

## Tanfield Rises from the Ashes -£3 million facelift

11<sup>th</sup> May 1998 seems so long ago. Only the present Year 11 pupils who were at that time nearing the end of their first year will remember 'The Great Fire of Tanfield' which led to the demolition of the Tower Block. The 1960's four-storey building used to house all the English, Maths and Science teaching areas.

Three years later, the scaffolding was dismantled and the eighteen temporary, demountable, classrooms were lifted from the football and rugby pitches during the summer vacation. We've started a new school year, very grateful for their work, but excited at the prospect of being free from building contractors.

In November 2000, OFSTED Inspectors commented, "The school has had to cope with very difficult working conditions following a major fire in May 1998, which resulted in the loss of 24 classrooms, school offices, resources, equipment and pupils' coursework." They congratulated the staff on their resilience, the effective management of the situation and the determination of governors to move forward.



In September 2000, our pupils moved into a new £550, 000 extension to the Technology suite and redesigned Art accommodation. Together they provide new Textiles, Graphics, Pottery and Art rooms which match the best of any school in County Durham, as well as a third, fully equipped ICT computer room.

Visitors to Tanfield now enter through the impressive Reception and Administration Area. Along with five purpose-built Science Laboratories and a Science Prep Room, this forms an integral part of a newly constructed building at a cost of £760,000 which opened in January 2001 on the site of the former Tower Block. The Science department celebrated their new facilities with outstanding GCSE and SAT examination results.

Tanfield pupils have been proud to study in the marvellous, stone building that began its life in 1912. After intensive internal restructuring and a complete refurbishment at a cost of £1,500,000, we have taken repossession of the building. There is now a Maths suite of five specialist rooms on the ground floor, with the English faculty linked to the School Library and Resources Centre, and a state-of-the-art ICT room with thirty new computers, on the upper floor.

A £3,000,000 facelift has taken Tanfield School into the twenty first century with outstanding teaching and learning facilities unmatched in County Durham.

### Open Evening for parents of pupils in year 5 & 6

Wednesday

6.00pm - 8.00pm

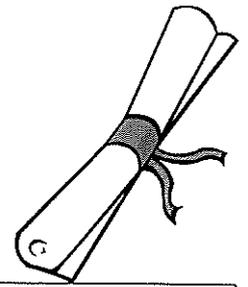
17<sup>th</sup> October 01

- £3 million spent on new facilities
- Above-average exam results
- Schools Curriculum Award 2000
- International School Award 1999-2001
- Barclays New Futures Award 1999-2001
- Sportsmark Award 2001

# CONGRATULATIONS

Year 11

Best GCSE Results Ever!



2001	% achieving 5 + A* - C	% achieving 5 + A* - G
<b>Tanfield School</b>	<b>42.4</b>	<b>89.4</b>
All Durham Schools	40.9	86.5

The best ever! Congratulations to all the pupils who achieved magnificent results this year - way beyond target, to add to the excellent SAT results. All the staff praise the focused way in which pupils tackled their work and wish all students success in their future careers.

Well Done!

## Year 9 Aiming High Achieving High

Congratulations to all our pupils in Year 9. This cohort of pupils achieved our most successful SAT results to date, building on their success at primary schools

The percentages of pupils who gained Level 5 or better were as follows:

English 69%  
Maths 71%  
Science 74%



In Mathematics, four pupils gained Level 8 on the extension paper - a real achievement.

Special mention needs to be made of one pupil, Kate Pallas, who was awarded Level 8 in each of the core subjects.

We are extremely proud of all our Year 9 pupils and wish them every success with their Key Stage 4 courses.

## Tanfield's Cambridge Connection

Ex-Tanfield pupil Sam Yates will fulfil a long held ambition this month when he begins his first term as an undergraduate studying Philosophy at Cambridge University's King's College.

Nineteen year old Sam left Tanfield three years ago having gained ten GCSEs, including seven at A\* and three at grade A. He went on to further academic success at Durham Sixth Form College where he gained two grade As and one grade B at A Level. Sam spent a gap year travelling around the US, Canada and the Middle East.

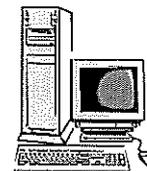
Staff at Tanfield remember Sam as a model pupil who early on set his sights on academic success and we have followed his career since leaving us with great interest. His achievements bring enormous credit to himself, his family and the school.

We congratulate Sam and wish him every success for what we are certain will be a very bright future.

## ICT Facilities at Tanfield

The extensive ICT facilities at Tanfield School have been further enhanced with the opening of an impressive air-conditioned, purpose-built computer lab. A second server and 29 new workstations takes the total number of computers in school to 122 distributed throughout the three computer labs, the resource area and classrooms. Every classroom is networked to our two servers using the latest optic fibre and cat5 cabling giving pupils instant access to software, the Internet and their own work area on the server.

Tanfield is now one of the best equipped schools in the county with an enviable ratio of one computer to every five pupils allowing all subjects to enhance the curriculum and giving pupils the ideal opportunity to progress in this rapidly developing and exciting area of Information and Communication Technology.



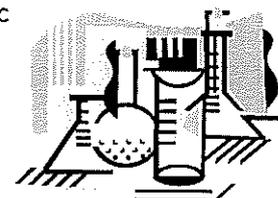
## "The Most Modern Science Labs in the County"

In January of this year the Science Department were delighted to move into new, purpose-built premises, consisting of 5 high tech labs, prep room and social area.

The labs are spacious and airy and provide an attractive and stimulating environment for pupils and staff to work in. They incorporate up-to-date safety features and the flexible nature of the furnishings allow pupils to engage in a wide range of learning activities.

Each lab is equipped with state-of-the-art ICT facilities with access to the school network and Internet, giving pupils the opportunity to keep abreast of new developments and initiatives in the scientific world.

Staff have no doubt that the new environment has been a contributory factor to the record breaking KS3 and GCSE results gained by pupils in Science this year.



We look forward to breaking more records in the new school year!

## RE RESULTS – 100% FOR YEAR 10 PUPILS

Year 10 pupils, a year early, achieved a 100% pass rate A - C in their Religious Education Examination - and in some cases with the top grades. This is a tribute to their dedicated studies, to the inspiration of the teaching and to the spirit of success. It shows that there are opportunities for the pupils of Tanfield, at all stages of their school career. We look forward to congratulating future Year 10 pupils who succeed at GCSE level in Religious Education and possibly other subjects. For now, well done to the certificate winners. We are proud of you.

## Sharks at Tanfield

Tanfield School is hoping to adopt a Shark! We were delighted to make contact recently, with an ex-pupil, Cheryl Nicholson, who is studying for a degree in Biological Science at Manchester Metropolitan University. Cheryl is specialising in conservation and earlier this year completed a voluntary 3 month work placement in Bimini Shark Laboratory, in the Bahamas.

Cheryl rang the school and asked if we would like to become involved in an adoption scheme. We will be choosing a Basking Shark, a Great White Shark, or a new born Lemon Shark, and look forward to finding out more about these fascinating, often misunderstood creatures. There are over 600 species of shark and only a handful pose any danger at all to humans. Cheryl has swum safely with Caribbean Reef Sharks, Lemon Sharks, Black Nose Sharks, Black Tip and White Tip Sharks, all of which have a rather undeserved reputation for aggressive behaviour towards humans.

Cheryl hopes to dedicate her life to working with sharks.

## Tanfield Association

The president, Professor Warren Pescod, O.B.E., and the Officers of the Tanfield Association cordially invite the members of the Association to an informal gathering to celebrate the anniversary of Tanfield School on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2001.

You are invited to join the office-bearers for cheese and wine and light refreshments at 6.45pm for 7.00pm and a very short presentation on the work of the committee to date.

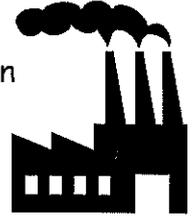
Please encourage new members to attend this first annual event at the school when ex-pupils from the 1920's to the 1990's will be able to meet together and reminisce about their time at Tanfield.

The new building will be open to view 9.00am to 3.00pm on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> October and any photographs and mementos to loan would be welcome for a small display.

Thank you for your support.

## Excellent Opportunities

Engineering skills are again very much alive and kicking in this area of north-west Durham devastated by major closures in the steel industry twenty years ago.



The Technology department at Tanfield School have combined with Derwentside College at Consett to provide a focal point for encouraging young people to take up a career in engineering, thus helping to fulfil a shortage of expertise which it believes now exists in and around North West Durham.

Thirty pupils in Years 10 and 11 are following an Intermediate GNVQ course in Engineering. They spend one afternoon each week using the excellent facilities available at the local college. The Year 11 pupils are currently looking for work experience placements to make use of their newly acquired skills.

## National Radio Interview for Year 9 pupils

An exciting start to the new school year awaited four year 9 pupils. On their first day back to school, Stephanie Brown, Charlotte Cole, Wayne Feeney and Sam Wilkinson were interviewed for the Radio Four programme, 'You and Yours', broadcast nationwide at lunchtime. The topic they debated, 'Are school holidays too long?'

