

# Barnard Castle School



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Founded in 1883 as the North Eastern County School, later renamed Barnard Castle School, is today a leading independent boarding and day educational facility for boys and girls from pre-school age through to the age of 18. Teaching over 550 pupils in its Senior School and 140 children in the Preparatory School, the site needed to develop to offer pupils a further enhanced educational experience. This primarily took the form of increasing its boarding capacity to facilitate a growing number of pupils.

Situated in Teesdale, a valley to the north of the Yorkshire dales, the original Grade III Listed school building is a classic example of its time, built using the indigenous Yorkstone, the prevalent building material throughout the county.

In keeping with the school's historical architecture, the original development of 'Long Field House – Girls Boarding' was first constructed in 1987, with a two-storey lodging being erected.

By 2003 the boarding issue needed to be re-addressed and plans were drawn to extend Long Field House to increase the accommodation capacity to 20 single/double bedrooms with 12 bathrooms and other associated facilities. However, controlled by a limited budget, a cost-effective, but sympathetic walling solution had to be sourced to match the existing building and the surrounding environment.

This was further complicated as the material used on the extension would have to pass a rigorous approval by the local planning authority, as 30 metres away stood the school's Grade II Star Listed chapel.

After an approach from the architect, Marshalls was asked to supply a selection of its reconstructed stone

walling materials to assist the construction team in choosing an appropriate alternative to natural stone.

In a direct acid test, the materials were then literally placed individually against the existing structure and marked accordingly, to find the most appropriate material for the planned construction. Through this examination a clear winner was immediately identified, Marshalls' Heritage Sharp Faced Walling in a sandstone finish.

Combining the aesthetics and appearance of original and natural sandstone walling, the product was a perfect match for the project and had all the recognised benefits of modern material technology. It was also available in a selection of course heights and length options that offer various installation permutations to blend seamlessly into any existing conservation environment.

After being presented, and then passing approval by the local planning authority, Marshalls was contracted to supply 300 square metres of walling material for the project.

The new extension to Long Field House has created an environment which facilitates learning, enhances educational development and creates an ambience conducive to students living away from home.

Ian Fairbairn, Clerk of the School and project manager for the development, Barnard Castle School, commented: "In the passing years since the project was completed, the choice of Marshalls' Heritage Sharp Faced Walling has proven to be a complete success. It is standing the test of time superbly, and in many ways has got even better as it ages gradually, blending in with the original buildings and its environment."

#### Products Used:

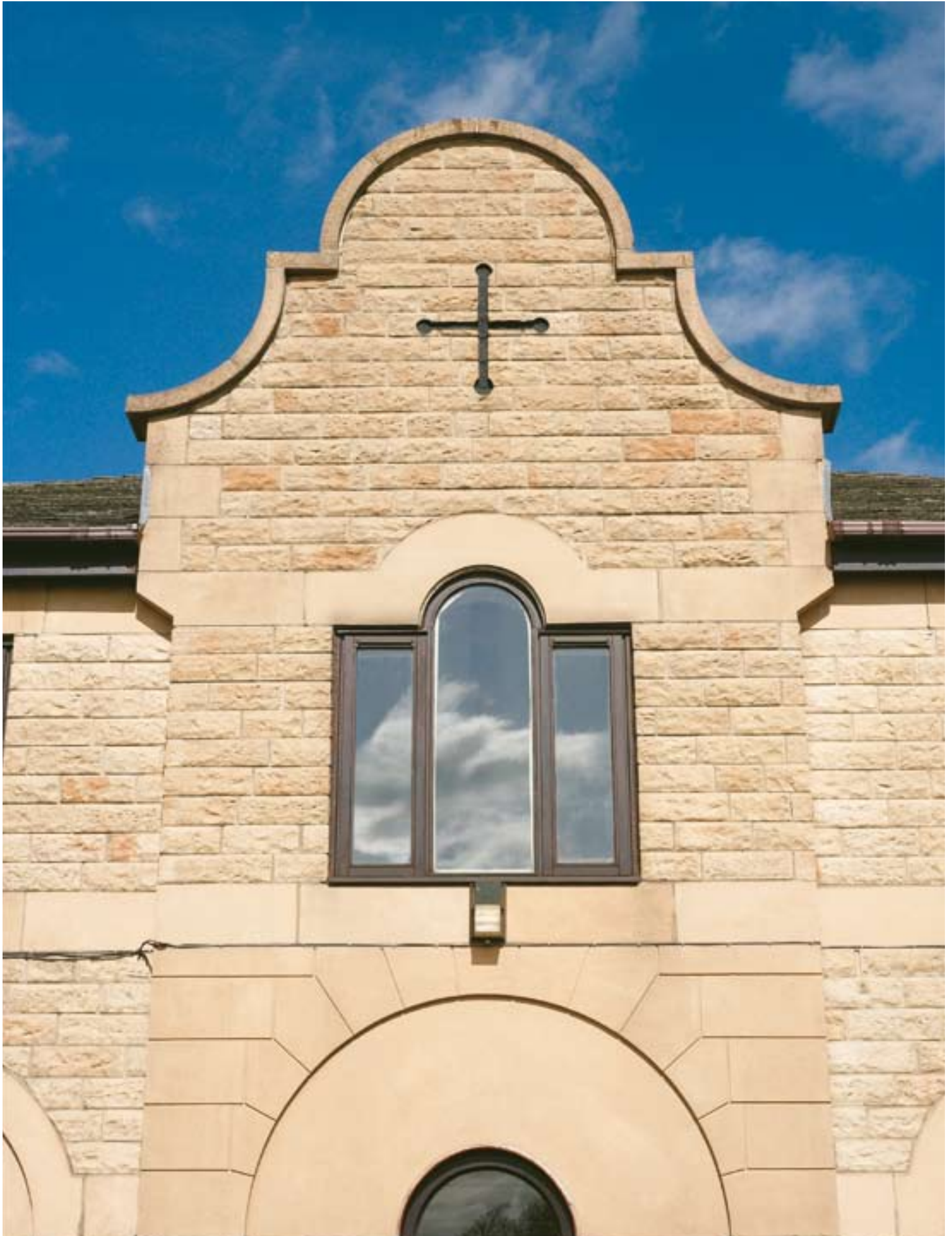
- Heritage Sharp Faced Walling

#### Specialist involved:



## Marshalls

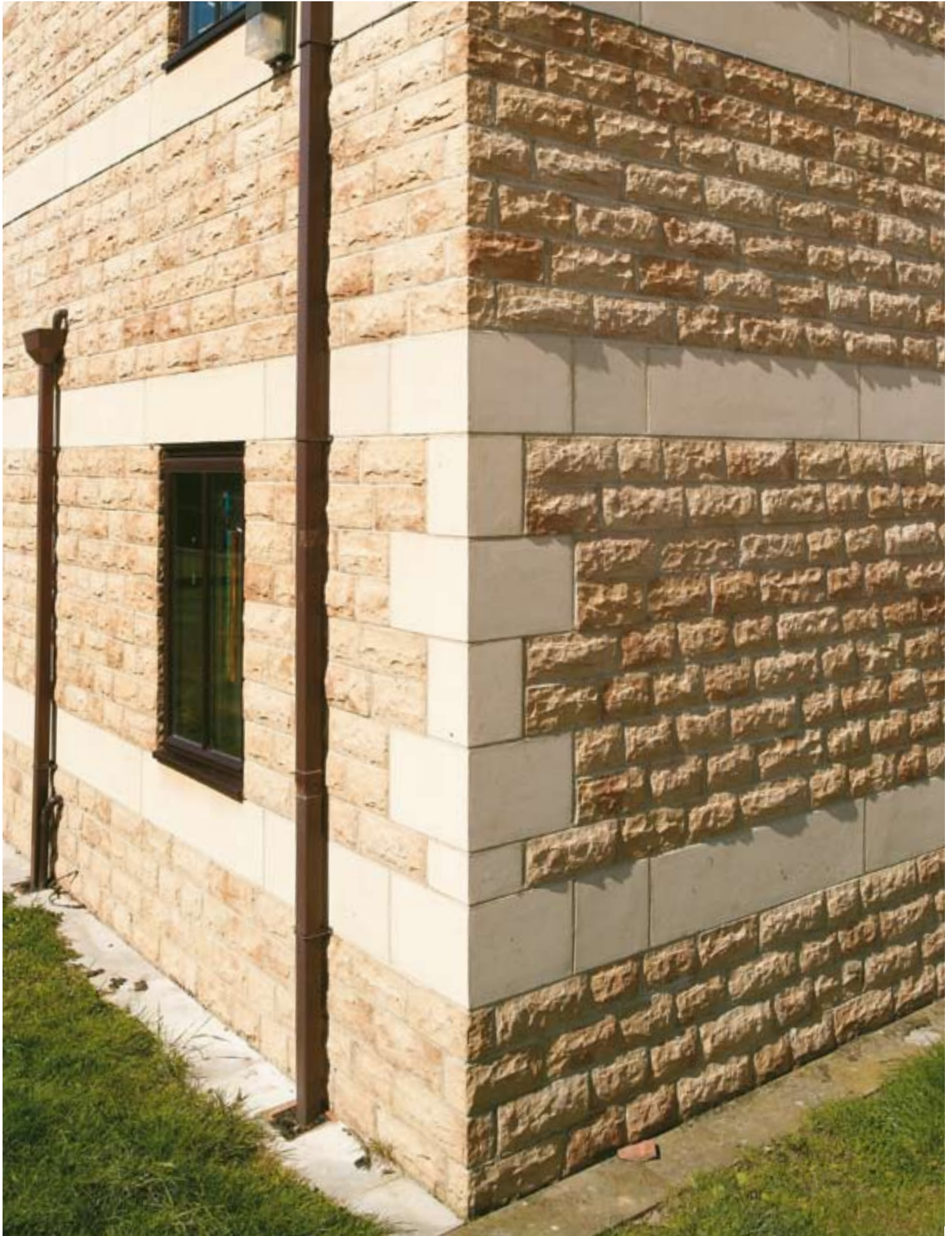
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