AS), Pathological Demand Avoidance (PDA), Tourette's Syndrome (TS) and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD).

Like our students, Breckenbrough is unique; offering a bespoke, special school approach in delivering the National Curriculum. We pride ourselves in being a 'specialist' school, providing a nurturing, supportive and low stress environment to help our students learn to manage their behaviours and make social and academic progress.



Results: 100% of Breckenbrough students progress into High

Our Vision

We aim to support our students to achieve two key goals during their time here:

- To be themselves, aspire and be successful
- To develop strategies and coping mechanisms to move towards a level of self-actualisation in order to thrive in the neurotypical world.



Our Quaker ethos underpins all we aspire to build in our students: respect, tolerance, equality, understanding and forgiveness. We deliberately avoid punishment and forced discipline, believing that resolution of conflict can come about through behaviour modelling and restorative justice.

As a staff team, we work:

1. To encourage the students to genuinely believe that they can become worthwhile and accepted members of society through academic and social success.
2. To encourage each student to recognise his own individual differences and work to understand them through a relaxed and supportive environment, which emphasises care, control, safety, responsibility and above all progress.
3. To help each student develop appropriate personal and social skills by encouraging and supporting them to take greater responsibility for their own actions, thus developing their self-awareness and improving their interpersonal skills.
4. To help each student appreciate the individual differences of others and to support others in overcoming their difficulties.
5. To emphasise the importance of education and to use academic, vocational and social success to build up self esteem and confidence, both during their time at Breckenbrough and for when they move on to further education, higher education or the world of employment and training.
6. To plan, with the support of Beyond Breckenbrough (a partner charity), the successful transition to further education, higher education or the world of employment and training.
7. To encourage students to develop individual talents, abilities and interests through high quality teaching and care and a broad and balanced curriculum, incorporating individual programmes of academic and social skills learning, in order to gain a wide life experience.
8. To develop and sustain effective active partnerships between students, the school, family/guardians and external agencies.

Further Education, Further Education, an apprenticeship or employment.



“ My son is a different boy! So positive about school. Last year I had a young man at home unable to attend mainstream education and desperately unhappy. Now his is well on his way to a happy time in his education, he bounces out of bed every school day and talks about his day at school. I can only say this is down to the fantastic staff and boys at Breckenbrough. ”

Parent

Academic offer

Breckenbrough is a special school in the truest sense by providing a platform for all students to achieve their academic potential, regardless of their complex needs and the barriers to learning experienced on a daily basis.

Our students follow the National Curriculum with a clear and established progression from Key Stage 2 through to Further and Higher Education. We offer a full GCSE programme, with the option of A Levels, BTEC or vocational studies within the Sixth Form, either onsite or through one of our partnership colleges.

Through our curriculum, we achieve positive outcomes by:

1. Providing a bespoke curriculum, which the whole cohort can access and through which everyone can achieve.
2. Demonstrating an understanding of our cohort's complex needs, which allows the teaching team to devise, plan and implement quality learning experiences.
3. Providing a learning environment with small group numbers and high staffing ratios in order to support our students in overcoming the various barriers to learning experienced within mainstream provision.
4. Clear and established progression routes to suit the range of academic and vocational skills we have within the school.



“The staff help the students to develop their strengths. For some of the students, this is the first time they have ever succeeded socially or academically.”

Ofsted

Academic success is important for Breckenbrough students, often being a foundation of their self-esteem and self-worth. Our students are proud of their achievements and understand that studying at Breckenbrough can be a springboard for the next stage of their young lives.

Social education offer

We use a range of activities within the 24 hour curriculum to encourage social education and develop our students' confidence, self-esteem and social resilience. We believe that in order to maximise educational opportunities, it is essential that teaching and social education staff work collaboratively to provide an accessible, worthwhile and relevant 24 hour curriculum.

We firmly believe that education is not restricted to the classroom and is an ongoing process, which happens in all parts of the waking day. When engaged in these activities, the staff encourage the students to be proactive and take the lead, knowing that the staff are there to support them through any difficulties. We strive to provide a varied programme of activities to meet individual interests and needs.

The Independent Living Skills Assessment supports the development of social and independent skills of for all our students. This is now closely aligned with the 'preparing for adulthood' section within EHCPs.

Our in-house Tracking Social Progress model and a set of associated soft tools aligns with EHCP targets, assisting to identify additional or supplemental areas of development. The system proactively guides and supports social development and growth in a student, documenting this progress into tangible evidence.





“ *The students feel they can be themselves here because they are understood by the staff and other students. Consequently, their self-esteem and individuality flourishes. One student said: 'It really is much more than a school.'* ”

Ofsted



“ Having endured a torrid couple of previous years in mainstream school, it became more and more obvious to us that he wasn't coping and he was suffering as a result. His first couple of months at Breckenbrough has seen him settle in at his own pace where he has been allowed the time to adapt to his new environment. We have already seen the benefits in his behaviour at home and for the first time in years he comes home with a smile on his face after school. ”

Parent

SEN provision

Breckenbrough offers a safe, flexible and nurturing environment, with a focus on holistic development, including access to an onsite psychologist who works directly with students and parents. The psychologist supports teachers, learning support staff and social education staff in developing strategies and supportive plans for students.

We offer speech and language therapy and occupational therapy as specified in the child's Education, Health and Care Plan, in school through consultant specialists. As well as one to one direct sessions, ongoing support is offered within the classroom by school staff.

Breckenbrough also offer an ongoing program of social guidance and conflict resolution sessions, working with the students in supporting their variety of needs. Each session is student centred, using focussed activities based around social interaction, communication, reciprocal skills, games and social conversation, and reflecting on behaviour.



“ Partnership with a range of other providers contributes significantly to achievement, as it enables the pupils' needs to be met even more closely. ”

Ofsted





“ The range of activities enables the students to develop their own interests and significantly improves the students’ social skills and confidence. ”

Ofsted

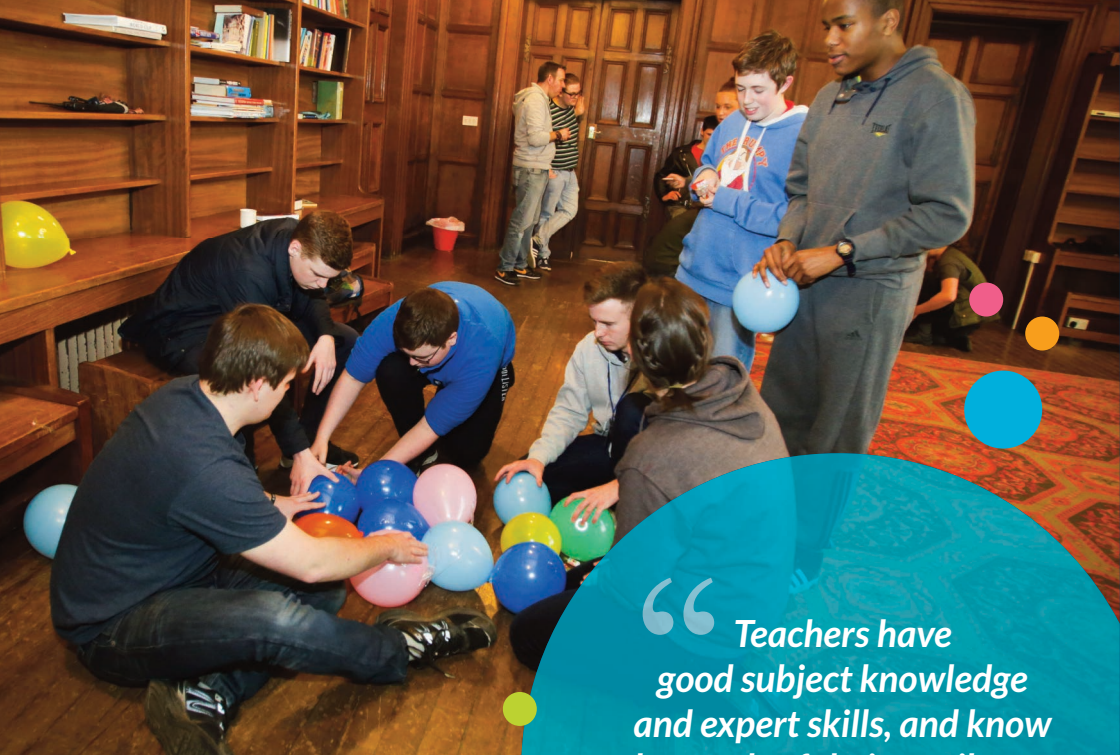
Enrichment

Enrichment forms a valuable part of our educational philosophy and is incorporated into every aspect of our provision. We adapt areas of the academic curriculum into activities which are exciting, engaging, active, different from the regular school day, and full of learning.

Our Enrichment Programme aims to hold student attention and motivate students to broaden their learning experiences. By creating an enriching learning environment, students develop a range of 'smarts'. Smarts are another term we use for intelligences/skills, which directly impact our ability in a chosen area of study.

Based in the North Yorkshire countryside but within easy access of the A1 and A19, we have access to a huge variety of locations 'on our doorstep' allowing us the opportunity to offer our students a vast choice of educational, sporting and activity based locations. As well as local area trips, we also offer overseas trips to students, including an annual ski trip to Italy for the Y10, Y11 and 6th Form and a Y9 language and history trip to France.





“ Teachers have good subject knowledge and expert skills, and know the needs of their pupils very well. As a result, pupils are usually highly engaged in their learning. ”

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