

GIGGLESWICK
SCHOOL



GIGGLESWICK
SCHOOL

Introduction	5
From our Headmaster	6 -7
Stunning location	8-9
Academic excellence	10-11
Holistic development	12-13
Nurturing community	14-15
Ages 2–4 | Mill House Pre-School	20-21
Ages 4–11 | Prep School	22-23
Ages 11–16 | Senior School	24-25
Ages 16–18 | Sixth Form	26-27
Boarding, belonging and community	30-35
Life beyond the classroom	36-37
Sport	40-41
Performing arts	42-43
Music	44-45
Outdoor education	46-47
Visit us	50-51



More than a great education

Set in one of the most beautiful parts of England, Giggleswick School offers something increasingly rare: space to grow, time to think, and a community where every young person is seen, understood and encouraged.

Here, academic ambition sits comfortably alongside adventure, creativity, kindness and confidence, preparing pupils not just for exams, but for life beyond school.

Choosing the right school is one of the most important decisions a family will make. At Giggleswick, we believe that education should be about far more than academic success alone. While excellent teaching and strong outcomes are fundamental, we are equally committed to developing confident, resilient and compassionate young people who are ready to thrive in an ever-changing world.

Our approach is built on two core principles: helping every pupil achieve their full potential in the classroom and providing the opportunities, experiences and encouragement that shape character beyond it. Whether through sport, music, drama, outdoor pursuits, leadership opportunities or our extensive programme of co-curricular activities, pupils are challenged to discover new interests, develop new skills and grow in confidence.

As a smaller school, one of Giggleswick's greatest strengths is the sense of community that exists here. We know our pupils as individuals and take the time to understand their interests, ambitions and aspirations. This allows us to provide exceptional pastoral care, tailor opportunities to each child and support them as they forge their own path, whether that leads to university, a degree apprenticeship or another exciting destination.

I hope this prospectus provides a glimpse into life at Giggleswick, but no publication can truly capture the warmth, energy and character of our school community. I warmly invite you to visit us, meet our pupils and staff, and discover for yourself what makes Giggleswick such a special place.

Sam Hart
Headmaster

"A well-travelled, sports-loving, former Army helicopter pilot, he is gentle, with a calm confidence and clear values. Down-to-earth but driven, he gives off all round top bloke vibes."

Muddy Stilettos





A stunning location

Set on the edge of the Yorkshire Dales National Park, Giggleswick is a place where learning is shaped naturally by its surroundings. The landscape is part of daily life here, bringing space, calm and perspective to each day, and giving pupils the room to think clearly, try new things and grow in confidence.

Our beautiful village setting is enhanced by a 215-acre campus, shared by pupils from Pre-School to Sixth Form. It offers freedom and safety in equal measure, with open countryside, specialist facilities and room to explore woven into the rhythm of school life.

Adventure is not an add-on here. It is on our doorstep. Climbing, caving, fell running and mountain biking are all within walking distance of campus, encouraging pupils to challenge themselves physically, mentally and personally.

And while our setting feels wonderfully rural, Giggleswick is far from remote. Direct rail and road links make travel straightforward, ensuring the school remains accessible for local, regional, national and international families alike.

Academic excellence

Giggleswick combines high academic standards with teaching that is engaging and ambitious. We invest heavily in the quality of our teachers, believing that great teaching makes the greatest difference.

Our teaching staff are passionate subject specialists who are deeply committed to the pupils they teach. They combine academic rigour with an understanding of each individual, delivering engaging lessons that challenge, support and inspire. This personalised approach ensures pupils are both stretched and supported, enabling them to achieve excellent academic outcomes while developing intellectual curiosity.

Pupils learn in outstanding facilities, including advanced Science laboratories, specialist Design and Technology spaces, a vibrant Art Centre, a professional-standard Theatre, and a dedicated Sixth Form Centre that supports independent study and leadership development.

Our outcomes speak for themselves. Pupils progress to Russell Group universities and high-quality degree apprenticeships, equipped with both academic strength and personal confidence.



"Teaching is characterised by effective planning, well-chosen resources and effective questioning to encourage pupils to extend their thinking skills. As a result, pupils are challenged in their learning, engaged in lessons and make good progress."

ISI Independent Schools Inspectorate

Holistic development

At Giggleswick, holistic development means helping pupils discover their strengths, explore new interests and find the things that truly motivate them.

Pupils are encouraged to try unfamiliar activities, take sensible risks and step beyond their comfort zones, building self-awareness alongside academic success.

Our co-curricular programme, CASE — Creative, Active, Service and Enrichment — is fully timetabled, ensuring that every pupil takes part. It is not an optional add-on to a Giggleswick education, but a central part of it. Through CASE, pupils develop teamwork, empathy, leadership and resilience: skills that endure long after school.

This gives every pupil a clear and supported journey:

- They are encouraged, and sometimes challenged, to try new things
- They identify emerging interests and passions
- They choose areas to develop in greater depth
- They work towards meaningful academic and personal outcomes

Throughout this journey, pupils are supported by expert tutoring, mentoring and guidance, helping them make informed decisions.

The result is that young people leave Giggleswick with clarity of direction, strong self-belief and the ability to thrive in a rapidly changing world.



A nurturing community

At the heart of Giggleswick is a community shaped by strong values and genuine care. Everything we do is guided by our five core values:

Compassion | Commitment | Curiosity | Courage | Integrity

Compassion: We seek to serve our community by acting with empathy and respect and valuing the perspectives and wellbeing of others.

Commitment: We dedicate ourselves fully, maintaining focus and striving for excellence in all that we do.

Curiosity: We pursue knowledge with an open mind, driven by a desire to understand, discover, challenge and grow.

Courage: We face challenges with resilience and take principled action, even in the face of uncertainty or adversity.

Integrity: We uphold strong moral principles and do what is right, even when it's not easy or visible.

These are lived daily, in classrooms, boarding houses, sports fields and friendships.

We are small by design, allowing us to know every child as an individual. Every pupil is known here. Strengths are recognised, challenges are supported and confidence is built through belonging.



"With its renewed focus on academic excellence, inclusivity and strong pastoral care, we think this is definitely a school to watch."

THE GOOD SCHOOLS GUIDE

More than Milestones

From first steps to next steps, the journey from 2 to 18 is more than a route through education. It is a childhood shaped by curiosity, friendship, independence and opportunity. *At Giggleswick, each stage builds naturally on the last, helping pupils feel known, supported and ready for what comes next.*

Ages 2–4

Mill House Pre-School

The Giggleswick journey begins with play and discovery. At Mill House, children are encouraged to explore the world around them in a nurturing environment where confidence and independence grow naturally. Learning is active, imaginative and hands-on, laying the foundations for a lifelong love of learning and a smooth transition into the Prep School.





Ages 4–11

Prep School

The Prep School is where a child's educational journey begins to take shape. In a nurturing and supportive environment, pupils build strong foundations across a broad curriculum.

From Reception onwards, pupils benefit from the expertise of specialist teachers alongside their class teachers, allowing them to experience subjects such as languages, music, drama, computing, sport and outdoor education from an early age. Our curriculum goes beyond the National Curriculum, combining academic rigour with creativity, practical learning and opportunities to explore new interests.

Small classes allow teachers to understand each child as an individual, providing the right level of support and challenge to help every pupil make progress. Whether developing early literacy and numeracy skills, exploring science and humanities, or discovering a talent in the arts or sport, children are encouraged to engage fully with their learning and take pride in their achievements.

As part of an all-through school, Prep pupils benefit from close links with the Senior School, including access to specialist facilities and teaching expertise. This creates a seamless transition into the next stage of their education, with pupils already familiar with the people, environment and opportunities that await them.



Ages 11–16

Senior School

In Senior School, pupils are encouraged to think independently, embrace challenge and take increasing ownership of their learning. A broad and flexible curriculum, combined with expert teaching, small class sizes and excellent pastoral care, enables every pupil to develop both academically and personally.

Every pupil is known as an individual. Dedicated tutors, subject teachers and house staff work together to ensure each child is supported and encouraged throughout their GCSE journey. Our small classes allow teachers to tailor their approach, providing the right level of support while inspiring every pupil to achieve their personal best.

Beyond the classroom, our CASE (Creative, Active, Service and Enrichment) programme encourages pupils to broaden their horizons, discover new interests and develop leadership skills through a wide range of opportunities.

By the time pupils move into Sixth Form, they have developed the confidence to embrace new challenges and take the next step in their Giggleswick journey.





Ages 16–18

Sixth Form

Sixth Form marks the final stage of the Giggleswick journey, where students are encouraged to think independently and take ownership of their future.

Students can tailor their studies through a choice of A Level and BTEC qualifications, complemented by the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) and our super-curriculum. A programme of visiting speakers, lectures and enrichment activities encourages students to engage with ideas beyond the classroom and broaden their understanding of the world around them.

Every student is supported by a dedicated Sixth Form tutor who provides individual guidance throughout their time at Giggleswick. Alongside expert careers and higher education advice, students benefit from university visits, employer engagement, work experience opportunities and personalised mentoring, ensuring they are equipped to make informed decisions about their next steps.

Our students go on to a wide range of destinations, with recent leavers progressing to leading universities as well as securing competitive degree apprenticeships with organisations such as Rolls-Royce, KPMG and Amazon.

By the time they leave Giggleswick, students have developed the leadership skills, confidence and independence to embrace new opportunities and make a positive impact beyond school.

A continuous journey

What connects every stage of a Giggleswick education is not just progression, but continuity. Pupils are supported by a consistent set of values, a strong sense of community and a belief that education should develop both achievement and character. From first steps in Pre-School to final preparation in Sixth Form, every pupil is encouraged to aim high, contribute fully and develop the character to shape their own future.



Boarding is central to life at Giggleswick, creating a close-knit community where pupils are known as individuals, supported by dedicated house staff and encouraged to feel at home from the moment they arrive.





Each boarding house has its own unique character and personality, creating a close-knit community where pupils are valued and supported. Younger boarders join Catteral House from Years 4 to 8, where the focus is on building strong relationships and providing a nurturing foundation for the next stage of their journey. From Year 9 onwards, pupils move into one of our senior boarding houses, each with its own traditions and identity.

We offer a range of boarding options to suit different family circumstances, including full, weekly and flexi boarding. For families seeking greater flexibility, three- or five-night boarding allows pupils to experience the benefits of boarding life while returning home at weekends. Pupils enjoy the full breadth of evening activities, time with friends and the support of a structured routine, while families benefit from the reassurance of a caring community during the week.

For many pupils, boarding becomes one of the most rewarding aspects of their Giggleswick experience. By Sixth Form, a high proportion of students board in some capacity, with many choosing full boarding as they embrace the independence and opportunities that come with life on campus.

The boarding community extends beyond the pupils themselves. Families are encouraged to become part of school life, whether supporting weekend sport, attending concerts and productions or joining house events throughout the year.

Pastoral care is woven into daily life at Giggleswick. Housemasters and Housemistresses live within the boarding houses, providing consistent support and building close relationships with pupils. Alongside an on-site Wellbeing Centre and proactive pastoral monitoring, this ensures that every pupil feels known, heard and supported.

Giggleswick has a long tradition of welcoming international pupils, who are fully integrated into every aspect of school life. The range of backgrounds, cultures and perspectives within the community enriches the experience for everyone, developing global awareness, mutual respect and friendships that extend far beyond school.





Life beyond the classroom

A Giggleswick education extends far beyond academic study. We believe young people flourish when they are encouraged to embrace challenges and contribute to something bigger than themselves.

Our CASE programme ensures that every pupil develops a broad range of skills, experiences and interests alongside their academic learning. Built into the school timetable, it gives pupils the time and freedom to engage fully in a wide variety of activities, rather than having to fit them around an already busy day.

Whether performing on stage, representing the School in sport, volunteering in the local community or discovering a new passion through one of our many clubs and societies, every pupil is encouraged to participate, contribute and pursue the things that inspire them.

C A S E

Creative

Developing imagination, expression and appreciation of the arts through opportunities such as technical theatre, ceramics, Chapel Choir, drama, music and creative projects.

Active

Promoting physical wellbeing, teamwork and personal challenge through activities including football, pilates, strength and conditioning, outdoor pursuits and recreational sport.

Service

Encouraging pupils to make a meaningful contribution to others through initiatives such as volunteering in the Prep School, environmental projects, charity work and community engagement.

Enrichment

Providing opportunities to challenge, inspire and stimulate through a diverse range of clubs and societies, including beekeeping, blitz chess, robotics and many more.

Expert-led and pupil-driven, CASE combines the knowledge and enthusiasm of our staff with genuine pupil ownership.

As pupils progress through the School, they take increasing responsibility for leading activities, mentoring younger pupils and shaping the programme itself. The result is a culture of participation where initiative is valued, leadership is nurtured and every pupil is encouraged to make the most of the opportunities available to them.

"The 'throw yourself in' attitude helps children find their passions and grow in confidence, with exemplary pastoral care making that journey safe and supported."

TALKEDUCATION

Sport

Sport has been part of life at Giggleswick for more than 500 years. Today, it remains central to the pupil experience, developing teamwork and leadership while encouraging a lifelong appreciation of health and wellbeing.

Whether competing at the highest level or taking part for enjoyment, every pupil is encouraged to challenge themselves, discover their strengths and find the activities that motivate them. Giggleswick has a proud tradition of sporting achievement, with pupils progressing to national and international competition, supported by expert coaching, exceptional facilities and a culture that values commitment as highly as success.

Our extensive facilities give pupils the freedom to participate, train and compete across a wide range of sports. Outdoor provision includes rugby and cricket pitches, grass and hard tennis courts, netball courts, a floodlit all-weather pitch, cross-country routes, a mountain bike track and access to the neighbouring golf course. Indoor facilities include sports halls, a swimming pool, climbing wall and state-of-the-art fitness centre.

For talented and aspiring athletes, Giggleswick offers an environment in which sporting ambition can develop alongside academic success. Our boarding ethos and extended school day give pupils the time, structure and support to balance training, competition and study.

At Giggleswick, sport is about more than performance. It is about learning to contribute, respond to challenge and support those around you. Whether a pupil's ambition is to compete professionally or simply become stronger, healthier and more confident, they are encouraged to give their best.



More than act one

Performing arts

Giggleswick has a strong tradition in the performing arts, nurturing performers, musicians and theatre-makers who have gone on to successful careers in the creative industries. For every pupil, participation in the arts develops confidence and the ability to communicate with clarity and conviction.

Drama is an integral part of the curriculum, studied by all pupils from Reception to Year 9, with opportunities to continue at GCSE and in the Sixth Form. Beyond the classroom, a rich programme of productions, workshops and co-curricular activities allows pupils to explore every aspect of theatre-making, from acting and directing to stage management, sound, lighting and technical production.

At the centre of our Performing Arts provision stands the Richard Whiteley Theatre, a professional-standard venue that provides an outstanding platform for creativity and performance. Working alongside experienced practitioners and industry professionals, pupils contribute to productions of exceptional quality, gaining valuable insight into the collaborative process that brings theatre to life.

Music

Music thrives at Giggleswick, where pupils of all abilities are encouraged to develop their talents and enjoy making music together. Whether learning an instrument for the first time or preparing for conservatoire, every musician benefits from expert teaching and a culture that values commitment and collaboration.

With two full-time music teachers, an Organist in Residence, visiting music teachers and a dedicated Music Coordinator, pupils receive exceptional specialist tuition across a wide range of instruments and musical styles. Academic pathways include GCSE, A Level and Music Technology A Level, providing opportunities for pupils to develop both their performance and technical skills.

Performance is central to musical life. Orchestras, concert band, choirs, and contemporary rock bands offer regular opportunities to rehearse, perform and collaborate throughout the year, creating a vibrant musical community.

Giggleswick has a proud tradition of nurturing musical talent, with recent pupils progressing to institutions including Berklee College of Music, Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance, Leeds Conservatoire and the Royal Northern College of Music.



More than a performance



More than an adventure

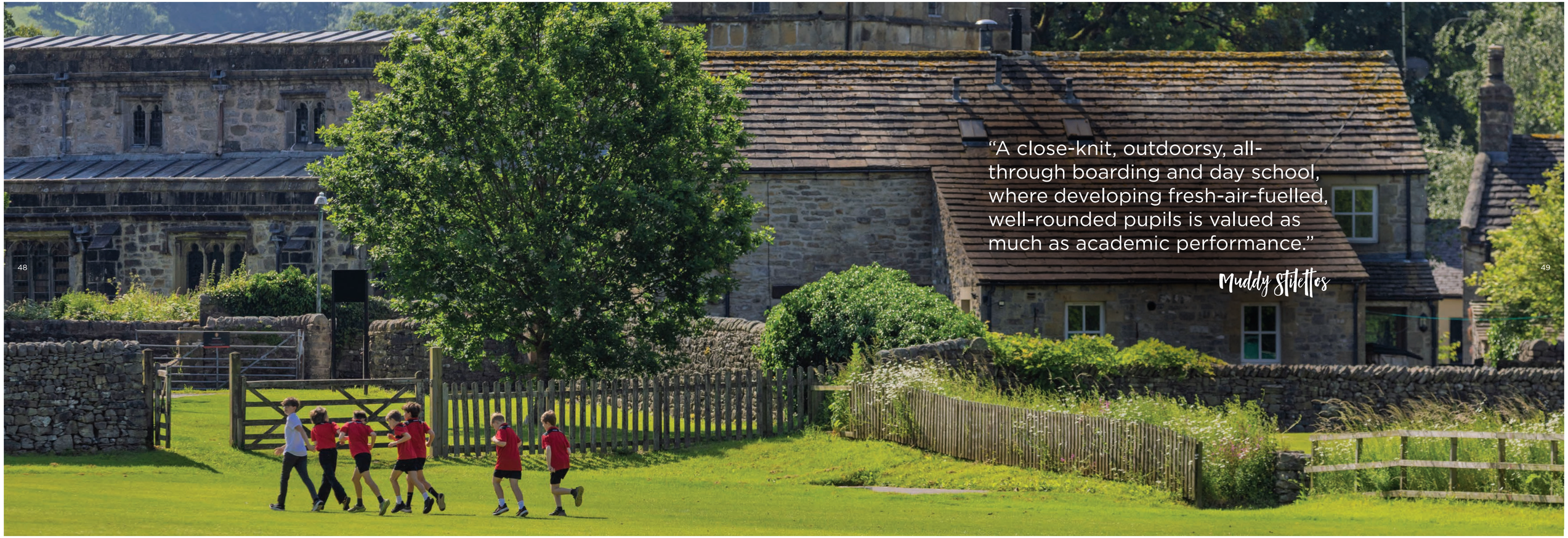
Outdoor Education

The Yorkshire Dales are more than a spectacular backdrop; they are an extension of the classroom. Outdoor Education is woven into school life, giving pupils regular opportunities to explore, challenge themselves and develop the judgement to respond well in unfamiliar situations.

From climbing, caving and kayaking to mountain biking, orienteering and expedition training, pupils learn to work as a team, lead others and make sound decisions under pressure. On-site facilities, including an indoor climbing wall and swimming pool, ensure that opportunities for adventure continue whatever the weather.

Led by Head of Outdoor Education Pete Keron, the programme makes full use of Giggleswick's remarkable location. With caves, rivers, crags and trails within easy reach of the campus, pupils can move from classroom learning to real-world experience as a regular part of school life.

Whether navigating underground, leading an expedition or taking on a new physical challenge, pupils learn to assess risk, trust their judgement and keep going when things become difficult. Supported by expert guidance and an extraordinary landscape, Outdoor Education becomes more than an activity. It becomes a way of building character.



"A close-knit, outdoorsy, all-through boarding and day school, where developing fresh-air-fuelled, well-rounded pupils is valued as much as academic performance."

Muddy Stilettos

Giggleswick is a community, a sense of place and a way of life. For families seeking academic excellence without compromise, personal growth without pressure and wide-ranging opportunities within a close-knit community, Giggleswick offers something truly special.

We welcome enquiries and applications throughout the year and would be delighted to help you discover whether Giggleswick is the right place for your child.

Most of all, we would love to welcome you to the School and let you experience Giggleswick for yourself.

Giggleswick.org.uk
admissions@giggleswick.org.uk
01729 893 000


Sigillu: Artium
Parisii: de: bulidon