

A Brief Outline of the School's History, Aims, Intake and Examination Results

History

Katharine Lady Berkeley's School was founded on 20 October 1384 by Katharine, the wife of Lord Berkeley, in order to support the education of two local scholars. Since that date, the school has operated continuously to support the education of secondary age pupils in Wotton-under-Edge and the surrounding areas.

The school moved into buildings in School Lane in Wotton-under-Edge in 1726 and remained there, with various additions until the end of 1962. In 1961, the erection of a new building for 350 pupils on the present site in Kingswood Road was started and in January 1963, Katharine Lady Berkeley's Grammar School vacated the premises in the town and moved into the new buildings. Extensions to the Kingswood Road buildings began in 1972 and they were completed for the start of the Autumn term in 1973 when Wotton Secondary School joined the Grammar School to be re-opened as a comprehensive school for 830 pupils.

Additional accommodation has been added to the school over the last 25 years with a major additional build completed in September 2000 to provide 12 new classrooms, 3 Science laboratories and a new school library. New Music accommodation was completed in Summer 2003 and further building work to replace two existing temporary classrooms and to provide two additional rooms was completed in September 2004. While new buildings have not been added since that date, all windows, roofing and other work has been carried out to ensure that the fabric of the school is in good condition. The school now has 1470 students and the roll is expected to increase to 1500 students over the next few years.

In 1996, the school was awarded Language College status. Following the change of government in 2010, schools are no longer accountable for their specialist activity but we have made the decision to maintain our rich provision for languages and our support for languages in local primary schools.

In August 2011, the school converted to Academy status. While this makes little difference to the day to day running of the school, we now have the benefit of greater autonomy which enables us to provide services for our pupils with a better match to their needs.

Aims of Katharine Lady Berkeley's School

Inspiration – Confidence – Achievement

- 1) To ensure that students are happy at school where they are **inspired** to do their best as **confident** learners in an emotionally and physically safe and caring environment.
- 2) To support students in the transition to secondary education, to enable each student to **achieve** their best examination results and to provide excellent information, advice and guidance for the transition to continuing education and to employment.
- 3) To support students in their personal, emotional, spiritual, social and cultural development through a broad and balanced curriculum so that they can learn effectively and are prepared for their continuing education, adult life and employment.

- 4) To help students to develop effective communication skills, to be able to understand and critically appraise the information which they receive and to be able to express themselves in an appropriate, clear, sensitive and accurate way to a range of audiences.
- 5) To enable students to develop the core skills, resilience and flexibility that are needed for their next steps and to be able to adapt to the technological and societal changes that will take place in their lifetime.
- 6) To promote the physical wellbeing of students through healthy lifestyles and participation in physical activity.

Intake

The school has a traditional 'catchment' area which includes the town of Wotton-under-Edge and the surrounding villages which include North Nibley, Kingswood, Hillesley, Hawkesbury Upton, Charfield and Wickwar. The last three of these are in the neighbouring county of South Gloucestershire but are considered as feeder areas for KLB. We also take pupils from further afield in Gloucestershire, particularly to the north west to include areas such as Berkeley and Sharpness. The majority of the remainder of the pupils live in the South Gloucestershire towns of Yate and Chipping Sodbury.

While the intake does include a few children from deprived backgrounds, most are from families with at least one wage earner and there is considerable support for the school from the parents. There are currently 135 pupils on the FSM6 register. There are 20 pupils with statements of Special Educational Needs and 116 on the school's register for SEN.

Examination Results

The school has an excellent record of examination success. For summer 2018, the provisional headline figures are as below.

Progress 8 score	+0.02
% achieving Grade 5 or above in English and Mathematics	49%
A level value added measure	+0.20
% A level entries resulting in grades A* to B	67%