



Norton Hill
School

PROSPECTUS



“ 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.

Norton Hill collaborates with several other secondary schools in the Multi Academy Trust to ensure staff can deliver a first class education for our students.



Mr Alun Williams
CEO & Executive Headteacher



“ The Headteacher provides the school with outstanding leadership.

Students achieve well, including the Sixth Form, because teaching is good and some is outstanding.”

OFSTED

Mr Gordon Green Headteacher, Norton Hill School

Welcome to the Norton Hill School prospectus. I hope the information gives you an insight into our excellent school.

I am immensely proud of the achievements of the students who come to our school. This summer, once again, students gained excellent results at both GCSE and Advanced Level. Norton Hill consistently achieves the highest standards in most indicators, including the new academic measure of the English Baccalaureate. We strongly believe in the importance of students following courses which give them the best opportunities in later life, so we encourage academic challenge in our curriculum and will not make students take less worthwhile courses simply to boost league table positions.

Norton Hill is identified as being one of the most successful schools in the country and has always been highly rated by Ofsted. At the heart of this success are the core values that I and the whole school community believe are important:

- Excellent teaching by experienced, specialist teachers
- Individual care through the House system
- High levels of achievement through a challenging academic curriculum chosen to give students the best life chances
- Traditional values of behaviour, appearance and conduct
- Innovation in all aspects of education
- Developing personal leadership through a wide programme of extra-curricular activities and outdoor education

Choosing the right secondary school for your son or daughter is a key moment in ensuring they have the best chance of success in the future. It is important you take time to consider two questions when making your choice of school: “Will my child be happy here?” and “Will my child be successful here?” I firmly believe the answer to those questions for current students is a resounding yes, and this is backed up by parental feedback.

This prospectus and our Open Evening can only give you a flavour of Norton Hill. I believe it is important parents visit a prospective school during a normal working day so I would encourage you to book a tour through my PA. During your visit, you will have a chance to see lessons, observe a lesson changeover and talk to the students you meet to give you a true experience of the outstanding teaching, learning and behaviour at our school.



Students joining in Year 7 can be both nervous and excited so we aim to ensure the transition is as smooth as possible.

Our Primary Liaison Team are two Assistant Headteachers, the five Heads of House and Mrs Lewis (SENCO). They will visit every student in their primary school during the term before they start with us. This ensures each Year 6 student is happy with the arrangements for transition and gives them an opportunity to discuss any concerns they may have.

All the new intake attend a Taster Day in July where they meet their Tutor, House staff and the other members of their Tutor Group. They will be able to explore the school and have an introduction to some lessons.

Parents are also invited to visit the school in the evening to meet the Tutor, Head of House and Senior Staff.

Our intention is to make sure the transition process is smooth and comfortable for parents too!

A number of our students take part in the extended activities we offer during the summer break to help them get to know the school.

If there are concerns at any point, parents are free to contact the school. We want problems and worries to be identified and addressed whenever they arise.

“ I have enjoyed my first year at Norton Hill. I have made loads of new friends and I am now more confident about putting my hand up... I love it here! ”

JUSTINA, Year 7



Transition Timeline

SEPTEMBER

Open Evening

SEPTEMBER – OCTOBER

Parental Tours

31ST OCTOBER

Deadline for applications to LA

1ST MARCH

Letter from LA offering places

MAY/JUNE

School liaison team visit all students in their primary schools

JULY

Induction Day and New Parents' Evening

JULY/AUGUST

Optional Languages Week/
Transition events for Year 6 students

SEPTEMBER

New Year 7 intake start full time



An environment based on traditional values where genuine care and concern is at the heart of student achievement.

Although Norton Hill may seem a large school to many parents, we ensure every student is known and valued through our House system. It is organised to make sure that every student's personal and academic growth and happiness are closely monitored.

When a student joins Year 7, they work closely with their Tutor who they will see twice a day. The Tutor is the first point of contact for the student and parents if worries arise, or for information on progress or welfare. The Tutor will normally stay with the Tutor Group from Year 7 through to Year 11. This allows students, parents and the Tutor to build the positive relationship which underpins academic success.

Each of the five Houses contains two or three Tutor Groups from each year and has its own distinctive tie and House area. Students are rightly proud of their House's identity and take an active role in the running of the House through a myriad of inter-House competitions, the House Council and charity events.

Each House is managed by a Head of House who is supported by an Assistant Head of House who does not teach. This ensures they are easily accessible for both students and parents. The Houses are each based around an academic area and provide a space where the students from the House can relax at break and lunchtime.

The House System at Norton Hill also promotes the development of the following 7 character strengths: Enthusiasm, Determination, Optimism, Curiosity, Empathy, Self-control and Respect.

The Pastoral Team, led by a member of the Senior Leadership Team, meets regularly to ensure a consistent approach to its work. The Pastoral Team works with Tutors and other agencies to ensure that each of the students in the House reaches their full potential.

“Being in a House made me feel part of the school straightaway. The Year 11 House Captains were really friendly and helped me find my way around for the first few days.”

EMILY, Year 7



HOUSE STAFF (Pastoral Leaders)

For information on Head of House and Assistant Head of House please visit:

<https://www.nortonhillschool.com/parents/carers/care-and-guidance.htm>

For communication with House Staff please use the following email addresses:

BLACKDOWN (Purple tie)

blackdown@nortonhillschool.com

COTSWOLD (Yellow tie)

cotswold@nortonhillschool.com

EXMOOR (Blue tie)

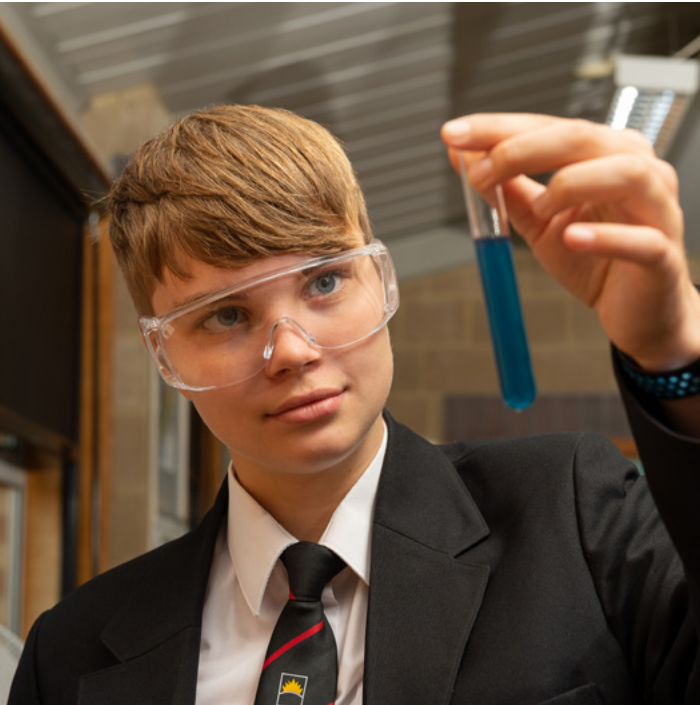
exmoor@nortonhillschool.com

MENDIP (Red tie)

mendip@nortonhillschool.com

QUANTOCK (Green tie)

quantock@nortonhillschool.com



Students are supported and encouraged to be the best they can be, both in their academic and their personal development.

At the core of this lies our monitoring systems and three-way working relationship between students, parents and school staff.

Students' progress and well-being are continually monitored by both subject staff and the Tutor. Students receive regular mentoring from their Tutor allowing early intervention where necessary if students are not reaching their full potential. Parents are kept fully informed of their child's progress and can contact the House or subject staff at any point if they have concerns.

Every student is set challenging targets based on their prior attainment. Additionally their progress towards these is regularly fed back to parents/carers through the progress reports, a parent/carer evening and the annual full school report.

Students and parents/carers receive three reports a year and also have one parent/carer evening each year. This is when the teachers meet with the students and their parent/carer to give an overview of progress, strengths and areas for development. As students move through the school, there are additional events where required, such as, options evenings and revision skills evenings.

Links with Home

We rely on our close partnership with parents to maintain the high standards and positive atmosphere exhibited by our students.

As you would expect, we ask parents to take an active role in the support of their child's progress in school. To this end we stress that parents are always welcome to contact and visit the school.

We have a Home-School Agreement which the student, parents and school sign. This outlines the commitment each will make to ensure students make the optimal progress during their time at Norton Hill.

Students are given the opportunity to respond to marking and correct their work using a purple pen. This policy encourages students to take ownership of improvements required in their work.

- Sp** Spelling error
- //** New paragraph
- Pu** Punctuation error
- C** Capitalisation error
- ??** Read and check

“ The curriculum in Key Stage 3 and 4 and the Sixth Form meets the needs and aspirations of students well and fully prepares them for the next stages in their education, training or employment. Teaching in subjects including English and Mathematics is good and some is outstanding.”

OFSTED





The innovative curriculum at Norton Hill provides the range of skills and qualifications young people need.

Norton Hill works with all students, whatever their ability, to help them achieve their full potential. Students study a broad and balanced curriculum which enables them to:

- Achieve the highest standards they are capable of
- Develop skills and qualifications that enable them to function effectively in the future, and which are valued by employers and Higher Education institutions
- Develop open and creative minds
- Possess an awareness of the problems facing society on a local, national and global scale
- Become confident and self-reliant in their relationships whilst developing a respect for others and an ability to work with them

High Quality Teaching

Norton Hill is recognised at both a national and international level for the quality of teaching at the school. Lessons are delivered by highly qualified subject specialists who both inspire and support students of all ability levels.

Curriculum Structure

The school operates a two-week timetable. Each day has six lessons, each lasting 50 minutes. In some subjects there are double lessons allowing time for practical activities.

Key Stage 3 (Years 7, 8 and 9)

The curriculum at Key Stage 3 provides students with a wide range of learning experiences that give them a

balanced preparation for future study. When entering the school, students are placed in a Tutor Group in one of the five Houses. The Tutor Groups have students from across the ability range. Year 7 students are taught in mixed ability groups for the Arts and PE/Games. Students are grouped by ability for Mathematics, English, The Humanities, Modern Foreign Languages and Science.

Key Stage 4 (Years 10 and 11)

During Year 9 pupils select their examination courses for the following two years. The curriculum is designed so that students follow rigorous courses which provide them with the best opportunities for their futures. Their choice of subjects is made after considerable guidance at school and discussion with parents.

At Key Stage 4 all pupils take:

- English Language, English Literature and Mathematics at GCSE level
- Science GCSE (Combined)
- Physical Education and Games
- Personal and Social Health Education
- Either History or Geography

All students will be on a pathway to take either iMedia or a Modern Foreign Language. They then choose two further options from a wide range of subjects.

The school is organised into distinct faculty areas which are well equipped to provide specialist accommodation.

“ Opportunities such as robotics gave me a chance to develop computer skills, as well as skills in team work, leadership and creativity. ”

REUBEN, Year 9

Facilities

- Sports Hall, Gymnasium, Multi-activity room, Astro turf pitch, seven tennis courts and a number of grass pitches
- Drama and Dance Studios
- Ten fully equipped Science Laboratories
- Music practice rooms/Recording studio/Radio station
- Business area housing the Business Academy
- Numerous ICT teaching rooms with the most up-to-date hardware and software, including a brand new ICT suite for web design
- 200 mobile IT devices to aid learning
- New dedicated Sixth Form Centre
- Excellent dining facilities

Gifted and Talented

Norton Hill is committed to ensuring even the most gifted and talented students are provided with a curriculum to stretch and challenge them to reach their full potential. As an active member of the National Association for Gifted Children in Education, students who have a talent in a particular curriculum area have access to an individual

support programme so they reach the highest standards possible. This extends to the Midsomer Norton Sixth Form with the Oxbridge preparation programme and the links forged with Harvard University.

Maths and Computing

Norton Hill is recognised for the quality of support it offers students in developing mathematical skills at all levels. ICT skills are developed through discrete lessons and across all subjects. Extensive ICT facilities allow students to access a range of different media which supports their learning both in and out of the classroom. Our Portal and the use of mobile technology enhances learning for all across the curriculum.

Languages

Students develop the communication skills that are so invaluable in the business sector and for many other professional career paths. Students study a language in Year 7 and some may be able to go on to follow a second from Year 8 onwards depending on their particular strengths. The school is also recognised for the work it does in preparing students to be part of the global community. Norton Hill is one of only a handful of schools to have received the top version of the International School Award from the British Council on three occasions.



Dating back to 1911, Norton Hill School is proud to have provided over 100 years of state education.

High Expectations

We have the highest expectations of our students' behaviour. In lessons we have an ethos of learning and Ofsted noted that our students "have very positive attitudes towards their work". Relationships between staff and students are excellent, and visitors to the school remark on how courteous and trustworthy Norton Hill students are.

At Norton Hill, we believe that it is important to reward effort, achievement and community spirit. We operate a system of merits throughout the school for good work or good behaviour. We use "Time Out" to deal with any student who disrupts a lesson to ensure that nobody can interfere with the learning of other students.

Student Involvement

Students play a central part in the life of the school and are directly involved in many aspects of the management of the school. This is through the elected House and sports representatives mentioned earlier, as well as other opportunities for the pupils to have their voice heard. The students have an important role in shaping school policies and activities.

“Students' good spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is central to the life of the school.

Students are extremely courteous and well mannered and show a great respect for each other.”

OFSTED

Gifted & Talented
Lead school



Norton Hill is one of the highest performing schools in the country, with students of all abilities making outstanding progress.

“Inspectors were very impressed with the attitudes of students at the school. Students were highly appreciative of all the school provides, many participate enthusiastically.”

OFSTED

Excellence for All

Results at Norton Hill have been consistently high over a long period of time. At Key Stage 3 results are outstanding, with students making excellent progress in their first three years. In the past few years we have been amongst the top 5% of all schools nationally for “Progress” between Years 7 and 11. We have particularly impressive statistics related to the English Baccalaureate subjects.

Our results in Languages, the Humanities and other high ranking curriculum areas, are amongst the best in the region. We also have outstanding outcomes across the Technology and Arts subjects, and encourage children to study these so that they have a broad and balanced set of qualifications.

Individual Progress

These excellent results are, in part, due to the imaginative curriculum which caters for the needs of all learners at each stage of their education and development. The more able are stretched with accelerated courses and programmes to support Gifted and Talented students. We are equally proud of the success of those who find learning more challenging. We invest considerably in additional support for those who need it, with programmes to boost literacy, numeracy and other key skills courses across all year groups.

All students have targets which are regularly reviewed to ensure they are making good progress. Assessments and marking help students to understand how to improve.

Study Centre

Our well equipped and spacious Library and ICT facilities are open and staffed at lunchtimes and after school for students to use for study, research, doing homework or improving their ICT skills. Specific support for students approaching examinations is offered in all subjects after school and also during the Easter holidays.



Students are encouraged to develop their individual leadership skills through a wide range of opportunities.

School Council

The School Council is made up of representatives from the House Councils and the Head Boy and Head Girl from the Sixth Form. The Council provides a forum for students to develop whole-school initiatives. They also work with local organisations to develop students' work in the community.

House Council

Each House has its own representative body made up of two students from each year group. Students are voted onto the House Council each year by their peers. The House Council meets regularly as a group with the Head of House. They take an active role in organising charity events and forging links within the community. The House Council representatives are also available to other students in the House who want to raise issues with the wider school community. Year 11 students in each House can also apply to become House Captains. These students take a lead in organising many of the activities and in helping the new Year 7 students settle in.

Sports Representatives

Each House votes in two sports representatives from each year group. These students organise the House teams throughout the year and make recommendations for additions and changes to what is offered to students both in terms of facilities and activities.

Year 11 students can apply to become Sports Captains. These students take a lead with sport in the House and help the younger students with their teams to settle in.

Outdoor Education

There has been a fantastic improvement of both the provision and uptake of outdoor pursuit activities. A huge number of students participate in the Outdoor Education programme. These activities provide an excellent opportunity for students to demonstrate both their teamwork and leadership skills as they take on a variety of roles within a group.

Leadership Opportunities

Students have the opportunity to take part in our own sports leadership programme, which involves sessions to develop the skills required to deliver sporting activities to younger students and local primary school children.

“ Being at Norton Hill has enabled me to progress much higher in my Motocross racing career. They have really supported me throughout my years at the school. ”

HARRY, Year 11



We believe high academic achievement goes hand-in-hand with encouraging young people to develop skills outside the classroom.

At the start of each academic year, students are sent a programme listing all the extra-curricular opportunities available. To allow as many of the students as possible to participate, we provide a late bus to most of the outlying villages in B&NES that our students come from.

Opportunities include:

Sports

All students are encouraged to take part in team and House sports and we have very high levels of participation. Through the highly qualified PE staff and use of external coaches, students can participate in extra-curricular sport through:

- A wide variety of clubs and school sports teams including boys'/girls' football and rugby, netball, hockey, rounders, cross-country, athletics, tennis, cricket, basketball, dance and golf
- School sports teams
- Inter-House competitions
- School Sports Day
- Ace-Sportswave during activities week
- County and National representative teams (we currently have students in athletics, golf, orienteering, water skiing and canoeing competing for the England School teams or nationally)

The Arts

We have a strong tradition of excellence in the Arts and have indeed recently been awarded the prestigious Artsmark award for excellence in this field. Students are encouraged to develop these skills through:

- Individual/group musical tuition
- Musical groups/Musical performance
- Annual Lower and Upper School Drama productions
- Dance performances
- Art club/Local and national Art competitions
- Bath Dance College (Post-16)

Outdoor Pursuits

Norton Hill is recognised as having the largest outdoor pursuits programme in the area and we are proud of the number of students and staff who take part each year. These activities build student confidence and leadership skills and are highly valued when students leave the school for Higher Education or the workplace. Activities include:

- Year 8 Forest of Dean Residential visit
- School Camp (one of the last traditional 80 year old canvas school camps still in existence nationally)
- Ten Tors
- Duke of Edinburgh Award – Bronze, Silver & Gold
- Ski Trip
- Mountain-biking week



**Educational Visits**

There are many opportunities, both within the curriculum and during Activities Week, for students to participate in off-site visits which enhance their learning. Students can opt to spend a week in France or Spain to develop their language skills. Norton Hill has received the International School Award three times from the British Council, reflecting its links and exchanges with other cultures, and has recently been re-accredited with the top award based on current provision.

Activities Week

One of the curriculum highlights during the final week of the Summer Term is Activities Week. This offers an extended learning opportunity for students to develop their skills in a particular area of interest. Students can get involved in a range of activities, such as, School Camp, Languages visits to Europe, Sports week, Arts week, Wild & Wacky, Science week, Music Production week and Computer Game Design week. There is also an opportunity for all Year 10 students to undertake a work experience placement or improve their career profiles within the school based “aim higher” and “college pathways” courses.

“ Being involved in anti-bullying mentoring, has allowed me to help younger students experiencing difficulties.

The role has given me a great sense of responsibility, confidence and patience through supporting other students in my school. I am really proud to be involved in this scheme. ”





Through a wide range of opportunities, students are equipped to make a positive contribution to the community.

House and Student Leadership

Each House develops their own community action projects led by the House Council. Every year, each House produces a presentation of their community work to a panel which award points to the House deemed to have made the greatest contribution. Students of all ages are involved in the activities for example, links with local residential homes have been made and students visit the elderly residents on a regular basis, and a local community garden project has started recently in the town.

Curriculum Projects

Students have the chance to experience working with students of different ages through link projects with other secondary and primary schools. Visits to and from the school for local, national and international activities allow our students to work with people from a range of cultures and ages.

Volunteering

A large number of our Key Stage 4 and 5 students are involved in volunteering activities through the Duke of Edinburgh and Applied Learning schemes. Students are able to log and accredit their activities to provide evidence of their work for future employment and Higher Education applications.

Community Alcohol Partnership

Norton Hill and Somervale schools are working in partnership with all the major stakeholders in the area to address the use and abuse of alcohol and all of the anti-social behaviour that can accompany it. We have completed part of the overall action plan and continue to educate the young people on the effects of alcohol and how they can affect their local community.

Eco-Schools

The school runs a student Eco-Schools group who take a lead on sustainability issues in the school and local community. For example, students help lead and publicise the country-wide Zero-Waste week. We have recently been awarded the Silver Award Status and are now progressing towards the top Green Flag Status.

Community Ambassadors

This voluntary led scheme allows students to volunteer as ambassadors to other younger students who are in need of advice and support. This support ranges from anti-bullying mentoring, curriculum mentoring and a buddy system. Students work alongside the community and wellbeing lead teacher to promote and ensure a happy, safe school environment.

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

“Sixth Form students are provided with a rich curriculum that meets their needs and aspirations well.”

OFSTED

The Sixth Form is growing rapidly due to its outstanding results and, with over 400 students, it is able to offer a diverse selection of courses and opportunities. As well as a wide range of over 40 courses at both the Norton Hill and Somervale sites, students experience the greater freedom of Sixth Form life. They take advantage of excellent facilities across both campuses, such as the fantastic media suite, Sixth Form library, extensive ICT facilities and dedicated purpose built Sixth Form Centres at both sites. Both have rooms and study areas solely for Sixth Form use.

Students also participate in a wide variety of social and educational trips, such as to London and Berlin. 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 Oxbridge.

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 entering the world of work. Additionally, 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. Our Russell Group preparation programme supports students preparing for application to the top universities in the country and we are also a Harvard partner school and are experienced in supporting students in the application process for universities.





Norton Hill School

Norton Hill School is situated on the B&NES border to the south of Midsomer Norton and Radstock. The town is 10 miles from Bath and 12 miles from Bristol.

The Somerset villages of Chewton Mendip, Ston Easton, Chilcompton, Gurney Slade, Binegar, Stoke St Michael, Coleford, Oakhill, Holcombe, Stratton-on-the-Fosse and Kilmersdon 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.



NORTON HILL SCHOOL

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CEO: MR ALUN WILLIAMS



Midsomer Norton
Schools Partnership

Norton Hill School is part of THE MIDSOMER NORTON SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP



Norton Hill
School