

# SETTLE COLLEGE

## Information for Applicants Background Information

### **History**

Settle College was founded in 1907 as a selective girls' Grammar school. It moved to its current site in 1913. The College was one of the first schools in the country to become comprehensive in 1959 when it became Settle High School and took secondary age boys for the first time. At this time the buildings were extended considerably to include a new hall, gymnasium and two teaching wings. In 2002 temporary classrooms were replaced with a new teaching block to house English and Mathematics.

Subsequent changes led to the creation of a three tier system in North Craven with transfer from primary to middle school at 10 (Year 6) and from middle school to the High School at 13 (Year 9). In 2004 the school was successful in its bid to become a specialist technology college and the name was changed to Settle College.

### **Changes to Education in North Craven 2012**

In September 2012, the area will move from a three-tier system to the more conventional two-tier structure. Our eleven feeder Primary Schools will keep pupils for Year 6, whilst the College will be significantly enlarged to take Years 7 & 8. At the same time, the College will take on the current Settle Middle School site which will become the Year 7 & 8 base. We already share the same campus. As a result of this change, we are undertaking a significant recruitment of additional teaching and non-teaching staff.

### **Stage not Age Curriculum (3 Year Key Stage 4)**

Students who currently begin Settle College in Year 9 commence a full programme of GCSE/Level 2 qualifications. English, Maths and Science are studied over the full three years of Key Stage 4. Students then opt for two GCSE or BTEC courses in each of Years 9, 10 and 11, giving them the opportunity to gain up to 6 additional qualifications. These courses are completed in a single year. This system has proved popular and, although only introduced in 2009/10, is already having an impact on achievement. Results for Years 9 and 10 GCSEs in 2011 are very promising

	Year 9	Year 10
% Students achieving 1 or more A*-C or equivalent	83	97
% Students achieving 2 or more A*-C or equivalent	77	87
% Students achieving 3 or more A*-C or equivalent	38	62
% Students achieving 4 or more A*-C or equivalent	10	25
% Students achieving 5 or more A*-C or equivalent		1.5

## **Ofsted 2010**

Our most recent Ofsted judged the College to be 'good with outstanding features'. Leadership and Management were judged to be outstanding in all respects. While we do not rest on our laurels, the staff, students and Governors are very proud of this achievement and plan for even better in 2015.

## **The Catchment Area**

Our students come from a catchment area of 250 square miles. This includes some of the most outstanding scenery in England such as Malham Tarn & Cove, Ingleborough, Wharfedale, Pen Y Ghent and the Ribbleshead Viaduct. It also means that many of our students travel considerable distances to school and transport issues are always a challenge for us. Despite this the College maintains a high level of commitment to extra curricular activities. Dance, Girls' Rugby and Performing Arts are particular strengths. The students come from a wide variety of backgrounds although farming is a much less significant employer than in the past, especially since the outbreak of foot and mouth disease in 2001.

## **Site and Buildings**

The College occupies an enviable site on the banks of the River Ribble with outstanding views of the surrounding area and into the Yorkshire Dales National Park. We have excellent playing fields and an all-weather pitch. Settle Swimming Pool also shares our site.

Considerable work has taken place recently to upgrade the buildings. Laboratory refurbishments, a renovated dining area, a new reception area, a dance studio and a new Sixth Form Centre are helping to create a working environment fit for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. The College has over 300 PCs and laptops and all teaching areas now benefit from interactive whiteboards or digital projectors. For 2012, we will also have a new Library, fully refurbished Science labs and PE changing rooms, a new PE teaching suite and multi gym, as well as significant general refurbishment of classrooms and social spaces. We will also absorb the buildings of Settle Middle School which will become the Lower School.

## **The Community**

The College is an integral part of the community. Some of our students are the fifth generation of their family to be educated here. There is a strong commitment from our staff to the College's wider role within the community. OfSTED commented on the calm and purposeful atmosphere within the College and relationships between students and staff are generally excellent. This does, however, bring its own challenges. We are aware that some of our students' aspirations need to be raised especially at a time when traditional forms of employment are in rapid decline. We are also aware of the need to broaden the students' horizons beyond the relative security of our community.

## **Student numbers and future planning**

The College has just fewer than 500 students at present. This number will fluctuate over the coming years with the birth rate. However, the introduction of Years 7 & 8 will increase the roll to 750.

A key priority is to ensure that student achievement reflects their potential and that Settle College is the clear school of choice for students and parents. There is also the potential to improve the staying-on rate post 16. Currently about 50% of our students continue into Year 12 to study BTEC & AS courses. With a greater focus on vocational and intermediate provision this will increase and planning for this is another key priority. This is also an interesting challenge given the relatively small size of the Sixth Form and the distances to be travelled to other schools and colleges with whom we might collaborate.

Our Sixth Form courses are very successful and inclusive, preparing students for everything from employment to Oxbridge entrance.

### **Leadership and Management Structure**

The Leadership Group currently comprises the Principal, the Vice Principal, two Assistant Principals and the Director of Specialism.

There is an Extended Leadership Group which includes the Faculty Leaders for English, Maths, Science, Design Technology and Humanities. The non-teaching staff are led by the Professional Services Manager. We run our own cleaning and catering. Part of the College site is let out to an independent nursery provider.

### **The Future: Technology College Status and beyond**

Settle College is a remarkable and very special place. While we seek to modernise and create the best possible opportunities for our students we are also aware of the many strengths that lie in the strong relationships both in the College and with the community, we will not throw the baby out with the bath water.

The Governors believe that the College offers excellent opportunities for established colleagues, Newly Qualified Teachers and high quality non teaching staff to develop their careers in an exciting and supportive environment where outstanding practice is encouraged and rewarded. We are a Teaching and Learning Academy (TLA) school with over 50% of the staff being in the process of completing TLA research. Some of this has been recognised by the TLA as exemplar good practice.

The College is a Lead School for Inclusion and Assessment for Learning. We regularly contribute to INSET at local, regional and national levels and the Principal is a Local Leader in Education.

We look forward to receiving your application.

**William Bancroft**  
**Principal**

**December 2011**