



Bristol
Grammar
School



champions

Candidate Information

Life

Bristol Grammar School: a company limited by guarantee, company number: 5142007
Registered Office: University Road, Bristol, BS8 1SR. Registered Charity Number: 1104425

Life-changing learning, friendships, and adventure

Welcome to Bristol Grammar School, a school where girls and boys aged 4 to 18 find a world of opportunity, the chance to discover their potential and the encouragement and confidence they need to succeed.

BGS received its Royal Charter in 1532 and has played a central role in the educational life of Bristol ever since.

The values we promote throughout BGS are life values not just school values. These include a love of learning, developing healthy friendships and the building of self-confidence so that students are encouraged to take risks, all in the pursuit of excellence.

We value our warm, vibrant and positive learning community, a place where students become accountable for themselves, responsible for others and empowered to have a voice and a role in the many activities and endeavours that make our School such a unique and exciting place.

Academic

At BGS our ambition is to be exceptional in every facet of our provision. To that end every academic department focuses on providing an exceptional learning experience for every student and our staff all facilitate that learning.



Children joining BGS in Reception follow the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) curriculum and work towards the Early Learning Goals in each area of learning. Children learn through planned, purposeful play and a balance of adult-led and child-led activities.

As children move through the School, or join in Year 3 or Year 5, they cover all aspects of the National Curriculum and aim to extend beyond it. Lessons are taught either by Form Tutors or subject specialists with a number of teachers working across all phases of the School. During Years 5 and 6, children have Food Technology, Textiles and Science lessons in the Senior School as part of their preparation for the next stage of their education.

In Year 7 all students follow a broad core curriculum. As students enter Year 8, they follow the same curriculum but may choose to study one of Russian or German in place of French or Spanish; they also follow courses in separate Sciences. In Year 9, in addition to the core subjects, students follow a personalised curriculum selected from a very wide range of curriculum subjects which they may then choose to continue to GCSE. These subjects include Greek, Business Studies, Computing, Physical Education (Sports Studies), Dance, Food and Nutrition, and Theatre Studies; at the end of Year 11 students typically take between 9 and 11 GCSEs.

The Sixth Form provides a flexible range of 'A' level and Pre-U options to broaden students' overall experience and cultural breadth. They are encouraged to study four subjects in Sixth Form.

The School is currently in the consultation phase of the International Baccalaureate Diploma (IB) application process. We anticipate offering this qualification, alongside 'A' levels, in the Sixth Form from September 2018.



In addition, Sixth-form students are required to follow a course of wider activities, and attend a richly diverse programme of weekly lectures by visiting speakers. Students are encouraged to undertake an Extended Project Qualification (EPQ), which provides a helpful transition between school and university learning. Students take part in a wide-range of events, such as essay competitions, Mathematics and Science Olympiads, and Model United Nations Conferences.

Appropriate support and careers advice is offered by Form Tutors, class teachers and the well-resourced Careers Department to ensure that students make careful and considered choices at each point in their school lives.

Students from the Sixth Form proceed to a wide range of faculties at leading UK universities, including Oxford and Cambridge, with increasing interest in universities in the United States and Europe. Careers advice is offered to students from Year 8 onwards and there is a growth in opportunities for students to follow career paths other than university.



All teachers are issued with a laptop and an iPad to aid their teaching and students from Years 4 to 13 are issued with an iPad. Learning is supported by an effective Intranet that students and staff use from home and in school.

Results

Our most recent inspection was carried out in October 2015 and the Independent Schools Inspectorate Report judged BGS to be 'Excellent' across all eight categories, including the quality of personal development, the level of pupil achievement, the pastoral care provided, the quality of governance and the quality of links with parents.

The Report, which can be accessed from the BGS [website](#), states that BGS 'fulfils its aim to achieve excellence in all it does, within and beyond the classroom for its pupils, from EYFS to the Sixth Form'.

We are also proud of the excellent academic results achieved by our students year after year. 2017 saw BGS students achieve another outstanding set of 'A' level and GCSE results. At 'A' level 60% of all results were awarded an A* or A grade, with a 100% A*–B achieved in a diverse range of subjects: Design & Technology: Systems & Control, Drama & Theatre Studies, French, German, Greek, Latin, Music, Philosophy and Russian.

At GCSE level, 87% of GCSE entries achieved A*–B grades. Fourteen subjects achieved a 100% pass rate, covering the humanities, mathematics, modern languages, and the creative arts which are going from strength to strength at BGS.

Full details of results by subject can be accessed on the School's [website](#).



School Community

BGS is a large and thriving school, with around 1,300 students aged from 4 to 18. While each phase of the School has its own unique identity, each is very much part of one BGS; sharing activities across all phases is a real strength. Our Breakfast Club is held in the Sixth Form Centre so students, from Reception to Sixth Form, start the day together; many teachers work across phases; older students work with younger pupils, for example, Sixth-formers help Infants with reading, and are encouraged to act as leaders and role models for those in younger years.

There are over 290 staff members across the School, with approximately 150 teaching staff and 140 support staff. There is a strong sense of community within the staff body, with regular social and sporting events organised. Support staff are actively involved in the broad range of co-curricular activities and trips offered and the entire staff body is fully represented within the Information and Consultation of Employees Committee.



Pastoral Care

Students throughout the School are supported by the House system. There are four Houses in the Junior School and six in the Senior School.

Form Tutors provide continuity of care throughout a student's journey at BGS. The system of rolling Tutors in the Senior School ensures that each student and their family is known as an individual.

Pastoral care is also supported by a team of Sixth Form Peer Mentors, a School Counsellor and a School Nurse.



Co-Curricular

Games and co-curricular activities flourish and are an integral part of education at BGS. Major dramatic and musical events are put on regularly and the vigorous House system provides valuable extra opportunities for an enormous range of sporting, social and cultural activities, as well as for individual pastoral support.

The School is a Duke of Edinburgh assessment centre and is proud of the large number of students that complete either Bronze or Gold awards each year.

During the school holidays, there are opportunities for a wide variety of school trips with these often being a highlight of a student's time at BGS.



Scholarships and Bursaries

The School has a Scholarship scheme and a Bursary Scheme which is able to offer financial assistance towards the fees of able students whose parents have limited means. The schemes are kept under regular review by the Governors and we are looking for ways to extend them all the time. The School enjoys a local and national reputation for its academic achievements and the demand for places is strongly competitive.

Recent Developments

In recent years an extensive development plan has included the opening of an Infant School, refurbishment of the Sixth Form Centre, refurbished Science laboratories, extension of the Art school facilities and new Food and Nutrition facilities.



The 1532 Performing Arts Centre was opened in September 2016 providing greatly enhanced facilities for Drama, Music and Dance. As part of this development, the facilities for History and Philosophy & Religion have been updated.

In 2017 a new 3G sports pitch was opened at the School's sports grounds in nearby Failand, part of the ongoing programme of improvements and enhancement to this valuable facility.

Our Mission and Aims

Mission of the School

Life-changing learning, friendships, and adventure

We aim high at Bristol Grammar School and are proud to do so, inspiring a love of learning, fostering intellectual independence and promoting self-confidence and a sense of adventure among our young. We set our sights on academic excellence in everything we do.

Our purpose is to provide an exceptional education for all our students, developing in them a spirit of enquiry and independence of thought through high-quality teaching, warm pastoral care and broad-ranging intellectual, physical and cultural opportunities. We wish to encourage a mature sense of responsibility from an early age, forming well-rounded young people who are able to use their talents and leadership potential in the service of others, here and in their future lives.

Above all, we are committed to supporting our students so that every one of them may achieve their goals and leave BGS as confident, compassionate and ambitious young adults.

Aims of the School

For every student to:

- achieve their full academic potential through a rich, stimulating and progressive learning experience
- be prepared and motivated to contribute positively and compassionately to the world through the cultivation of our School spirit
- flourish culturally, intellectually, morally, physically, emotionally and spiritually in a happy and nurturing environment through a wide range of far-reaching opportunities.



Why work at Bristol Grammar School?

Information for all staff

BGS is a forward thinking organisation, looking for energetic, enthusiastic staff to develop and enhance the provision for all students in the school. If you would relish the opportunity to teach inspirational and hard-working students, and work alongside dedicated and skilled colleagues, then BGS is the school for you.

Particular benefits of working at BGS include:

- All staff are encouraged to develop professionally. A Senior Leadership Team member is responsible for staff development. The School offers internal INSET and encourages external INSET for teaching and support staff.
- Teaching is supported and developed through the promotion of best practice by internally-appointed *Innovators in Learning*.
- New staff are supported by a series of staff induction sessions. These are held before the start of the term for those starting in September and at appropriate times for other staff.
- New staff are allocated a *buddy* who meets with them on a regular basis in the first year to ensure all queries and concerns are answered.
- NQTs are fully supported with a bespoke programme and have a subject mentor as well as a school NQT supervisor.
- A wide ranging and extensive co-curricular programme, with all staff encouraged to get involved.
- Excellent working environment: dedicated staff working areas in all departments, extensive ICT facilities, ICT support and training. All teaching staff are provided with laptop and iPad.
- Small class sizes, high levels of pastoral care and parental support.
- Generous timetable allowances for teaching staff.
- An Information and Consultation of Employees (ICE) Committee allows staff to be consulted on, and raise any issues relating to working at BGS.
- All staff are included in a pension scheme. Teachers are part of the Teachers' Pension Scheme and support staff are included in the scheme available to BGS staff.
- School lunch is provided for all staff during term time.
- Concessionary School Fees are available to all permanent members of staff, subject to their children meeting the academic entry requirements and subject to a place being available.
- Free access to the School's sports facilities and use of the well-resourced School library.
- Staff well-being opportunities including running club, circuits, Pilates etc.

Why come to Bristol?

“It has everything you'd want from a big city – vibrant nightlife, pretty sights and plenty to do – but all on your doorstep.”

The Independent March 2017

Bristol is a wonderful place to live. In fact it was voted the UK's best place to live in 2017 by *The Sunday Times* – for the third time in four years. It has also previously been named the best place to study, one of the top-five most inspiring cities, and even one of the top-ten cities in the world. It is a small city that feels like a big city, with the added benefit of fantastic countryside and beaches on its doorstep. And – if you should want to head elsewhere – Bristol is well connected by rail, road and air to London, Birmingham and the rest of the country and abroad.

Bristol may lack the picture postcard prettiness of neighbour Bath but this is part of its charm. Beyond the dual carriageways and 1960s and 70s concrete architecture, there are still plenty of fine buildings to discover. The buildings of Bristol Grammar School itself represent a trip through architectural history, from the original Victorian Great Hall to the newly-built 1532 Performing Arts Centre.

With a wide range of venues, there is an extraordinary variety of culture available: plays at the Bristol Old Vic or the Hippodrome, exhibitions at the Arnolfini, gigs at Colston Hall, cinema at the Watershed and the Everyman and concerts in St George's. Bristol is of

course the home of Banksy, Wallace and Gromit, and bands such as Massive Attack, who last year persuaded nearly 30,000 people to stand in the pouring rain on Durdham Down for a rare live show.

The entrepreneurial spirit is alive and well here, cultivating a host of independent shops, restaurants, cafés and bars. Many of the best restaurants have something quirky about them. At the Cauldron, everything is cooked on a real fire while at the Lido, in Clifton, you can have a swim before enjoying a two-course Mediterranean dinner.

Bristol is also a fantastic city for families. There are plenty of parks and green spaces to explore: the famous Downs, the Blaise Estate, Snuff Mills, Ashton Court, Leigh Woods, the list goes on. You can enjoy attractions such as the M-Shed and We the Curious, take a ferry across the historic harbour, enjoy the world famous Balloon Fiesta, the Harbour Festival or spend the day at the zoo. Oh – and there's at least one excellent school here too!

