



The
Gryphon
School

Prospectus 2017



www.gryphon.dorset.sch.uk

As an academy and Church of England school, we are a highly inclusive state secondary welcoming those of all faiths and of none. Students come to study at The Gryphon from north and west Dorset and south Somerset.

Our Ethos

STUDENTS COME FIRST

Work hard, enjoy life, GO THE EXTRA MILE

BE FRIENDLY & part of the community

Show integrity, HONESTY & MANNERS

Value, support & CARE FOR EACH OTHER

BE INQUISITIVE,
embrace opportunities & experiences

Lead, aspire, HAVE AMBITION

TAKE PRIDE in all you do

Appreciate QUALITY & EXCELLENCE

Outstanding

Ofsted. Sixth Form

Outstanding

SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools)

5 ★★★★★

Real School Guide 2016

Good

Ofsted. School



Welcome



Thank you for wanting to know more about The Gryphon and considering our school for your child.

Education changes lives and enables a person to be their very best. We achieve that by caring. We care about every day being a good day, about excellence, about the little things and how to make a difference.

So while the move to a new school is a big step, it's also an exciting time and the opportunity for a child to grow into who they are.

We work tirelessly to make sure every child wants to come into school - to learn, laugh and take another positive step forward.

Our ratings reflect our high performance as well as the good we're doing. Ofsted says our Sixth Form is outstanding while the Real Schools Guide 2016 gave us five stars, one of only two Dorset schools to achieve this standard.

Our academic results are some of the best in the county, way above the national average. We get more students into Oxford and Cambridge than some Independents and many Sixth Formers gain places at top Russell Group universities.

Accolades and awards are important but something much more fundamental is

happening within these walls, because to us, all our students are outstanding. Whatever an individual's talent, we will nurture it, and them.

Our vocational courses are well respected, offering a route to higher education, apprenticeships or earn and learn opportunities. Our young people leave prepared for the world, confident and enthusiastic.

Our teachers are experts in their fields, committed communicators and creative in the classroom. Our support for students is deemed the very best in the west. Proud of our academic record, we also value reaching out to those more vulnerable than ourselves and encourage students to give back generously, volunteering with their time and commitment.

Our sporting prowess includes football, rugby, cricket and hockey. Students can also play badminton, tennis, basketball and dodge ball. When it comes to individual sports, we have a Team GB athlete and the current Dorset fencing champion.

We are lucky to be situated on an open green site with excellent facilities.

The school is a living canvas for the work of our creative students, from painters to photographers to poets. Students have gone on to study at world famous

institutes like London's Central St Martin's School.

In this ever changing world, we are early adopters. Wifi is throughout the school and we use smart phones and ipads in lessons. We developed our own iGryphon app for students and parents with online access to resources and information.

I hope you will come and see that although we are a big school we live like a small family. In this environment children are happy, learn well and become confident young people.

That's what we all want for your child.

We look forward to showing you our school.



Steve Hillier, Headteacher



- We have a successful track record of sending students to Oxford and Cambridge
- 99.6% A level pass rate
- 96% of students attend their university of choice
- Students with five or more A*-C GCSE grades including English & Maths: 70%
- Highest Dorset A*-C Maths GCSE pass rate
- A* to A Extended Project Qualification: 65% of students



Studying

What they say about us

Super, much sought after school at the very centre of its community taking on the Sherborne independents.

The Good Schools Guide

The curriculum, advice and guidance leads to high levels of achievement and excellent behaviour.

Ofsted

The Sixth Form is outstanding.

Ofsted

The welcoming, friendly and supportive atmosphere enables everyone to thrive.

Director of Education, Salisbury Diocese

The Gryphon School has steadily expanded in size and become a centre of excellence, attracting pupils from miles around.

The Telegraph

Alumni

Rhys Mumford

I remember a lot of laughs and the freedom to be myself but maybe most importantly, the dedicated teachers who knew their subjects and how to teach them.

I read Chinese Studies at Oxford University. After working in the UK for a year or so my wife and I relocated to Taiwan, where I began teaching English before getting a job as a newsreader and copywriter for Taiwan's English language radio station. After over three years in Taiwan we returned to the UK where I worked as a pot washer before getting my Certificate in English Language Teaching to Adults (CELTA). My first teaching gig was at Royal Holloway, helping international students prepare for their undergraduate courses. Then I got a job at an international school in Belgium - the British School of Brussels, which is where you'll find me now.



BRINGING LEARNING TO LIFE

We don't just teach Maths, Science and the Arts, we bring them to life and make them relevant for life. We offer a range of GCSEs and A levels, as well as a number of BTEC courses including Travel & Tourism, Health & Social Care and Sport.

From Physics to Photography our teachers are experts in their field, passionate about their subject and innovators in the classroom. We run regular trips, visits and exchanges that broaden students' knowledge and inspire them to explore the wider world. We also encourage students to learn another language and teach French, German and Spanish.

LEARNING SUPPORT

Students learn at different rates. Our experience informs the numerous ways we help students to achieve, whatever their ability or circumstance. We really are a standout school when it comes to support and are proud of our hard earned reputation throughout Dorset.

HIGH ACHIEVERS

We spot talent early and keep students engaged, excited and interested. We run a diverse selection of extension teaching, workshops and activities to challenge the most able students, develop intellectual curiosity and realise potential.

THE BLUE ROOM

Our welcoming, calm space is for students to study in smaller groups or one-to-one after returning to school following illness, bereavement or if they are struggling emotionally.

NURTURE GROUPS

"Some students made five years progress in a year."
Gryphon nurture group teacher

We have two full-time primary staff for children joining in Year 7 who need to further develop skills. Students remain in these groups for half the school timetable and study the same curriculum in English, Maths, History and

Geography, with a focus on core skills. They reconnect with their Year Group for the rest of the time, so as not to feel isolated from their peers.



- 25 GCSEs
- Extended Project Qualification

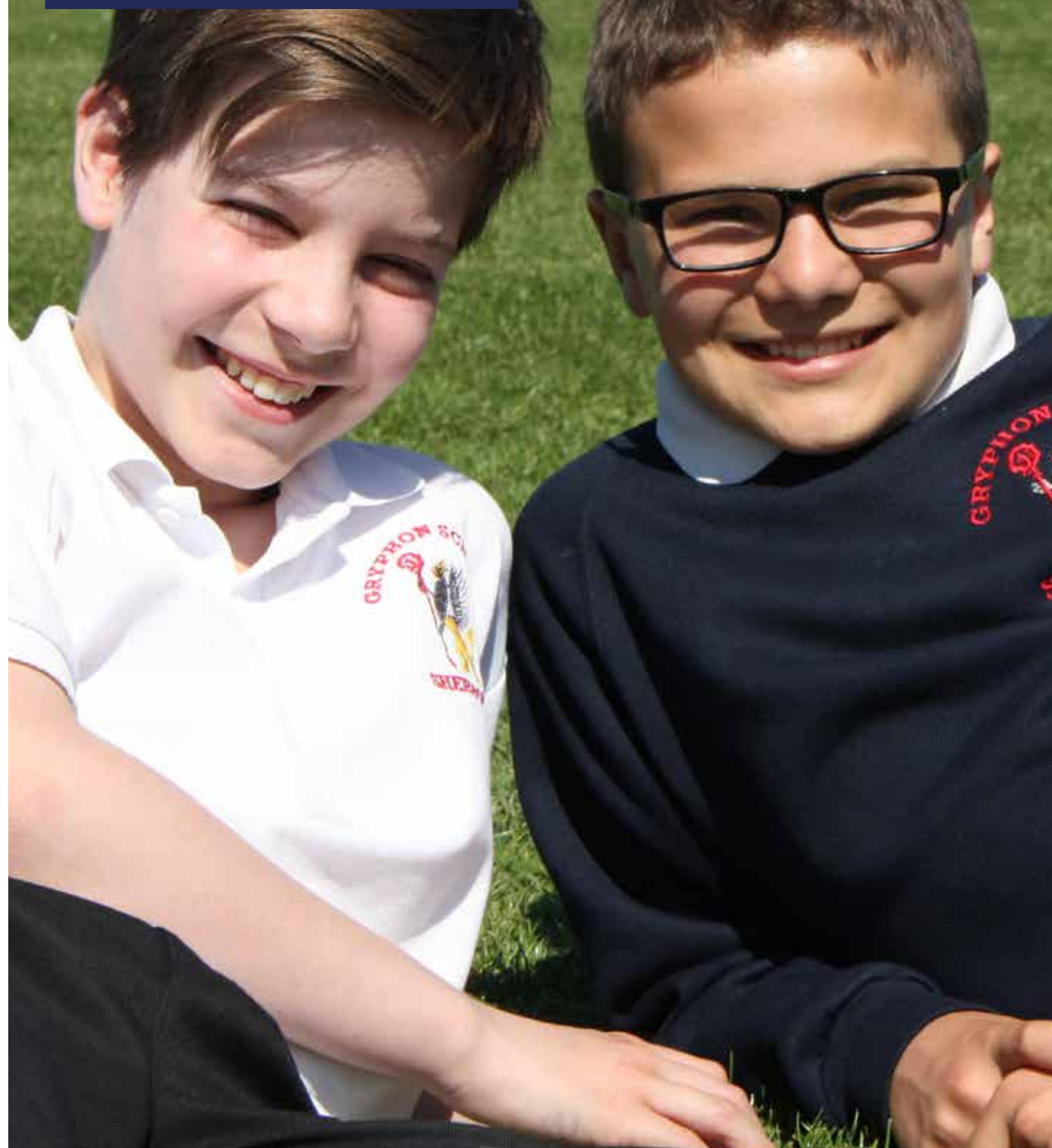
- 40+ A Levels
- English Baccalaureate
- 6 BTECs
- Extended Project Qualification

Teachers know their subjects well, have very good relationships with students and high expectations. Ofsted

Care & support

There is a welcoming, friendly and supportive atmosphere throughout the school.

SIAMS



DOING OUR BEST AND BEING THE BEST

We are a close knit community with a genuine sense of caring. It's at the heart of our school and we've built an enviable reputation and won awards for the way in which we look after students. We acknowledge every student needs support at some stage. When they do, we are there with a friendly smile, helping hand and years of experience.



YEAR GROUP FAMILIES

Our Year Groups all have extremely strong bonds, each with their own family dynamic. Every child has a personal tutor they see at least twice every day. Regular contact means tutors get to know individuals really well and soon spot any issues. We work hard to maintain this relationship through Years 7 to 11 so tutors can speak with genuine insight about the students under their wing.

STUDENT SUPPORT MANAGERS

Each Head of Year works closely with a Student Support Manager, who is also a Teaching Assistant in class every week. They get to know students and their families and are in frequent contact with parents.

SCHOOL COUNCIL

Students have their voice heard on our

School Council and elect members to represent their views and raise issues.

PEER MENTORS

Our buddy support system is where older students help younger and new pupils settle in, find their way around and feel at ease.

OUR CHAPLAIN

In school three days a week, our chaplain plays a vital role in the pastoral care team. She's there for everyone.

PARENTS: ALWAYS IN THE LOOP

All parents have direct access via phone and email to their child's year Tutor, Head of Year and Student Support Manager so any concerns or queries can be quickly addressed.

We also run forums in addition to Parents' Evenings and our termly school newsletter.



AWARD WINNING CAMPAIGN

The Diana Award is given out in Diana, Princess of Wales' name to young role models who are selflessly transforming the lives of others.

Our anti-bullying campaign won this amazing Award. Students wanted to celebrate difference rather than tease

each other and devised the I AM ME slogan and logo. They wear wristbands to show solidarity and we hand these out on junior school visits ahead of students joining The Gryphon to reassure them we do not tolerate bullying in any form. I AM ME clearly sends the message to all students: you have the right to be you, something we encourage every day.



LGBT GOLD

We are a school for everyone and were proud to receive a gold award for LGBT inclusion from Educate & Celebrate's programme.

SCHOOL COUNSELLOR, FAMILY GUIDANCE & MINDFULNESS

We have a highly trained and experienced school counsellor who is part of our Student and Family Guidance Centre and there to help when needed. The centre is for all students as well as their families.

In addition, we run Mindfulness courses to help students learn better, think more clearly and feel calmer. Mindfulness involves shifting our attention to what's happening at that moment, rather than worrying about the past or what might happen in the future.

Our Sixth Form

Outstanding.

Ofsted



- *Ofsted rated outstanding*
- *40+ A level & BTEC courses*
- *96% attend their chosen university*
- *82% A level A* - C*
- *Places at Oxford, Cambridge & Russell Group universities*
- *Armed forces, apprenticeships & on the job training*



MOVING UP AND ON

Starting the Sixth Form is an exciting time, marking new horizons and ambitions. We are tremendously proud of our vibrant upper school students. They give as much to us as we do them, and are great role models for the rest of the school.

We have 450 Sixth Formers, a mix of Gryphon students and those from neighbouring state and independent schools. Our bus service covers outlying villages and towns and many students travel considerable distances to study with us.

Students say that after around two weeks "you can't see the join" between Gryphon students and those from other schools, testament to our Sixth Form working together as one.

FREEDOM AND INDEPENDENCE

There is no uniform, regular study periods, silent work area and separate Common Room with rolling news. We encourage more self-directed study but are there to provide ongoing support.

Our Sixth Formers balance greater responsibility and independence with a genuine sense of fun and tremendous camaraderie.

THE HIGHEST RESULTS

We have some of the highest A level results in the South West and get more students into Oxford and Cambridge than some independent schools. For those wishing to study Medicine,

Law or go onto Oxford or Cambridge, our preparation programme fast tracks early deadline applications to ensure the best chance of success.

We are here to help every step of the way, from the daunting personal statement to choosing the right apprenticeship. Each student has a Personal Tutor for guidance and support, a Head of Year and Head of Sixth Form who they can turn to for advice.

We provide specialist careers advice and guidance, working with students and discussing options with parents. We hold interviews to assess all aspects of an individual, from their talents and personality to special interests and goals.

EMPLOYMENT NETWORKS

Our knowledge of the latest courses, business pathways and apprenticeships is constantly updated. We visit UCAS conventions, offer extensive work shadowing opportunities and have strong relationships with businesses and professionals so students can gain hands on experience away from the classroom.

We run Business & Enterprise days throughout the school so students experience thinking in an entrepreneurial way from an early age. By the time they're in the Sixth Form, it's second nature to see business as part of life.

JOINING OUR SIXTH FORM

To find out more about studying with us, please visit www.gryphon.dorset.sch.uk

and download our separate Sixth Form Prospectus.

We want every student to leave with skills for a long, successful and rewarding career. And have fun along the way.

Alumni

Rebecca Bevan

I could not be more grateful for the support I received throughout my years at The Gryphon School.

I studied Children's Nursing at the University of Greenwich, which meant leaving sleepy Sherborne and moving to London. I graduated with a BSc (Hons) degree and started my job as a paediatric nurse at Chelsea and Westminster Hospital. I chose to start my career on a rotation, spending six months on a general paediatric ward and six months on a gastro and surgical ward. I am enjoying my new job and living the dream in Chelsea!



Our facilities



FUTURE PROOF

The Gryphon prepares students for the wider world, whether it's by working on industry spec iMacs, making music in our recording studio or competing on our playing field.

Whatever a child's interest, we nurture it. We have our own science labs, sports

pitches, drama studios, music rooms, gym and an outstanding Learning Resources Centre. We're lucky to have such a big green space right on our doorstep and make the most of being outside all year round.

We enable students to try things outside their comfort zone. Our facilities

give everyone the opportunity to study well, play hard and let their dreams take centre stage.

LEARNING RESOURCES CENTRE

- Two dedicated Librarians
- 15,000 resources
- Books, DVDs, magazines, newspapers
- Online library catalogue database
- Careers centre
- Scanners & photocopiers
- Secure lockers to store & charge devices

SPORTS

- Football, rugby & cricket pitches
- Astro Turf pitch
- Rounders pitches
- Tennis courts
- Netball courts
- Sports hall
- Gym

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

- Science labs
- ICT rooms with over 650 computers
- Wifi throughout school
- Virtual & remote learning
- Industry spec iMacs
- 3D & laser printers
- Food Tech kitchens

THE ARTS

- Art, Photography & Recording studios
- Drama studios
- Digital SLR cameras
- Ceramics & kiln room
- Design & Technology workshops

CLASSROOMS

- Interactive whiteboards
- Multi media facilities
- Specialist subject rooms
- Well equipped
- Student displays
- Bright & welcoming

CAFÉ CULTURE

- The Bistro kitchen & training restaurant
- Café@Gryphon
- The Pod food to go
- Open all day

Extra curricular opportunities

The breadth and enthusiasm for sport and the arts make The Gryphon an all-encompassing school.

The Good Schools Guide 2016



EXPLORING AND DISCOVERING

Some of the most memorable moments involve school trips, activities and events: that first time walking on stage in a big production, the intake of breath entering the Houses of Parliament, that sense of accomplishment crossing the finishing line of the Ten Tors challenge.

We're just as busy outside school and there's something for every student with our many clubs, societies and productions.

We've sung at London's Royal Albert Hall and the Sherborne Abbey Music Festival; explored the history, culture and people of China, India, Italy, Japan and Rwanda; immersed ourselves in the languages of Germany, Spain and France; skied down the slopes of Austria, run our very own arts festival and won the southern final of Rock Challenge, the international dance and drama competition.

We delivered an outstanding performance in the national Maths Challenge and our students were invited to join a prestigious Masterclass at Bath University and the Mathematical Circle. We went on to host a Maths Feast for schools in the South West.

DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD

Starting in Year 9 there is the chance to work towards a Bronze, Silver and Gold Award and be part of our Ten Tors Challenge team.

CAREY CAMP

All Year 7 students have the opportunity to go on our fun team building trip early in the term to get to know their new classmates. It's an outdoor adventure with sleeping under the stars in a shelter students help to make, and eating food they help to cook. It's a great start to life at The Gryphon.

GIVING BACK

Considering others and giving back plays a big part in our school. We encourage all students to raise money for charity or do some community volunteering. Every second of time given selflessly is valuable and Gryphon students have been recognised in many ways, including winning Dorset & Wilts Young Volunteer of the Year and the Diana Champion Volunteer for work in Sherborne and Rwanda.

If a child has a particular interest and we don't have a club, we'll encourage them to start one and pass on their enthusiasm to others. It's a great opportunity to learn, socialise and gain confidence.

Alumni

Gwilym Lawrence

I look back on my time at The Gryphon School with such fondness. I always felt encouraged to pursue my interests and find new ways to think about things.

I left The Gryphon School with A levels in Theatre Studies, English Literature and Philosophy & Ethics then spent six months teaching and travelling in South America, before heading to the University of Warwick to read Theatre and Performance Studies. At Warwick I realised I wanted to direct theatre. After graduating, I moved to Newcastle and spent two years doing as many theatre projects as possible. I was lucky enough to get funding from the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) to move to London for an MA in Advanced Theatre Practice at the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama. I now live in Sheffield and am doing a PhD at the University of Manchester, where I will spend three years making and writing about site-specific theatre, funded again by the AHRC.

Rewards and achievements



It’s a good feeling to know you’ve done a great job, made a difference or helped out. We celebrate achievements in a variety of ways and never tire of seeing the smile that says it all. We give out academic prizes but also rewards for working hard, positivity and contribution to school life.

CELEBRATIONS & COMMENDATIONS
We hold special lunches with Headteacher, Steve Hillier for students with good end of year reports.

We have chosen six learning muscles and these are the things we really want children to develop because they not only inform learning but also life. We acknowledge every time a student ‘flexes’ these muscles with various rewards, for example, digital stickers: five stickers means a commendation then a letter home explaining the latest achievement.

SHERBORNE ABBEY
Our annual Prize Giving ceremony is

held in the magnificent Sherborne Abbey, right on our doorstep. Past speakers include Christian Guy who was David Cameron’s Special Adviser and former Chief Executive of the Centre for Social Justice; Olympic double trap gold medallist Peter Wilson and Dorset Police Chief Constable Debbie Simpson.

SPORTING SUCCESSES TEAM GB
One of our students competes internationally in Triathlon and represented Team GB in the European and World Championships. Other Gryphon Team GB students compete in Dragon Boat Racing and one is a member of the Shooting development squad.

ANNUAL SPORTS AWARDS
This evening celebrates our talented individuals and recognises their commitment throughout the year. Guest speakers have included Olympians in the Triple Jump and Bob Skeleton, a former England Rugby Coach and Welsh International Hockey Player.

Alumni

Ollie Devoto
Professional Rugby Player

Ollie was at The Gryphon School from Years 7-11 where he excelled in all sports but showed a particular aptitude for rugby. Being picked for the development squad at Bath was a huge achievement and showed his dedication, motivation and passion to succeed. Ollie joined Bath Rugby Club on a professional contract, was capped for England then moved to Exeter Chiefs. We are immensely proud of what Ollie’s achieved and excited to see what the future holds.



RFU Collection via Getty Images

Our learning muscles



RESILIENCE



ENQUIRY



CREATIVITY



REFLECTIVENESS



COLLABORATION



EMPATHY

Our Community

Students are strongly involved in looking at issues beyond their own locality and encouraged to consider the lives of others.

Ofsted



Our school is at the heart of Sherborne's community: it's where we live, work and spend much of our time. We are part of the fabric of local life so when the youth club was threatened with closure, we couldn't just sit back and watch it happen, it was too important to us all. We volunteered to help run it and campaigned to keep it open. Thanks to a lot of local support as well as our efforts, Tinney's Lane Youth Club is going from strength to strength and children once again have positive things to do in the evenings and at weekends. It's a great example of The Gryphon's community spirit in action.

PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION

If you would like to get more involved, our PTA always has room for volunteers. They run social events, are a source of information about the school and a way to keep in touch with other parents.

OPEN DOOR

We like to see you and welcome visits, host open days and events as well as more formal Parents' Evenings and forums. We value your input and want to know if you have any concerns so we can deal with issues quickly and effectively.

OPEN FOR BUSINESS

Links with businesses, professions and projects is one way we prepare students for the world of work. We have our own

annual Business Enterprise Day, which is very popular and gives local business people a chance to get an insider's look at the school. It's also a platform for how we can further partner together to offer opportunities for Gryphon students.

JOB SHOP & CAREER CAFÉ

Our alumni have gone on to have diverse careers at home and around the globe. We love to hear their news and welcome them back on a regular basis. Their success inspires everyone and it's always heart warming to see past and present students sharing experiences.

DOING OUR BIT

Students act as Youth Advisors to the Town Council and are also involved in many community projects from Sherborne In Bloom to the Positive Street Art project, depicting the town's history in a large mural at the Old Market.

LEISURE & CONFERENCE CENTRES

The Leisure Centre is open to the public outside school hours and runs activities for all ages. The Conference Centre and Wessex Room can be hired for meetings, parties and events. Evening classes also take place in the school.

Alumni

James Gard

The Gryphon not only gave me an outstanding academic education but also provided all the support and advice to confidently make my next steps.

I am doing a degree in Engineering at the University of Cambridge and have just finished my first year with a 2:1. I plan on specialising in Manufacturing in my third year and one day set up my own business. The course has proved incredibly challenging. Highlights include a masterclass with Dyson engineers, building a working AM Radio from scratch and testing material properties in a bath of liquid nitrogen. Out of lectures, I have performed a stand-up gig with the Cambridge Footlights, built and raced a cardboard boat, taught maths in a local school and helped run a choir. I spent two months gaining work experience with a local engineering firm specialising in film special effects and pyrotechnics.

Need to know



Alumni

Betony Clasby

I wouldn't have done any of this without The Gryphon giving me a taste of what Psychology can offer.

I gained a degree in Psychology at the University of Exeter and have just had my first research article published in the Journal of Head Trauma Rehabilitation. I'm moving to Australia to become a researcher at the Murdoch Institute for Children's Neuroscience. I'm also conducting a study on the levels of emotional literacy in the deaf and have designed a new tool for measuring emotion identification in deaf young people. I plan to apply for a Masters at Oxford University.



ADMISSIONS

We have 240 places each year and all admissions are handled by Dorset County Council. For full information on the application process and to apply visit www.dorsetforyou.com or call 01305 228509.

TRANSPORT

Several school bus services operate from the surrounding area. Please contact the Bursary for details. For those students brought to school, there is a dedicated drop off/pick up area and, for those who walk, a designated crossing patrol. Students have the use of bike racks and may also obtain a parking permit for cars and motorcycles.

UNIFORM

School uniform can be obtained from Sporting Classics in Sherborne (01935 812232) and consists of a navy sweatshirt and white polo shirt, both with the school emblem, and black trousers (and/or skirt for girls), socks and shoes. Sports kit must include the School navy blue with red stripe reversible rugby/hockey shirt and navy shorts or tracksuit trousers.

DINING

Reasonably priced healthy snacks and lunches are prepared and cooked on the

premises by an in-house catering team. These are available during the morning and at lunchtime.

THE LRC

The large Learning Resources Centre has a huge selection of books, online journals and e-books, a stationery shop, photocopying facilities, computers, and areas for quiet study. The library catalogue is available on all mobile devices and computers.

WISEPAY

WisePay is the school's secure online payment system, an easy way to pay for trips, transport, tickets or add credit to a child's dinner money account. Students can make purchases from the café using their thumbprint, which is biometrically scanned and linked to their account. WisePay helps parents see what their child is buying, stops cash being brought into school and reduces frustrating queues. For more information, please email finance@gryphon.dorset.sch.uk or call 01935 811073.

VISITS & OPEN DAYS

If you would like to visit the School, please come along to one of our Open Days or contact us to arrange an individual visit.



The Gryphon School

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