

The School:

Longridge Towers School is a thriving small independent school for children from the ages of 3 to 18 set in the stunning Northumberland countryside just outside Berwick-upon-Tweed. It is a school with a very special atmosphere, a place where pupils aspire and achieve academically, growing and finding personal fulfilment and developing into rounded, mature citizens. Individual attention to pupils' needs is a key feature of the school's ethos and it is a place where pupils are valued and nurtured in a secure and stimulating environment.

In recent years the school roll has increased and there are currently 334 pupils. There is a waiting list for some year groups for pupils who wish to join the school in the next academic year. The School is non-selective and attracts children from a wide area both north and south of the Scottish Border; most of which use the extensive school bus network to get to and from school. There are currently 35 children who board at the School and these are a mix of full-time, weekly and flexi boarders. The school is fairly unique in that it is the part-time home for children who live on Holy Island. Holy Island is a very small tidal island, with a community of approximately 150. Access to and from the island is by means of a causeway, which is only navigable at low tide. The majority of pupils study for ten or eleven GCSEs including three sciences and at least one language and most move on into the thriving Sixth Form. One of the features of the school is the small class sizes and the overall pupil teacher ratio is nine to one.

Longridge Towers is a School where pupils are encouraged to fulfil and exceed their potential in academic, sporting and extra-curricular spheres. The School's outstanding reputation is based upon its success in achieving this, whilst ensuring that its pupils are well-mannered, balanced individuals who will make major contributions to the communities in which they lead their future lives. This success is reflected in the excellent public examination results obtained by pupils. This year Sixth Formers achieved a 98% pass rate at A level with 75% of the grades being at A* to C. All of this year's leavers wishing to pursue further studies at university achieved results that enabled them to do so, with the vast majority going to their first choice institution. In so doing, they added to the School's record of success in enabling its students to proceed to the next stage of their career. At GCSE, 88% of candidates gained five or more GCSE passes at grades A* to C, with the overall pass rate at grade C or above being 89%. Many pupils achieve more than this, and the average number of GCSE A* to C passes achieved by an individual candidate in this School is 7.6.

The school runs a whole host of extra-curricular activities and trips and the current academic year has seen pupils visiting Germany on the school exchange programme as well as Poland, Norway, Spain, Italy and Cambodia and Laos. Closer to home, geography field trips have taken pupils to Cumbria and Yorkshire and the thriving Duke of Edinburgh Awards Scheme regularly sees pupils hiking and camping in the Scottish borders.

The school is a registered charity in England (registration number 513534) and a limited company (registration number 1675232). The school has a board of governors who are also directors of the limited company and who are all volunteers. The board comprises of some current parents, some former parents and a number of people who had no prior connection with the school.

The Facilities:

Longridge Towers School's excellent facilities are based around the beautiful original building. An extensive programme of development has seen the creation of additional buildings such as the Stobo Junior School Building and the Sports Hall as well as extensive refurbishment of the main building. The addition of an all-weather pitch in April 2017 has further complemented our already excellent sporting facilities which currently include hockey and rugby pitches on the extensive site.

The Staff:

There are currently over 100 members of staff, forty of whom are teachers. The remainder working in administration, maintenance, driving, boarding, catering and cleaning; 40% being men and 60% being women.

Location and Directions:

Longridge Towers School is just outside the beautiful market town of Berwick-upon-Tweed, being only a mile from the England/Scotland border. The railway station, which is on the main East Coast line is three miles away. Taxis are always available just outside the station building. If travelling by car, the school is just over a mile from the A1 on the A698. There is adequate parking for staff on site and ample visitor parking is situated at the front of the school.

Northumberland as a place to work and live:

The rugged county of Northumberland borders Cumbria in the north east of England and Scotland. Large parts of Hadrian's Wall stretch through the county and it has the largest number of castles in England. The region is sparsely populated, making it a quiet retreat from crowded city life. But the Virgin Trains East Coast line provides a convenient route to major cities. Average house prices in the county are one of the lowest in the UK at around £185,000. Northumberland appeals to buyers who prize natural beauty and history. In fact, there are no major cities and no motorways in the county at all. You can enjoy breath-taking natural beauty. The windswept coastline is in the east, the Pennines, a range of mountains and hills, is in the north and west, and Northumberland National Park runs along the border with Scotland. And the county has its fair share of historical sites too. Particularly popular is Alnwick Castle, which was used as Hogwarts in the Harry Potter films.

How to apply for a post:

Instructions for applying for vacancies are individual to each job: please check the specific job description. Nonetheless, in general terms if, having looked through the website and read the Job Description and this Information for Applicants, you think this particular post at this distinctive school would suit you, please say so (and why) in a letter of application. You must complete the application form in full, even if you also want to attach a CV. You are asked to apply either electronically, e-mailing all documents to ecrossan@lts.org.uk or by post.

Please read this Information for Applicants with particular care before applying. And please note that Longridge Towers applies Safer Recruitment procedures. Our process includes:

- checking that the submitted application provides a continuous record from age 16;
- provision of two satisfactory references, at least one of which must be from your current or most recent employer;
- completion by you of a confidential form of declaration of health (after offer of appointment) and, if necessary, a satisfactory report following a medical examination;
- evidence or other verification of your qualifications;
- a satisfactory Disclosure certificate from the DBS.