

The Burgate School and Sixth Form: General Information

The Burgate is situated on the outskirts of Fordingbridge, a market town on the edge of the New Forest. Salisbury, Bournemouth and Southampton are all within easy driving distance, as are the Channel ports of Poole and Portsmouth. The major cities of Bath, Bristol and London are all easily accessible by road and rail, and the New Forest National Park, Isle of Purbeck, Jurassic Coast and Salisbury Plain further enrich and enhance the natural beauty of the local environment. This is a highly desirable area in which to live and teach.

The school has an excellent reputation in the local community for very high educational standards. Approximately fifty per cent of our students live in Wiltshire or Dorset and attend the school through parental choice. There are currently 756 students on roll in Years 7 to 11 and 237 students in the Sixth Form.

Our school day runs from 08.30 until 15.00. There are four sixty-minute lessons in the morning and one sixty-minute lesson in the afternoon. The lunch break runs from 13.15 to 14.00. A full programme of extra-curricular activities runs at lunchtime and after school.

We offer a broad and balanced academic curriculum with a wide range of subjects offered at GCSE and A Level. Our GCSE results over recent years have been very good and in 2017 74% of students achieved the original benchmark of five or more A*-C GCSE grades including both English and Mathematics at the new grade 4 and above. Our A level results in 2017 were stunning with our students performing in the top 25% of 16-19 providers nationally. 26% of A Level results were at A*-A grades and over 75% at grades A*-C, with practically all students gaining their first choice place at university.

The Burgate has a very attractive site with extensive, well-kept grounds. All accommodation is in permanent buildings and each area is equipped to a high standard. The school became an Academy on 1 May 2011, which has enabled significant modernisation and refurbishment to our classrooms and infrastructure.

The school was last inspected by HMI/Ofsted in January/February 2017 and was graded 'RI' with 'good' in the Sixth Form. We were pleased that the inspectors recognised the excellent behaviour in the school and the fact that students are happy and feel secure in our school, however, the progress of disadvantaged students is a key area that requires improvement and we are addressing this as well as the need to offer more stretch and challenge to all our students in our pursuit of the very highest standards.

We have a highly qualified team of professional teachers and support staff who are committed to offering the highest quality of education to the students. All staff members participate in a well-established performance management scheme. Induction and in-service training are provided for all staff and there is a special programme for NQTs and another for RQTs as well as NPQML and NPQSL courses on offer. Internal promotion is a typical route for progression to higher levels of leadership for Burgate staff.

L E A R N I N G F O R L I F E

The Leadership Team currently consists of the Headteacher, two Deputy Headteachers (Curriculum & Pastoral) and two Assistant Headteacher (Student Progress and Student Development) and a School Business Manager. The Leadership Team directly line manages Heads of Department.

The teaching staff teams are organised on a departmental basis. There are the three core departments: English, Mathematics and Science. Within these areas there are Heads of Department and teachers with specific responsibilities. In addition we have Heads of Department leading each individual subject in the school. Each department has access to a Teaching Assistant to support learning.

Responsibility for student development, pastoral wellbeing and care is shared by our Associate Assistant Headteacher for Student Welfare, the Head of Sixth Form (Lower and Upper Sixth) and our five Heads of Year who, in turn, co-ordinate the work of the form tutors. Unless a teacher holds a position of responsibility within the pastoral system, he or she is expected to be a form tutor.

The support staff structure has six teams, each run by a team leader and a deputy. These teams are: Administration and Finance, Catering, Teaching Support, Learning Support, Logistics and Site Maintenance.

The school has a very committed and supportive board of trustees, enjoys healthy links with the local community and has an active parent-teacher association, which organises social, educational and fund-raising activities. We benefit from the excellent support of parents whom we encourage to maintain close contact with the school and to get in touch whenever they have queries or concerns regarding their child's education. Regular meetings are arranged for parents, providing them with the opportunity to discuss specific points or general topics with their child's subject teachers and tutors. The school has a strong tradition of uniform which the students wear with pride.

Very positive links are maintained with our cluster primary schools through liaison visits, Able, Gifted and Talented enrichment opportunities and sports provision. In the Summer Term all new students have two introductory visits to the school. We pay great attention to the effective induction and integration of our new students.

The Burgate is a school that expects both staff and students to strive to do their very best united by a common belief that everyone's learning journey should be exciting and individual. Collaboration to improve learning and teaching and consultation on change will ensure the on-going success of our school. Whilst I believe that The Burgate already provides the best local education for girls and boys, our desire to be one of the top comprehensive schools nationally continues with great enthusiasm.

David Pover
Headteacher
November 2017