Laurence Jackson School - Context Summer 2011

Laurence Jackson School is an 11 to 16 community school and Specialist Sports College which benefits from its delightful site beneath the woods and hills of the North Yorks Moors in the attractive market town of Guisborough (Borough of Redcar and Cleveland).

The school occupies an important place in the history of the town and continues to be a vibrant centre of the local community today. LJS recently celebrated its 50th Jubilee and it was clear from the excellent community participation in all activities that local people care for the school, staff and students.

Although the town itself is relatively affluent, the school has a wide catchment area considerably beyond its stated admission zone and caters for a significant number of children who live in deprived wards elsewhere in the Local Authority (Index of multiple deprivation). Consequently LJS is a fully comprehensive school with a diverse academic and socio-economic intake although it has a distinctly stable population with very few children from ethnic minority groups.

Overall, students are above average on entry with APS marginally above the national average. However, 25.2% of students have some form of special educational need, including 2% with a Statement. We operate an on-site Autistic Unit, the Applegarth Centre, which provides specialist provision across the Authority. Approximately 10% of the student population are on the AG&T register. Students generally have a positive attitude to learning and parents are predominantly supportive. The school and community have significantly benefitted from designation as a Specialist Sports College and from being the hub site of the East Cleveland School Sports Partnership. A fantastic range of extra curricular opportunities promote healthy lifestyles and foster wider participation.

For the last three years results have improved significantly with our Y11 of 2010 producing the best ever GCSE results in the school's proud history, achieving 78% 5A*-Cs and 65% 5A*-Cs including English and Maths. These results once again exceeded our target and bettered even the fantastic progress made last year. This represents an increase in both headline figures of over 20% in the past 3 years which places us firmly in the top 100 most improved schools (DfE February 2011). We have also received an SSAT most improved school award for 2 consecutive years, 2009 and 2010. Major improvements have also been made at KS3. This rapid improvement reflects positively on the commitment and dedication of all staff and students and our SEF gradings now judge LJS to be a Good school overall with some Outstanding features.

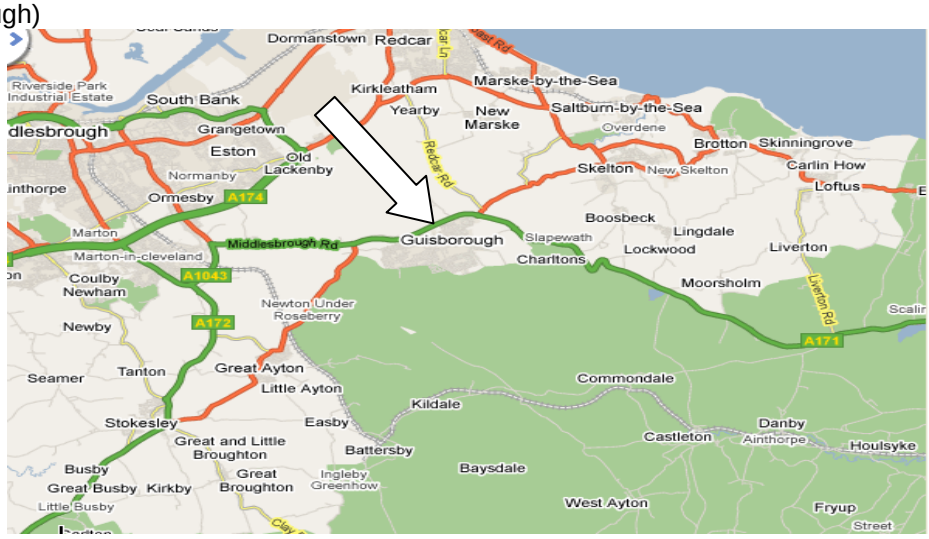
Geographical Setting and directions

By Rail - nearest mainline station is Darlington, approximately 25 miles – Local stations at Middlesbrough, Redcar & Nunthorpe

By Air - nearest airport is Durham & Tees Valley, approximately 20 miles

By Road - from the South follow A1 to Dishforth (approximately 34 miles) and then A168, A19, A172 and A171

- from the North follow A1 to Bradbury (approximately 28 miles) and then A689, A19, A174 and A171

- from the West follow A66 to Darlington (approximately 25 miles) and then continue on A66, A19, A174 and A171

(The A171 goes to Whitby and Scarborough and both tend to be signposted more prominently and regularly than Guisborough)