

LIFE AFTER TANFIELD

NAME **RACHEL HOCKING (NEE BURN)**

PUPIL AT TANFIELD FROM 1994 TO 1999

MY LIFE AFTER LEAVING TANFIELD

Having left Tanfield in 1999, after 5 very happy years, I enrolled at Durham Sixth form Centre to complete my A levels. This transition from one establishment to another was one of the hardest and at one point I nearly walked away from these studies. I didn't. I had six months left till my exams so I convinced myself – or rather my family did – to continue.

In July 2001, I completed my A Levels and started a teacher training degree at Sunderland University. Four years later, at the age of 24, I qualified as a primary teacher and embarked upon my teaching career.

This year I started my 17th year in education. The last four years I have been Headteacher of Swalwell Primary School. We are a small school which is at the heart of the community. I genuinely love my job. There are challenging days; however, working alongside children and helping to develop youngsters into life-long learners is an absolute privilege.