



TUNBRIDGE WELLS GRAMMAR SCHOOL for BOYS

Prospectus



FABER EST QUIQUE SUAE FORTUNAE

OUR VISION

Respect, Excellence, Determination

To provide an inspiring, safe and nurturing environment that encourages all students to achieve personal excellence in a wide range of academic, cultural,

humanitarian and sporting activities and equips them with the life skills and sense of personal responsibility they need to realise their full potential.



'Staff demonstrate the school values of 'respect, excellence and determination' well. This creates an atmosphere where pupils and students flourish and develop as fully rounded individuals'

Ofsted, 2017

HEADTEACHER'S INTRODUCTION

WELCOME TO OUR SCHOOL



Our philosophy at Tunbridge Wells Grammar School for Boys is that education should be about giving young people every opportunity to explore and learn about the world around them. Working in partnership with parents, carers and the wider community, our aim is to help the boys, young men and young women who join us to become fully-rounded individuals. Our students will be the model citizens of the future; young people who strive for excellence in all that they do, showing respect for one another, their communities and the world in which they live.

Learning is our core business and we are proud of our academic record. Our approach to education however is holistic. Excellent teaching is underpinned by the positive care and relationships that every student receives. This is linked with a vast array of opportunities both within and outside the curriculum that allow our students to grow and develop into well-rounded, articulate young adults.

What I hope is striking to anyone who walks into our school is the sense of how enthusiastic, engaged and lively our school community is. There is tremendous community

spirit among the students here, a tangible sense of pride in the school and a great feeling of mutual respect between staff and students. The mixed Sixth Form is a hub of activity where the Sixth Form students are ambitious and engaged, happy in their work and keen to look to the future.

I am exceptionally privileged to be Headteacher of Tunbridge Wells Grammar School for Boys. This prospectus will give you an insight into our ethos and values. I encourage you to visit and feel the enthusiasm for learning and school life yourself. We encourage all parents and carers to be actively involved in their children's education and hope that, should your son/daughter join us, you will enjoy being a part of our school community.

If you would like to learn more about us please do visit our website (www.twgsb.org.uk) where you will be able to find lots of information including the School Magazine and our termly newsletters as well as details of our open days - we are very much looking forward to seeing you.

Amanda Simpson
Headteacher



'There is an obvious sense of trust and mutual respect between pupils and adults.'

Ofsted, 2017



AIMING HIGHER

We appreciate that making the move into secondary education is a big step for any child. Adjusting to a new (and, most often, a much larger) environment, a new timetable and greater levels of homework is always a challenge. Our aim is to make this transition as smooth and as comfortable as possible.

'It's been less scary than I expected; it was a lot easier to settle in than I thought it would be.'

Year 7 Student, 2017

Before starting at the school in September, new students are encouraged to take part in our induction programme (run in July) when they can familiarise themselves with the school and get to meet others in their year group. They also meet their form tutor from the specialist Year 7 Tutor Team. On joining in September, link students are responsible for showing new Year 7s around and making sure they know where all the school facilities are.

The primary aim of the Years 7, 8 and 9 Key Stage 3 curriculum is to give students exposure to a wealth of different subject areas. During this Key Stage, boys study Art, Biology, Chemistry, Drama, DT Resistant Materials, DT Graphics, DT Electronics, DT Food and Nutrition, English, French, Geography, History, Information Technology, Mathematics, Music, Personal Social and Health Education, Physical Education and Games, Physics, and Religious Education. Spanish is introduced in Year 8.

Homework is set regularly in order to reinforce and extend the learning taking place in the classroom. Students are expected to take a conscientious approach to homework and complete it to the best of their ability.

'I like that we are pushed to our limits in work.'

Year 7 Student, 2017

'At the last inspection, inspectors noted the school's many strengths, including the excellent behaviour.'

Ofsted, 2017



'Parents are positive, describing "a wonderful school" where pupils make "fantastic progress".'

Ofsted, 2017

'Pupils say that they feel safe. Pupils are aware of how to stay safe when using the internet and social media.'

Ofsted, 2017





AIMING FOR EXCELLENCE

The introduction of diverse and often new Key Stage 3 subjects gives students access to many facilities they may not have experienced at primary school, such as science laboratories, a recording studio and design and technology workshops. Most of our classrooms have interactive whiteboards and we have a PC to student ratio of 1:3. These facilities enable teaching to be varied and help cater for all learning styles.

The school day starts at 8.45am and ends at 3.35pm. It is divided into five, one-hour long lessons with a morning (10.10am-10.30am) and lunch (12.30pm-1.30pm) break. The school operates a two-week timetable (50 x one-hour lessons in ten school days). Please note that the school does not authorise holiday absence.

Additional Education Needs

On entry all boys sit baseline cognitive ability tests and a literacy screening test. Boys whose literacy skills need support will follow a programme of intervention for one hour a week in a small group of up to six students. Boys who have difficulties with spelling and handwriting can be offered extra help. For those students with severe dyslexia, one-to-one weekly lessons will be offered on a termly basis. All students placed on the AEN register will be reviewed twice yearly to make sure good progress is being made.

'I have really enjoyed "just" general learning, it is much more exciting than primary school.'

Year 7 student, 2017



FULFILLING POTENTIAL

We want every child to realise their full personal, academic and social potential, whatever their particular skills or abilities. As students make their way through the school, our aim is to help them achieve as much as they can – and to experience as much as they can – in order to discover where their real passions lie.

Throughout their son's school career, parents receive regular formal assessments throughout the year, allowing both parents and the school to keep a close eye on each boy's progress and to reward excellence and improvement. Action plans are designed to support the progress of those boys whose assessments indicate that they are not developing as we would hope.

When it comes to the transition from Key Stage 3 to Key Stage 4, every year we produce an option booklet which outlines all the courses available for GCSE.

In consultation with parents and subject staff, Year 9 boys are able to choose a number of subjects in addition to the compulsory ones of English, Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, a Modern Language, and Religious Education. Options include Art, Business Studies, Drama, Geography, Geology, History, ICT, Music, Physical Education, a second Modern Foreign Language, Resistant Materials, Graphical Products and Food and Nutrition. Compulsory non-examination courses include Physical Education, Careers, and Personal Social and Health Education.

The requirement for entry to the Sixth Form is a minimum of 48 points from their best 8 GCSE grades with at least a grade 5 in English Language and Mathematics.

'Pupils and staff work tirelessly together to achieve their best.'

Ofsted, 2017



'Of particular note is the special provision leaders make for the social and mental health needs of pupils and students. This is valued highly by all.'

Ofsted, 2017



*'This school has taught me crucial skills
and prepared me for life post TWGSB.'*

Year 13 Student, 2017

Thank you to all the staff at TWGSB for your support and hard work in getting our son through his exams and encouraging him so much. His experience at the school over the last seven years has helped him become a very confident young man.'

Parent email, 2017



THE SIXTH FORM

INSPIRING PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENT

Beyond GCSE, we offer a thriving and high achieving Sixth Form environment. More than three quarters of our students continue into the Sixth Form. We offer an exceptional range of subjects, including Art, Biology, Business, Chemistry, Computing, Design and Technology, Economics, English Language and Literature, English Literature, French, Further Mathematics, Geography, Government and Politics, Graphics, History, Mathematics, Media Studies, Music Technology, Philosophy and Ethics, Physical Education, Physics, Sociology, Spanish and Theatre Studies.

All students are required to study a minimum of 3 A level subjects and for the vast majority this will be the standard academic programme. However, a 4 A level programme would be considered in some cases. Many students also opt to study for the Extended Project Qualification. This is offered towards the end of Year 12 and is worth half an A Level in terms of UCAS points. A student can choose a topic either related to his/her A-Level studies or one that is completely independent.

The Extended Project gives students an opportunity to develop high levels of independent study skills as well as critical analysis and presentation skills. This qualification is highly regarded by universities as it demonstrates the skills and attributes that will be required for degree level study.

All students will follow a Future Planning programme to prepare them for their life post Sixth Form. These sessions will be delivered through fortnightly PSHE lessons and morning tutorial sessions.

Over 85% of our Year 13 choose to go on to study successfully at university.

'Moving to TWGSB Sixth Form was the best decision I've made.'

Year 13 Student, 2017

'I would highly recommend studying for the Extended Project Qualification. It has taught me to write in a style appropriate for a research journal and so has given me a huge advantage at university.'

Year 13 Student, 2017

'The Sixth Form is warm and welcoming to everyone. Teachers are very supportive both in and out of the classroom.'

Year 13 Student, 2017



A WORLD OF OPPORTUNITIES

A good education cannot be provided in the classroom alone. It is our intention that our wide range of co-curricular activities gives our students invaluable insights into the world beyond school. It is our aim that these activities help the students to become self-aware, tolerant, positive and enquiring young people; young people with interests and passions.

On a day-to-day basis, we offer a diverse range of school clubs (run by staff and mostly taking place during the lunch break) such as 'Maths in Motion', Bridge, Chess, the Christian Union, Art, Lego Robotics, Eco Club, Drama, Debating, History, Choirs, various music clubs and Science Club.

Rugby, football, cricket, tennis, athletics, basketball, badminton and cross country clubs run at various times and students can enjoy these irrespective of ability. A regular programme of fixtures for a variety of sports takes place throughout the year.

We also offer a range residential trips including the following: Year 7 Paris, Year 8 water sports, Year 9 History (Ypres), Year 10 Spanish (Madrid), Year 10/11 Geography (Iceland), Year 10 History (Berlin), Year 12: English Literature (Paris), Spanish Exchange, and Business and Economics (Munich). World Challenge and Outlook Expeditions trips are also offered. Recent trips have included Nepal and Borneo.

Individual music lessons are also available via the School's Music Department, and all students have access to the School Library where they can enjoy recreational reading, magazines, and newspapers. The school produces an annual School Magazine 'Eclectics', with features written by the students on all aspects of the school year.

In May 2011 we became a recognised Centre of Excellence for Enterprise Education.

The school is proud of its work with local, national and international companies. Year 10 students will typically complete a week's work experience, either sourced with our work experience agency, Education Business Partnership Kent, or self-arranged. Placements have ranged from multinationals such as Credit Suisse and Media Com, to local solicitors and accountants. The school also has an excellent partnership with AXA-PPP, who have run enterprise and marketing days with students, as well as offering additional work experience opportunities.

The sixth form offers a vast range of opportunities to engage with employers. Firms have come in to give career focussed talks to students to help them on their future pathways. In Term 6, all students are offered an interview with a professional from the world of business based on their UCAS personal statement. From this they offer constructive feedback on interview technique, and targets to develop to hone their skills.

'From the portfolio of evidence presented and discussions with staff and students it is clear that the school continues to deliver a high quality provision of careers education and guidance. There are systems, enthusiasm & energy for maintaining, developing and improving the programme.'

Investors in Careers Full Award Report, 2017





PROMOTING COMMUNITY

By encouraging a sense of personal responsibility and self-respect, we can also help students to have a greater sense of community responsibility and how what they do can affect what happens in the world at large. Celebrating diversity and promoting a sense that, though people are different, everyone deserves the same concern and compassion. This is at the heart of our value system.

Our Student Council is one way that we can ensure all our students have a voice within the school, with representatives from every year group who get to debate key issues affecting school life. We also encourage students to get involved with local communities outside the school.

We believe that a harmonious environment is most conducive to achievement, and, by encouraging different year groups to learn, work and play together, our school is one where new students quickly integrate into the school community and develop a sense of belonging. Our house system allows boys of all ages to take on responsibilities and represent their house in competitions that cover a large range of events from football to photography, from debating to reading challenges, from cricket to art.

Our aim is that all our students enjoy their time here and have a very positive and productive educational experience – one that they can be proud of and can take with them out into the world in order to make of it what they will.

We sum up our values in three words: Respect, Excellence and Determination. It is our aim that the students attending Tunbridge Wells Grammar School for Boys develop self-confidence without arrogance, strive for personal excellence in every aspect of their lives and have the strength of character to overcome the hurdles that they will undoubtedly face as they pursue challenging careers in the future.

'TWGSB has been a fantastic school for our son. We have seen him develop, mature and flourish as a result of the grounded support he has had from all the staff at the school.'

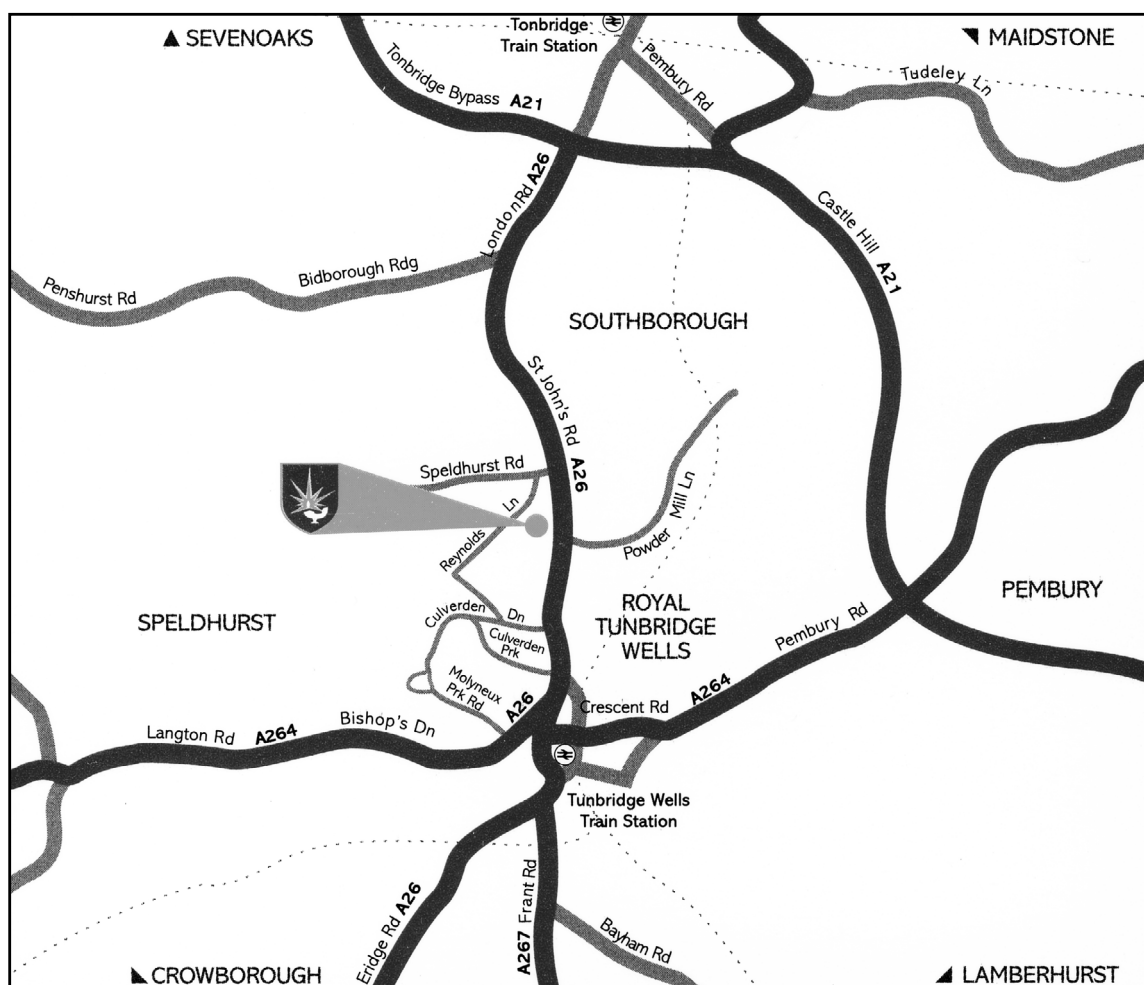
Parent email, 2017



To TWGSB Sixth Form: 'We really appreciate you giving up your time (on World Book Day) to visit us. I know that all the children I spoke to thought it was brilliant especially that we could read and share our books too. It was a cool experience to spend time with older students and see where we can get to if we try our best and keep reading.'

Local primary school, March 2017





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