





The Partnership strives to ensure everyone in the community achieves more than they thought possible, reaching beyond their aspirations.

STUART WARRENER
Chair of the Trust



Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership

The Partnership – Educating for the future

It is a privilege to be the CEO and Executive Headteacher of the Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership (MNSP).

Our aim as a Multi-Academy Trust is to ensure all children have the opportunity to attend a 'good' or better school and we believe through close collaboration, our work towards this goal is more effective. The foundations of the MNSP Trust are linked to a shared desire to support our local community. This area of North East Somerset is a wonderful place to live and work. Children, staff and all those associated with the schools in the MNSP benefit from a sense of shared responsibility for the welfare and progress of children.

As a group of schools, we are stronger and have already seen some outstanding improvement as a result of our work together. Children and staff have benefitted from increased opportunities and I have no doubt that our partnership will continue to grow, optimising life-chances for all our children.

Somervale and Norton Hill Schools now have a long history of working together for the best of all our children. Both have regularly been in the top 10% of schools nationally for the progress made by students and both received letters of congratulation from the DfE in 2016 for their outcomes. This tremendous achievement is the result of our positive collaboration, where students, staff and parents benefit from the combined power of two great schools.



Mr Alun Williams
CEO & Executive Headteacher



Students are proud of their achievements. In lessons they develop independence and take responsibility for their learning.

OFSTED 2016

Welcome to Somervale Joanna Postlethwaite - Headteacher

I am extremely proud to be Associate Headteacher of Somervale, particularly as it has improved so much over recent years and was awarded a 'good' judgement by Ofsted in recognition of this outstanding progress, validated by a recent visit in November 2016.

Examination results have hit record levels and the school was rightly recognised as one of the top 10% of schools in the country for student progress. Recent outcomes achieved at Somervale place the school well above the national average for student attainment and achievement. The school's excellence in Arts education has also been recognised with the award of the prestigious Arts Mark Gold Standard. Somervale is one of the best schools in Bath and North East Somerset and its strong partnership with other MNSP schools gives students exceptional opportunities. The school's attendance and behaviour has been held up as an example for other schools in the South West to follow, as has the exceptional care, support and guidance students receive, which was judged as 'outstanding' in a recent external review.

As a dynamic and successful school in a modern environment, Somervale is able to design learning around the needs of each child with the expectation that all make outstanding progress. Being a small school enables Somervale to encourage all students to take the lead and

develop personal responsibility. Its size allows all students to be known and valued.

The Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership – a partnership between Somervale, Norton Hill and St Dunstan's Secondary Schools and High Littleton, Clutton, Trinity, Dundry, Longvernal, Welton, Farrington Gurney and Midsomer Norton Primaries – is committed to a broad and balanced curriculum which benefits students so they can secure the best jobs and places at the best universities.

The MNSP has brought many benefits, specifically a wider range of subjects being made available and a programme of extra-curricular activities which are designed to provide greater opportunities and experiences. The Midsomer Norton Sixth Form ensures high quality Post-16 teaching for students and has become one of the highest performing Sixth Forms in B&NES and beyond.

Outcomes in all aspects at Somervale continue to improve and, with many more developments planned, it really is an exciting place to be. Somervale has seen a staggering 20% rise in numbers in recent years. The word of our success is spreading! I would encourage parents to visit the school and see it in action. If you would like a tour of Somervale please contact my PA to arrange a suitable time to visit.



Somervale has the highest proportion of students in Bath and North East Somerset progressing onto university.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Destination League Table 2016



Somervale – our strategic vision

Somervale School is a small school, by design, in a modern environment and supportive community where:

- Learning is designed around the needs of each student with the expectation that all make outstanding progress.
- Students experience excellence, particularly in the specialist area of English, Music and Media Arts.
- All students leave school with an understanding of how to learn; think creatively; take risks and handle change.
- All students get the chance to participate and take leading roles in all the school has to offer.
- Self-esteem and personal growth are nurtured and students take on responsibility as local and global citizens.
- A student's chance of success is not related to his or her socio-economic background, gender or ethnicity.
- Teachers use their expertise and knowledge to engage students in their learning and act quickly to adjust their teaching in response to students' learning.
- Leadership encourages the will for betterment in all.

The best of both worlds

Somervale seeks to take the best out of the private school system so that all students benefit from high quality education:

- An expectation of academic excellence in English, Mathematics & Science.
- Excellence in behaviour and pastoral care.
- The Accelerated Reader programmes for all students in Years 7–11.
- An enriched curriculum, particularly in arts and sports.
- A small school ethos, encouraging all students to take the lead and develop personal responsibility.
- A collective pride and celebration of all the talents.
- Supported 'prep' time for future lessons.
- Lead school in the area for Music education.
- One of the highest performing schools in B&NES for Sport.
- Member of NACE providing challenge for More Able students.

“

Very positive comments are made about the culture of care, support and high levels of concerns for students' well-being and development, as well as their academic achievement.

OFSTED 2016



A smooth transition to becoming a Somervale student

Every Autumn, we invite primary students and their parents to Somervale for our Open Evening. Our students act as guides and hosts, with the evening including an address by the Headteacher. The event is a highlight in Somervale's calendar and is always well attended.

Although the Open Evening is a great way to view the school and ask questions, we also encourage all visitors to see the school at work. To arrange an appointment to view the school, please contact the Head's PA on: 01761 414276 or email: hjones@writhlington.org.uk
Visitors need to report to the Reception on arrival.

There are lots of activities which help to make the transition from primary school to secondary as smooth and successful as possible. These activities include master classes, competitions and activity days (e.g. ICT Coding, Clay Design, Science, Sport, Music, TV Production, Languages), Year 6 Induction Day and Evening and Summer School.

The transition process begins as early as Year 5, when all Year 5 students from our partner primaries are invited to attend after-school master classes which run throughout the year. In Year 6, Senior and Pastoral staff visit all Year 6 students coming to Somervale during the Summer Term. They also speak to the Year 6 teachers at the primary schools.

We hold an Induction Day in July where students get a chance to experience new lessons and begin the process of making new friends. This is followed by an Information Evening for students and parents.

In Term 3 of Year 7, we offer all Year 7 students a residential experience at the Forest of Dean Study Centre. The purpose of this experience is to build the tutor group into a mutually supportive team. To this end, the Year 7 Tutor accompanies the group.



Students commented on the friendliness of staff and how confident they are in being able to report and discuss concerns with teachers and other adults.

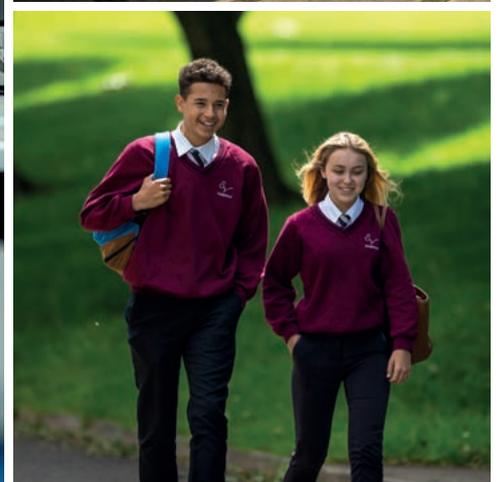
OFSTED 2016



“

My child's transition from primary school was handled in a very sensitive and professional manner and there was a great deal of interaction leading up to the big day. As a result, she has had an excellent start to her secondary education, her confidence has grown considerably and we are delighted with her progress.

PARENT
Year 7 Student





“

It's difficult to imagine a friendlier and more harmonious community.

OFSTED 2016



School leaders have been successful in ensuring that pupils' reading and writing skills are developed in all subjects.

OFSTED 2016

Inspirational teaching and stimulating learning

At Somervale we value academic excellence and teachers' abilities to nurture an enthusiasm for their subject in the students they teach. We encourage students to ask questions and develop their intellectual curiosity through well-planned lessons that challenge their learning.

Our curriculum is broad, balanced and varied, securing core skills and fundamental academic disciplines across all subjects at Key Stage 3. At Key Stage 4, an academic pathway is offered in English Baccalaureate subjects to stretch the more able, and other pathways include vocational courses which are available to prepare students for the careers they aspire to.

We create a learning environment that is exciting and contemporary. Our Media Arts Specialism allows the students to access 21st century resources simply not available in most schools, such as TV and radio studios and film and music technology digital editing suites.

Work is regularly assessed and individual feedback is given to students to help them improve. Lesson preparation tasks are regularly set and monitored, ensuring students develop skills from formative comments to meet expected targets.



Somervale is proud to be a specialist arts college

English

The English Department was identified by Ofsted as a lead department in teaching, 'much that is outstanding.' The curriculum that is offered at Key Stage 3 is thorough and varied, and follows the guidelines given in the National Curriculum. Students study diverse units including texts such as "A Christmas Carol" and "Animal Farm" and non-fiction texts such as autobiographies and newspapers, in addition to various drama texts. All students participate in the Accelerated Reader programme to support students in their reading development. We want all students to not only be able to develop their overall literacy skills, but also to be able to develop their use of communication whether this be in written or verbal form.

At Key Stage 4 we follow the AQA syllabus. This course continues to build on the skills acquired at Key Stage 3, and all students take English Language and English Literature and are assessed via 100% examinations which are taken at the end of Year 11. English continues to be a very popular subject at Key Stage 5 and we pride ourselves on offering a variety of courses for students to take at A Level.

Music

As a specialist subject at Somervale, the Music Department offers students a wide range of activities in the curriculum and through our extra-curricular programme. The department is equipped with two specialist teaching rooms, an ensemble room, a recording studio and practice rooms. The department has a Yamaha keyboard suite and a Music Technology suite with Mini Macs which is used to provide specific curriculum provision across all Key Stages.

In Key Stage 3, students receive three lessons per fortnight which are divided between developing their Music Technology skills, keyboard and instrumental skills. This enables students to learn about a wide range of musical styles and techniques within the National Curriculum. In Key Stage 4, students receive six lessons per fortnight and have the opportunity to study Music as a GCSE option.



Pupils are provided with good guidance about post-16 options so that they make well-informed and appropriate decisions.

OFSTED 2016

Students have access to a number of music-based opportunities

All students are encouraged to develop their musical talents in and out of the classroom and we offer a wide range of peripatetic lessons, for example: flute, clarinet, violin, viola, cello, double bass, guitar, bass guitar, vocals, keyboard, piano, drums, saxophone, trumpet, trombone and DJ-ing.

The department organises a variety of performances throughout the year in school and within the local community. We have an annual Carol Concert at St. John's Church and numerous recital opportunities throughout the year. Students from all Key Stages participate in a number of instrumental and technological extra-curricular activities which are teacher and student-led.

Yamaha Music School

We have successfully been in partnership with Yamaha Music for 17 years offering lessons within the community on Keyboard and Drums. These lessons are taught after school and are available to both students and adults. Yamaha teaching techniques are exciting and diverse enabling learners to develop solo and band skills on top quality instruments, so that they learn a wide range of popular music.

Media

Students have access to:

- A radio recording studio
- An audio recording studio
- A TV recording studio
- Two video editing suites
- A media computer suite using the latest digital iMac computers
- Class sets of video camcorders

Our students have the opportunity to:

- Take a Level 2 Creative & Media BTEC at Key Stage 4 and a Level 3 BTEC at Key Stage 5
- Use media equipment and expertise in a wide range of subjects such as Science, Geography and Philosophy & Belief

We have a cinema quality screen, digital projector and sound system in the Main Hall which we use to show films and media work created by the students. We extend our media arts expertise to the wider community too where many students in our partner primary schools and Fosseyway Special School have enjoyed working with Somer Valley FM through our community out-reach projects.



Gifted and talented students are identified in all Key Stages

Students are identified on our More Able, Gifted and Talented register in all Key Stages. Our identification process involves staff, students and parents and is monitored throughout the year. Students are encouraged to participate in a variety of activities which support academic and social development.

All students are assessed and monitored throughout the academic year both in and out of school. They have access to current grades and are set challenging targets to ensure all reach their potential at the end of each Key Stage through internal and external examinations.

All students are monitored throughout the year through our tutor mentoring and intervention programme. This involves subject staff, tutors and students giving parents the opportunity to review targets and monitor progress through our Subject Reports and Parents' Evenings.

Great Opportunities

We provide a wide range of additional opportunities for more able, gifted and talented students at Somervale School. These include:

- Master classes
- Music recitals in school and in the community
- Art gallery visits

- A wide variety of extra-curricular activities
- Participation in our 'Eco Team' and the Climate Change Conference
- Author visits
- Maths Challenge
- Guest speakers across all years
- Instrumental lessons through 1-to-1 tuition
- Personalised mentoring and Bath Spa mentoring
- B&NES Sports Leadership Academy
- School Production
- Homework Prep
- Sports Leader Award
- Ten Tors
- Duke of Edinburgh
- Aim Higher university visits
- Kit Car challenge
- International visitors
- Residential visits
- School Council
- National Carnegie Award
- SSCO Sports Events
- Artists in residence
- Westonbirt A-A* residential course
- Bath University's G&T Sports Performers' Programme
- Science Café



“

Lessons, particularly in media arts, and extra-curricular activities promote students' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development well.

OFSTED 2016



Teachers and other adults support students so that they make good progress and achieve well. Additional literacy and reading sessions have a positive impact on students' achievement.

OFSTED 2016

Our pastoral system ensures every individual is cared for

Somervale has always had a very strong pastoral system which ensures we care for each and every individual. All students belong to a tutor group and are supported by their pastoral team.

We have high expectations of students and encourage all to challenge themselves to reach aspirational goals. Our commendation system rewards students for good attendance, punctuality, effort, behaviour and contribution to school life which links to the students' Personal Success Chart.

We support all students in their academic achievement, from gifted and talented enrichment to mentoring by older students and aspirational mentoring by university students. Learning and social support is available to all students, and tutors offer guidance to students throughout the year, providing support and involving parents where appropriate. All students participate daily in the Accelerated Reader Programme during tutor time.

We have a dedicated Careers Officer who provides impartial advice for all students, helping with option choices at KS4 and choices for Post-16. Students get opportunities throughout their school career to get involved in activities and visits which inspire their choices for the future.

All students with identified individual needs are encouraged and supported to achieve their potential – academically, personally and socially. This is developed through additional support in lessons, targeted intervention, group work and access to professional services.

Further information is available for additional needs. Please contact the school for details.



Students are given the opportunity to lead and take responsibility

Somervale students play a key role in decision making on school matters and are given the opportunity to take responsibility and lead in a number of activities.

Our school forum representatives remain in post throughout the academic year and have co-ordinator roles which are decided upon by the students at the start of each year.

This enables all students to have a voice within the school. Each Key Stage has a forum with two elected representatives from each tutor group who attend meetings and provide feedback on actions. Within the Key Stage Forums, students have the opportunity to have roles of responsibility: Chair Student, Vice Chair Student, Secretary and Communications Manager. Any matters arising from meetings are taken to the Senior Leadership Team for consideration.

Students have the opportunity to be trained by mentors throughout Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4.

Our trained mentors are not only involved in activities at Somervale but also have the opportunity to participate in lunchtime activities in one of our local partner primary schools, gaining experience in leading and supporting activities with younger aged pupils.

A large proportion of Key Stage 4 students participate in the Sports Leader Programme and have developed coaching and officiating skills, on and off site, and are ambassadors for the school.

The senior students help to maintain high standards when they take responsibility to do a break and lunchtime duty once a week. Senior students also assist in running lunchtime activities to engage students during their lunch break and take leadership roles in our A-dvice Team who support vulnerable younger pupils and our E-Qualities Team which campaigns on a range of equality issues. We were the first secondary school in B&NES to receive the Eco Green Flag award and have previously achieved 3 Green Flag awards.

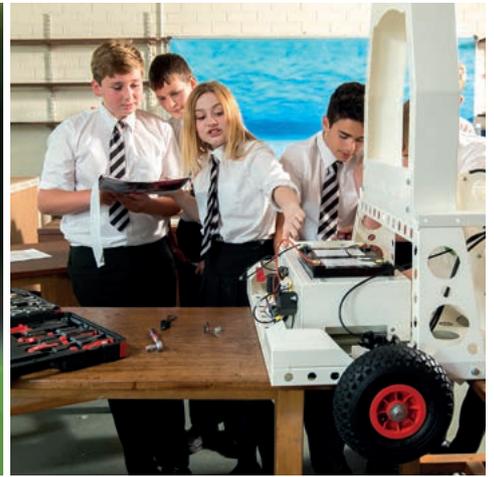


“

The wide range of extra-curricular activities encourage students to participate and helps them to interact with each other across the age range.

OFSTED 2016





Opportunities beyond the classroom

Somervale has a long tradition of providing outdoor activities and cultural experiences for its students from School Camp on the south coast to foreign trips.

Each year, students are given the opportunity to take part in a wide range of Science, Maths and Technology enrichment activities. Year 9 students have led a Year 7 project organising, designing, planning, building and testing an electric kit car.

The Greenpower Goblin car is part of a National programme to encourage both girls and boys to develop their Science Technology, Engineering and Maths skills. Somervale has teamed up with the Advanced Propulsion Centre at the University of Bath and is using this opportunity to demonstrate the huge range of skills required to complete a project like this. Students have used skills such as art and design, research and presentation, communication with outside agencies, public relations, problem-solving, scientific testing and evaluation as well as the teamwork needed to make this project successful and to take it on to the testing phase against other schools from around the country.

Throughout the last week of term students have the opportunity to participate in educational visits and school based activities, giving them the chance to practise different skills and experience different learning opportunities. There are a wide range of activities in and out of school, such as foreign visits and residential experiences which includes our annual camp to Swanage on the south coast.

Through the Partnership, students have the opportunity to participate in the Duke of Edinburgh scheme at Bronze,

Silver and Gold levels, developing key skills valued by employers. We also enter successful teams for the annual Ten Tors event on Dartmoor.

There is a very wide range of sporting extra-curricular activities and Somervale School has an enviable record in winning numerous leagues and competitions.

Our world-class 3G Astro Turf facility opened in 2015 giving Somervale School the capacity to run a variety of sports through the winter months. In Years 7 to 9, students enjoy a wide range of sports in PE lessons including: netball, football, rugby, athletics, basketball, trampolining, tennis, cricket, rounders, table tennis and health-related exercise. This continues into Years 10 to 13 where students can also study PE to GCSE and A Level. The school also makes use of sports coaches from, for example, Bath Rugby Club.

The school was awarded the prestigious Sports England Sportsmark Award in recognition of the very wide range of activities on offer and the high standards achieved. There are regular inter-tutor competitions.

The PE Department looks to develop students through leadership programmes. A high proportion of Year 10s are involved in the Sports Leader Award. Students also help to organise festivals and run training sessions for children from local primary schools. Our School Sports Co-ordinator (SSCO) runs numerous festivals and competitions with our partner primary schools.

Somervale understands the importance of recognising and celebrating success throughout the academic year and this culminates in a prestigious sports awards dinner where numerous awards are distributed.



The Sixth Form is good. Students make good progress as a result of good or better teaching. Students are provided with a rich curriculum that meets their needs and aspirations well.

OFSTED 2016

Many students choose to stay on to continue their Post-16 studies

The majority of students choose to stay at the school to continue their Post-16 studies across the Partnership at the Midsomer Norton Sixth Form.

Students experience the greater freedom of Sixth Form life as well as a wide range of over 40 courses at both the Somervale and Norton Hill sites. There are excellent facilities across both campuses, such as the fantastic media suite, Sixth Form library, extensive ICT facilities and our new Sixth Form Centres at both sites. We have a 3000 sq ft state-of-the-art Sixth Form Centre on the Norton Hill site which has dedicated rooms and study areas solely for Sixth Form use.

Each year, a number of students will choose to join us from other institutions for their Sixth Form study. We offer a wide range of courses and have outstanding levels of achievement. There is a strong tradition of students entering Higher Education including regular success at Russell Group and Oxbridge Universities.

As part of the Post-16 programme, students participate in a Careers and Higher Education programme which ensures they receive preparation and support with university applications and when entering the world of work. Additionally, as part of our work as the Gifted and Talented Lead School, students can opt to take part in a

separate Oxbridge preparation process. Our partnership with Corpus Christi and the University College Cambridge helps to maximise students' chances of successful applications. We also offer students the opportunity to take part in our Russell Group preparation programme in partnership with UCL, London, which supports students in preparing for application to the top universities in the country. As a Harvard partner school, we are experienced in supporting students in this process.

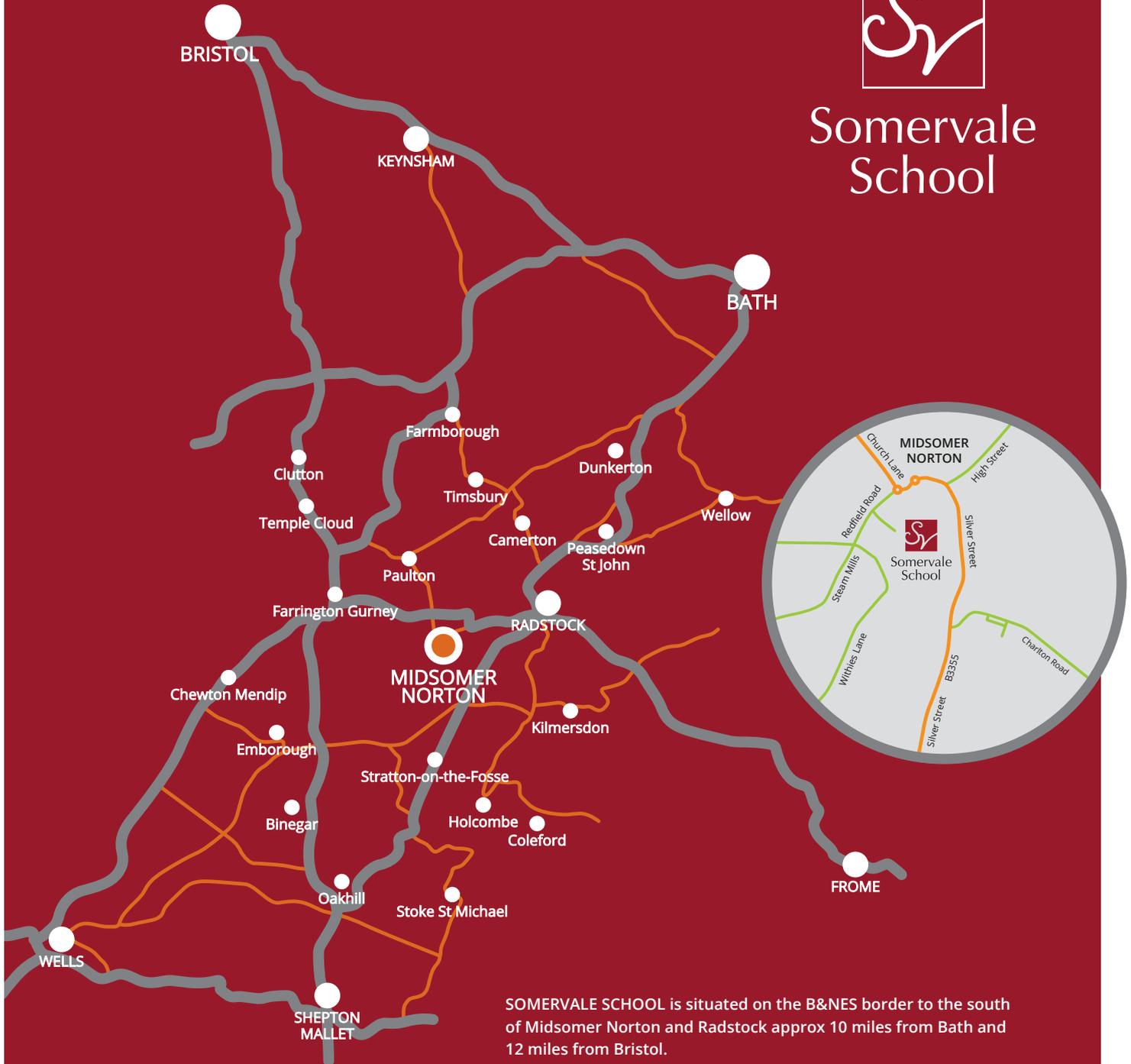
The **Cambridge Pre-U** course is designed to offer students a linear approach to study with opportunities for more in-depth analysis. The programme has been identified by the top Russell Group of Universities as the ideal preparation for study at their institutions, and we are the only Sixth Form to offer the course in the area.

Students who are interested in a career in business can enrol in the **Business Academy**. As part of their preparation to be the business leaders of the future, they receive master classes from local and national business leaders. They also have a mentor from the business world who meets them regularly.

Aside from their academic study, students can also participate in a wide variety of social and educational trips such as to London and Rome.



Somervale School



SOMERVALE SCHOOL is situated on the B&NES border to the south of Midsomer Norton and Radstock approx 10 miles from Bath and 12 miles from Bristol.

The Somerset villages of Chewton Mendip, Ston Easton, Chilcompton, Binegar, Gurney Slade, Stoke St Michael, Coleford, Oakhil, Holcombe, Kilmersdon and Stratton-on-the-Fosse are within 15 minutes drive of the school, as are Peasedown St John, Wellow, Shoscombe, Camerton, Timsbury and Paulton.

School coach transport is provided by B&NES from Farmborough, High Littleton, Clutton, Temple Cloud, Hallatrow and Farrington Gurney.

Somerset County Council also provides school coach transport from Coleford and Holcombe. Norton Hill also runs buses to some local villages. For further information please contact the school.



Somervale School

Redfield Road • Midsomer Norton • Radstock BA3 2JD

Tel: 01761 414276 • Email: enquiries@somervaleschool.com • Twitter: @somervaleschool

www.somervaleschool.com

Headteacher: Joanna Postlethwaite



Midsomer Norton
Schools Partnership

Part of the Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership

www.midsomernortonschoolpartnership.com