

Ruthin School

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Established 1284

Principal: Mr T J Belfield MA (Cantab)

Background Information

"In essence being at Ruthin School is more of a way of life than a job. It can be very tiring but also very rewarding. Energy, stamina, good humour, and a well-organised approach are essential attributes to succeeding in what is essentially an extended family."

It is difficult in a short paper to convey the essence of Ruthin School. We would advise you to visit the School's website – www.ruthinschool.co.uk. This site contains a wealth of information about all aspects of school life.

Ruthin School is a coeducational secondary boarding school and has around 360 pupils of which 200 or so are boarding. A new boarding house opened in September 2014, and another boarding house opened in September 2016. The School is divided into two sections – Forms 1 to 5 (Years 7-11) and the Sixth Form. The average class size is 10. Each section has a member of the Senior Leadership Team to monitor progress (Head of Lower School and Head of Sixth Form). The pupils are assigned to one of five houses which compete against each other in a range of competitions and partake, as houses, in social events.

The School, in recent years, has had a firm focus on its academic outcomes. Our pupils come from over 20 different countries, most with the expectation that they will go to a university ranked in the top 20. They will apply to universities in UK, USA, Hong Kong, Canada, Singapore and Australia. The School is a centre for all UK Examination Boards. At GCSE level, pupils sit a mixture of GCSEs and IGCSEs.

Ruthin School has seen its A Level ranking substantially rise (in 2006, we were ranked 440 – our current ranking in the Times 2017 A Level League Tables is 12). Ruthin School is ranked 4th out of all coeducational boarding schools in the UK (www.best-schools.co.uk) In the past 5 years, where there has been an increase in pupils wishing to go to top universities, we have seen between 12% and 17% of all U6 pupils gaining entrance to Oxbridge. Over 90% of the pupils in the Sixth Form will go to a Russell Group (or a top-20 ranking) university.

Academic lessons take place between 8.40 am and 4.00 pm. A staff briefing takes place each day at 8.30 am. After 4.00 pm, a range of activities and tutorials are offered to the pupils – the working day, therefore, for staff is 8.30 am to 5.00 pm.

First and foremost, Ruthin School is a boarding school. All staff are part of a duty team which manages evening prep on a rota basis (finishing at 7.15 pm) and provides staffing for Saturday morning testing. Non-resident staff can expect to be on evening prep duty on average 8 nights per year, and carry out a Saturday morning duty two or three times per year.

The School is a happy, friendly, place to work. Pupils are academically demanding, meaning that staff can truly enjoy focusing on the teaching of their subject at a high level.

T J Belfield
February 2018