

# THE COTSWOLD SCHOOL



Creating Brilliant Futures



# Welcome

---

Thank you for your interest in our school.

The Cotswold School brings together children from villages in Gloucestershire and Oxfordshire, mostly from small primaries. Moving up to secondary school is a big change but we do all we can to make it a smooth, confidence-building transition for all.

We offer an education experience endorsed as 'outstanding' by Ofsted in four consecutive inspections. This is achieved through a combination of exceptional standards of teaching and learning; warm encouragement and support for wellbeing; and exemplary student behaviour, which enables all our students to achieve their very best.

Children travel through the years in our school as active participants in their education, not as passengers. They start getting to know us in Year 6, settle in in Year 7 and further develop and establish themselves through Years 8-11. The great majority of our students stay with us for Sixth Form, too.

During those seven years, they form positive connections and relationships with each other, with teachers and support staff – and ultimately, with their school – that will help define their future.

I hope, as you meet my team of teachers and representatives – the most important of whom are the students – that you will consider The Cotswold School the best place for your child to learn and thrive.

**Will Morgan, Headteacher**





## Friendship and knowledge

---

Our values of friendship and knowledge – shared by teachers, support staff, students and their families – underpin all that we do.

Before they leave Year 6, we invite children to an activities-based summer induction day, when they meet their form tutor and other members of their tutor group. Their tutor is a daily, caring contact and a pivotal source of information.

Learning in a happy environment and supported by inspiring teachers, our students motivate each other to do their best. Many serve as peer mentors. Our Sixth Form students are role models to the rest of the school, leading learning and aspiration for the causes and activities that mean the most to them – from equality and diversity to environmental activism, music and sport.

We embrace knowledge from many sources, complementing the specialist subject teaching we offer. Encouraging children to aspire, we welcome speakers from prestigious universities, local entrepreneurs and our alumni who, in question-and-answer sessions about further study, apprenticeships and careers, relay their experience and advice to students of all ages.

From agricultural specialists and musical directors to elite athletes, artists, engineers and poets, we give our students opportunities to enjoy the perspectives, skills, talent, inspiration, ideas and possibilities that can help them design their future life.

# Outstanding teaching, learning and outcomes

---

Exceptional teachers work with our pupils. This, combined with our excellent facilities, opportunities and support, enables students to achieve outstanding outcomes.

We provide an inclusive education that meets the needs of each child. Our staff are specialists who know their subjects inside out, teaching with a passion that inspires children. It is no coincidence that we have been judged 'outstanding' by Ofsted in four consecutive inspections since 2002.

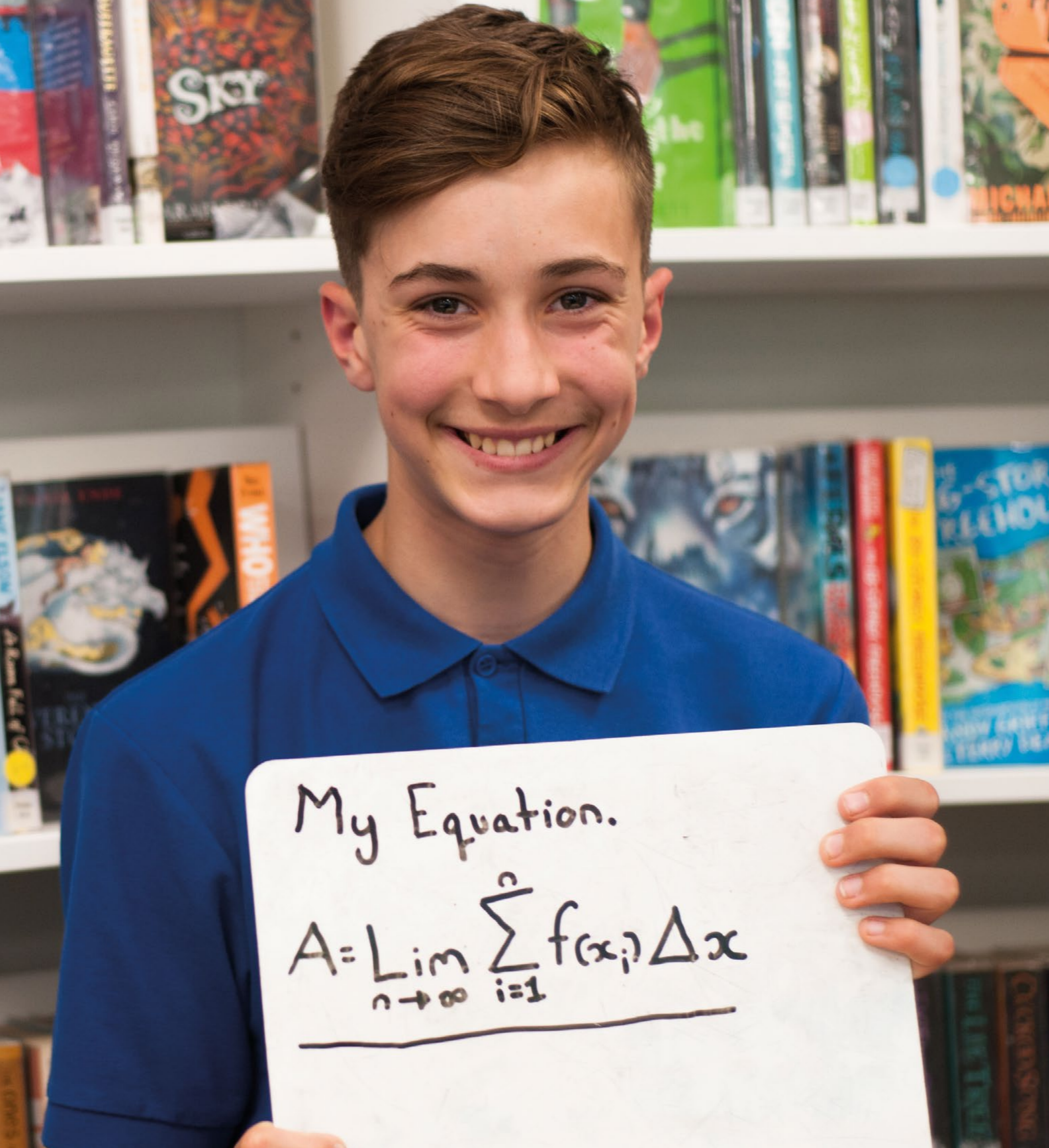
The Cotswold School is ranked the second highest comprehensive in the South-West, according to the influential Sunday Times Parent Power guide, placing it in the UK's top 35 non-selective co-educational schools.

Our membership of the National Association for Able Children in Education (NACE) means that we draw from the best ideas and resources to stretch and challenge the learning of every child. Having high expectations for learning creates benefits for all children, during their education and beyond.

Those who demonstrate exceptional passion and commitment for their work in many subjects join our Aspire programme, which develops their skills, challenges them to extend their learning and connects younger students with peer mentors. Sixth Form students become enthusiastic subject ambassadors for younger people.

We want all children to make excellent progress and to develop the confidence to aim high, during their time with us and into the future.





## Independent thinking and curiosity

---

When children join us in Year 7, we encourage them to become critical thinkers, understanding their own identity, their place in society and the world around us – and to develop key skills for their future lives.

We collaborate internationally, such as on projects with our link school in Accra, Ghana, enabling students in diverse countries to discover and share knowledge of their joint experience.

Year 7 STEM club is a place where children further develop a love of science and technology subjects and have even more fun while learning!

The Aird Library is the perfect place for learning and developing outside the classroom. Open daily before registration and for after-school study, it is a popular venue for lunchtime browsing and reading. We encourage a love of books, reading and research for all students: their independent use of the library is part of this. In The Aird Library, Year 8 students present their 'Mini EPQ' projects, which they independently research and develop on a topic of their choice. The range of research and interests is impressive!

As students move into the upper school and Sixth Form, their independent learning skills support them to stretch their goals, such as achieving Additional Maths in Year 11 or working towards an Arts Award; tackling the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) or a course in Critical Thinking.



*Sports and competition*



*Performing 'Beauty and the Beast'*



*Year 7 'Bushcraft' residential trip*



*Music and performance*



*Rural Economy Careers Day*



*Drama Club 'Between the Pages'*



# Creativity, performance and endeavour

---

Thriving Drama, Music, Art and Sport departments enrich the life of our school and help children develop in confidence and creativity.

Learning a musical instrument, whether you have previous experience or not, is something we encourage and nurture – from strings and brass to keyboards and drums and everything in between.

Our popular jazz band, Back in Black, performs at local music festivals; and we invite families to join us at atmospheric concerts, held in local churches, to enjoy the talents of instrumental ensembles and singers.

Theatre performances are celebrated events. A recent musical, *Beauty and the Beast*, highlighted the creative and technical talents of young people across the school. You can get involved on stage and behind the scenes, in the orchestra, in prop and set design, stage direction, hair and make-up and lighting.

We offer sports programmes led by specialist teachers and coaches, through which many students excel, representing the county and Great Britain. If you are passionate about a sport or activity, we will celebrate this and support you in your pursuit, be it motor racing, debating, horse-riding or dance! In our huge range of extra-curricular clubs, you'll have many opportunities to represent your school, as well as to participate in non-competitive activities.

A large theatre hosts performances, presentations and assemblies and a new gymnasium complements the sports hall. Outdoors, our 32-acre site includes rugby and football pitches, Astro courts and multi-surface areas for games and athletics.





# Sixth Form and destinations

---

Our Sixth Form is known for outstanding success, helping students to achieve their high ambitions.

Given our track record of excellent GCSE results, we know that young people who wish to pursue apprenticeships, training or employment at the end of Year 11 have had the best education to take them on to a bright future. Most, however, choose to stay with us till the end of Year 13.

Each year, our students win places at the most prestigious universities, on sought-after apprenticeship programmes and in a range of exciting careers. In 2022, 52% of grades achieved by our Year 13 leavers were at A\* or A, 75% at A\* to B and 94% at A\* to C, confirming our status as one of the top performing schools in England.

Young people who want to become doctors, scientists, linguists, engineers, entrepreneurs, designers and directors are inspired and supported to achieve their goals. Our students recognise that hard work and self-development are intrinsic to success.

As well as specialist teaching and support in an extensive selection of courses, we offer a busy programme of careers insights and higher education seminars. We signpost a huge range of opportunities to gain knowledge and experience, including on work placements and leadership roles both within and outside school. We provide expert direction for medical, veterinary and Oxbridge applications as well as thorough preparation for all academic and vocational destinations; and a range of cultural and academic societies, trips, visits and clubs.



# Expanding horizons

---

We aim to open young people's minds to the world around them, so they can enjoy opportunities and develop their aspirations.

Our ambitious trips and visits programme is a key part of our enrichment provision. It includes team-building trips and residential exchanges with children and families in European locations and across the world. The British Council has awarded our school 'international status' for the outstanding work we do to link our students' experience with cultural, historical and current events and with learners in other countries.

We compete in many national and regional debating, computing, engineering and creative challenges. Trips to theatres, museums, exhibitions and important geographical and historical sites – and visits from experts and inspiring figures – enhance classroom learning in memorable and engaging ways.

From philosophy to photography, from chess to coding, environmentalism and art, we encourage and support the passions and talents of our students and offer new and exciting opportunities. Our programme of fun and challenging lunchtime and after-school clubs offers something for everyone.

One of the key opportunities to develop friendships, skills and experiences is a short residential trip in Year 7. This experience helps build the relationships and commitment to each other that we encourage in our students throughout their school life.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is available to all and we ensure that cost is not a barrier to participation. We are proud to support experiences that develop individual resilience, perseverance and teamwork.





## Student leadership

---

We value opportunities for students to contribute to the ideas that shape our school.

Young people are empowered to express their opinions and debate solutions and to earn respected roles through hard work and a positive attitude. Devised by students of all ages, The Cotswold School Charter is our collaborative code of conduct that sets out our high expectations for tolerance and respect.

Representatives from all year groups can join the student council. Members meet regularly and recommend practical developments, such as increasing outdoor seating to improve students' break-time experience, as well as considering ways to promote and protect respect between all their peers. Recently, a member of the school council was elected to the UK Youth Parliament.

Year 11 students can become prefects through excellent attendance and attitude to learning. This stands them in good stead for their final year in the main school, whether they stay for Sixth Form or choose apprenticeships or jobs.

Sixth Formers can become subject ambassadors, to support and encourage the learning of younger members of the school, representing their subject and co-hosting fun events throughout the year, such as British Science Week, art and music clubs, Sports Day and tournaments.

Each year, the school community elects four Head Students and several other leaders from Year 12. These include representatives with a focus on equality and diversity; wellbeing; careers and enrichment; and the environment. Our Head Students represent the school on occasions such as Remembrance Day, Awards Evenings and Open Evenings.

# Community, wellbeing and support

---

Our community is enriched by local families, businesses and organisations, as well as former students and people in schools across the world.

It is part of our commitment to sharing friendship and knowledge that we nurture and grow this extended school family. We spearhead campaigns to 'give back', such as in raising funds for the NHS, celebrating our senior citizens and supporting a local youth mental health charity. Our alumni generously share their experiences of work, study and self-development with our current students and some of them have even joined us as teachers and support staff!

Our amazing PTA generates on average £20,000 per year, thanks not only to the great efforts and commitment of its committee and volunteers, but also to the local community who engage with its events. The money raised enhances the education of all our students, but the PTA's mission is also to connect parents and carers who may be new to The Cotswold School; to create friendships and support links.

Our school community is about reaching out and helping each other; it is about bringing in skills and experience to encourage our young people; and it's about a belief in the benefit of partnerships, to share our facilities, expertise and talents with others.





## In other words...

---

### What parents and carers say

*"A big strength of the school is helping children transition from primary to secondary, helping them to settle in, get to know their way around, feel happy and independent."*

*"We are so proud that our children attended The Cotswold School. You have given them a fabulous education, which has set them up so well for the lives that they have gone on to lead."*

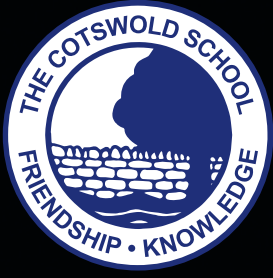
*"Our daughter loves being at The Cotswold School. It offers an excellent curriculum but also provides much more than that, with trips, mentoring, a wide range of after-school activities and many other opportunities for young people. We are thrilled that she attends such a fantastic school."*

---

### What Ofsted says

*"Students make outstanding progress. Attitudes to learning are excellent. Attendance is above average, students are prompt to lessons and display a pleasure in learning. They thoroughly enjoy working with each other and respond very positively to staff."*

*"Teachers have excellent subject knowledge, high expectations, and teach with a passion and enthusiasm that captures students' interest and leads to outstanding progress."*



# THE COTSWOLD SCHOOL

Printed on recycled paper

E: [admin@thecotswoldschool.co.uk](mailto:admin@thecotswoldschool.co.uk)

W: [cotswold.gloucs.sch.uk](http://cotswold.gloucs.sch.uk)

T: 01451 820554



The Cotswold School  
The Avenue  
Bourton-on-the-Water  
Gloucestershire  
GL54 2BD

