CHELTENHAM COLLEGE

Cheltenham College

Information for Prospective Teachers

Introduction

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Cheltenham College has been educating young people since 1841. It is one of the leading public co-educational boarding schools in the country, with an enviable reputation for academic achievement and breadth of co-curricular opportunities. Over 1,000 pupils aged 3-18 are educated each year at Cheltenham College and the adjoining Prep School. College has a strong boarding ethos and 80% of pupils board.

Pupils at College enjoy the unique camaraderie of full boarding in a variety of elegant Georgian and Victorian buildings. Our science facilities are of university level and our music department is proud of our all Steinway status. Pupils are encouraged to be true all-rounders, scaling the academic heights and embracing a wide variety of new challenges outside the classroom.

College combines a strong sense of tradition within a forward looking co-educational context. This is underpinned by a personalised and pervasive ethos of pastoral care rooted in College's Christian foundation.



Our Site and Location



College occupies a town centre site including extensive playing fields and a splendid collection of Victorian, Georgian and modern buildings, many of which have listed status. The adjacent Prep School (ages 3-13) is set in more than 15 acres of grounds with its own lake and sports fields.

The stunning Chatfeild-Roberts Library, with its rows of Gothic windows, has been fully refurbished and refitted. Sports facilities have also been upgraded. A completely refurbished science centre boasts an interactive display of the periodic table, which is the largest and most sophisticated of its kind outside the USA. The redevelopment of the Victorian dining hall, originally built as a chapel, completed in January 2018. Plans to further develop our facilities and care for our beautiful site continue to evolve and reflect the forward-thinking ethos of College.

Cheltenham is a thriving and culturally vibrant town with a wide selection of bars, restaurants, a vibrant cultural and night life. Known for its elegant architecture and tranquil parks, it boasts a number of internationally-recognised festivals. The racecourse plays host to the Gold Cup festival, and the Music, Literature, Jazz and Science Festivals attract hundreds of thousands of visitors to the town every year. The cricket ground at the College is the idyllic setting for the historic Gloucestershire County Cricket Club Festival - another highlight of the sporting calendar.

The rolling hills and picture-book villages of the Cotswolds are within easy reach. Bristol and Birmingham are under an hour away and there is a direct train to London which takes 2 hours.

Delivering Excellence

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We are proud that our most recent ISI Inspection Report rated Cheltenham College as 'excellent' in every single category. The report on the full school inspection, which took place in 2016, was full of praise for the excellent quality of pupils' high academic achievements and learning, while the curriculum and extra-curricular programme was commended for having both balance and real breadth throughout the whole school.



Throughout their time at Cheltenham College, pupils are encouraged to be intellectually curious and to think independently. Pupils are challenged through discussion, expert specialist teaching, visits, lectures and mentoring. Children in the Prep study a broad and varied curriculum. French is taught from Nursery, ICT skills from Year 1 and Latin from Year 5. This breadth continues when our pupils move up to College. Our learning support team offers help to those who have English as an additional language and supports other challenges in response to pupils' individual needs. Almost every student studies for 10 GCSEs. In 2016 the school achieved its best ever GCSE results. 71% were graded A*-A and 50% of pupils gained five A*s or more.

College has a large, thriving Sixth Form of around 300 students and the 2017 A Level results were the best yet, with 82% achieving A*-B. Subject tutors and Sixth Form mentors provide our students with excellent teaching and academic development, complemented by fantastic pastoral support and a huge breadth of extra-curricular opportunities. Our range of A Levels, Extended Project Qualifications (EPQs), volunteering electives and mini-MBA programme help strengthen UCAS applications.

Pastoral Care

Pastoral care is led through the House system. Each House is run by a resident Housemaster or Housemistress, assisted by resident and non-resident tutors and matrons. All teaching staff are attached to a House and play an active role in the life of the House. The school asks that boarders spend more weekends at College than away during any given term to maintain the strong boarding community. In addition to being a member of a House, every pupil is part of a tutor group of 6-10. In Lower College these groups are House based. In Upper College students can choose their tutor whom they meet regularly.

FLOREAT is College's wellbeing programme which is overseen by the Deputy Head (Learning and Wellbeing). It permeates every area of school life and aims to equip individuals to be aware of, and respond dynamically to, the increasingly complex world around them. The termly FLOREAT themes are discussed in Chapel, a weekly session delivered by tutors and throughout school whether in the classroom or on the sports field. Sessions have included mindfulness, exam technique and a research project into the link between physical activity and cognitive maturation. The Health Centre Team is also involved in the FLOREAT programme providing health promotion and education to pupils as well as medical treatment and advice.

Chapel is at the heart of the College providing moral and spiritual support for the entire community. The whole College attends a service four mornings a week. The Chaplain and Assistant Chaplain are involved in teaching, delivering the FLOREAT programme and the school's community and charity work. Cheltenham College is a Christian foundation and services follow the practice of the Church of England, and maintains and encourages a deep respect for other faiths.



Co-curricular Activities

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Our pupils have the opportunity to discover and nurture their talents in a supportive and friendly atmosphere where everyone is encouraged to try something new. With a strong military history the Combined Cadet Force is a popular option, as is The Duke of Edinburgh's Award. The school has an illustrious history on the sports field and is just as keen to celebrate the success of the third team as the first. As well as facilities for all the major sports there is a rifle shooting range, squash and rackets courts and a fully supported boathouse for the rowing club.

Everyone is encouraged to participate in Music and Drama, whether front of house or behind the scenes. College is an 'All-Steinway School' and has two choirs, an orchestra and various instrumental ensembles, including a jazz band which regularly plays at the Cheltenham Jazz Festival. Pupils enthusiastically take part in House drama and whole school productions. College is renowned for its expeditions and tours programme. International visits start in Year 6 when pupils travel to France and continue throughout their time at school. Recent trips have included Nepal, Iceland, Malaysia and Portugal.

As well as being a part of the school family, students are aware of the importance of positively contributing to the wider community. College has partnerships with two local maintained schools. Sixth formers volunteer in schools, care homes and with local charities as part of the electives programme and the Fourth Form also take part in a structured programme of community outreach. We have long standing links with a school in Kenya and a project to work alongside disadvantaged children in Romania.

Our Staff Community

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The Common Room

College enjoys a thriving Common Room which offers a staff bar, regular social events and a supportive and collegiate atmosphere. Colleagues are generous in their support of new staff members and driven by a determination to ensure the very best outcomes for their students and colleagues. College offers staff opportunities to engage in, and succeed at, new activities and to receive proactive support and training for personal and professional development.

The Cheltonian Society

The Cheltonian Society is an all-inclusive organisation for everyone who has, or has had, an association with College or The Prep. Membership is automatic and includes current and former parents, pupils, and staff. It is operated and managed by the Development Office team which organises events and maintains links between current and former members and friends of College. The Society organises Old Cheltonian reunions and events, and supports all the various OC Sports organisations.



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Find out more at www.cheltenhamcollege.org or email recruitment@cheltenhamcollege.org