

Nurturing individuality,
celebrating *excellence*

Dame Bradbury's Who We Are

Tradition and innovation go hand-in-hand at Dame Bradbury's, there has been a school on our site in Saffron Walden since at least 1317.

A young girl with blonde hair, wearing a dark blue school cardigan over a light blue collared shirt and a grey and white plaid skirt, is captured mid-jump in the air. She is smiling broadly. In the background, other children in school uniforms are visible, and there are brick buildings and trees with some autumn-colored leaves under a clear blue sky.

We are part of the Stephen Perse Foundation family of schools with campuses in Cambridge and Saffron Walden.

We are dedicated to fostering a community from Early Years to Year 6 where every child is valued, supported, and encouraged to thrive.

Global Outlook

At Dame Bradbury's, we have close links with our sister schools, Stephen Perse Cambridge Junior School and the Senior School and Sixth Form in the city of Cambridge, a world-renowned centre of learning and culture.

We help to prepare our pupils for citizenship in an interconnected world with a global outlook that also embraces our local culture and celebrates the history of our town, exploring and enjoying the area that surrounds us.



Clare College (left) and King's College (right) Cambridge

**Our campus provides
a safe and inspiring
environment for
pupils to:**

live

learn

thrive

At Dame Bradbury's we aim to provide a nurturing and inclusive environment from Early Years to Year 6 that promotes exceptional pastoral care alongside personalised learning experiences for all our pupils.

Our commitment to ambition, creativity and individuality drives us to cultivate independent thinkers, who aspire to excellence in every facet of their educational journey.





A young girl with blonde hair in a ponytail, wearing a light blue school shirt and a dark tie, is shown in profile, looking upwards and to the right with a slight smile. She is pointing her right index finger upwards. The background is blurred, showing other people in a school setting.

Why Choose
**Dame
Bradbury's?**



“

Do what you love and utilise the great support and help the staff offer.”

Alumnus, George W

Immersed in a culture that promotes a love of learning, Dame Bradbury's has delivered excellence in academic and personal development for over 500 years.

09

Set in the heart of a beautiful market town within exceptional grounds, pupils benefit from learning in an engaging environment, where tradition and innovation go hand in hand.

Through our diverse and enhanced curriculum approach, alongside our values driven ethos, we build the skills young people need to thrive and to make a positive difference in the world.

Specialist teaching, outstanding pastoral care, and excellent facilities and opportunities are integral parts of our modern educational offering for all young people, bringing out the best in every learner.

A young boy with dark hair, wearing a light blue polo shirt and dark shorts, is seated on a wooden chair, playing a cello. He is focused on his performance, with his hands positioned on the strings and the bow. The background shows a school environment with a white wall, a framed picture, and a blue curtain. The text 'We offer' is overlaid in large white font on the left side of the image.

We offer

Expert Teaching

Our passionate and experienced teachers deliver exceptional, innovative, differentiated and inspiring lessons that provide stretch and challenge within a supportive, child-focused environment.

Personalised Pastoral Care

All our students are known individually by our dedicated staff, providing individual support and guidance tailored to their personal needs. With wellbeing as a priority, we support children with a programme of wellbeing activities, Mental Health First Aid trained staff, an Emotional Literacy Support Assistant and a therapy dog, to ensure that children feel safe, happy and supported.

Holistic Development Beyond the Academic

We go beyond our superb academic programme, fostering strong character, critical thinking, and leadership skills through our extensive co-curricular programme. We offer a diverse range of opportunities to allow children to explore their talents, building confidence and resilience, whilst making connections with their peers. Our enrichment programme develops crucial transferable skills, whilst visiting speakers and trips off-site further enrich children's learning and experiences beyond the classroom.

Supportive and Inclusive Community

We celebrate diversity, embrace cultural identity and ensure that all children feel respected, safe and supported in our inclusive, warm and welcoming environment. Children at Dame Bradbury's are very much part of the local community and engage with other schools in the areas of music, drama and sport.

A young girl with brown hair tied back, wearing clear safety goggles and a dark blue school hoodie. She is looking slightly to the left with a focused expression. The hoodie has a crest on the left chest that reads 'DAME BRADBURY'S'. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with green foliage.

Exceptional Academic Results

and University Placements

Most of our children move up to Stephen Perse Cambridge Senior School and Sixth Form and we support them to secure Academic, Sport, Art and Music Scholarships where appropriate.

We also help those who wish to attend other top independent boarding and state schools to secure the desired places. Those who go to Stephen Perse Cambridge consistently achieve top results in GCSEs and A levels. Students progress to leading universities, as well as elite conservatoires and art schools.

UK destinations include the universities of Oxford and Cambridge, Imperial College London, the Russell Group institutions, Guildhall School of Music and Drama and sought after degree apprenticeships, whilst overseas our students progress to universities including Princeton, Stanford, Toronto, Amsterdam, Sciences Po, Heidelberg and Hong Kong.

71.5%

2024 GCSEs
graded 9-7 (A*-A)

48%

2024 A levels
graded A*-A

52.9%

2024 GCSEs
graded 8-9

75%

2024 A levels
graded A*-B



Our Curriculum

At Dame Bradbury's, we encourage children to be active learners – to be curious, develop resilience through risk taking and apply a growth mindset through our extensive offering and opportunities for the children to explore their interests and to develop their talents further.

Our approach is personalised, motivational, innovative, inspiring and highly creative. By combining academic rigour with creative, flexible teaching in the classroom, science lab, design studio, playground, theatre, sports hall and outside in our Forest School, we see our pupils grow as independent learners. They enjoy endless ways to discover their own strengths and gain life-long skills, as well as the confidence to take their next steps in education when they move on to Stephen Perse Cambridge, or their other chosen destinations.





Our Learning Wheel

Knowledge versus skills? We believe that it isn't a choice between one or the other. Our Learning Wheel places the pupil at its centre, is holistic and integrates the key areas of knowledge and understanding with thinking skills and learning characteristics.

The inner wheel reflects a focus on the individual's development of character. Each half term there is a focus on a learning characteristic; such as creativity, curiosity or resilience; to enable our pupils to understand, develop and utilise these skills in and beyond the curriculum.

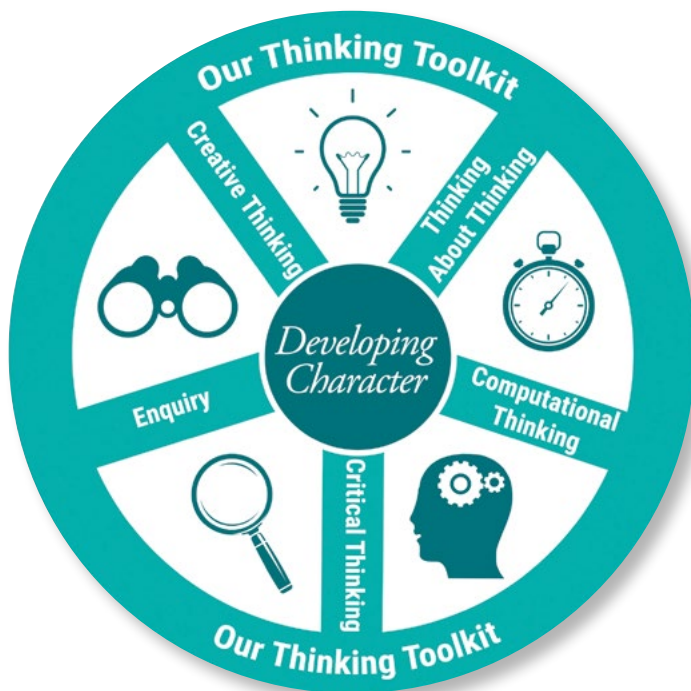
Our outer wheel shows our focus on looking beyond Dame Bradbury's as citizens in a wider world. We focus on each individual's place in society - raising money for charities, celebrating diversity, taking responsibility for our actions now and in the future. Lifelong skills are embedded at an early age.

Our Thinking Toolkit

Our Thinking Toolkit helps our pupils to unlock everything that the Learning Wheel has to offer. Designed to foster independence, flexibility, and self-challenge, this innovative tool serves as a compass for our pupils' educational journey. Each segment is a crucial facet of critical thinking and problem-solving skills, equipping them to approach challenges with confidence and creativity.

Through structured guidance and tailored exercises, the Thinking Toolkit encourages pupils to explore diverse perspectives, think outside the box, and embrace intellectual curiosity. Using this comprehensive framework for our curriculum, we ensure that every pupil develops the resilience and adaptability needed to excel in academic pursuits and real-world scenarios.

Within our curriculum, our six learning areas that we explore with the Thinking Toolkit are detailed on the following pages.



Language and communication

Communication skills help us to express ourselves effectively, develop rewarding relationships and expand our knowledge of the world. In English, French and Spanish there are opportunities to communicate in conversations and debates, on paper and on screen using digital tools.

We use a wide range of media, from newspaper articles to films, and activities can be anything from acting to designing persuasive posters. As well as taking a look at the cultures of France and Spain, we delve inside languages to see how they work. Developing a richer vocabulary is also important, whether you're asking questions, listening to someone else's opinion, reading an interesting story or writing an accurate description.

Our language lessons are exciting, imaginative and often cross into other subjects. Learning to introduce yourself in Spanish, talking about your hobbies in French or writing imaginative poetry in English are just a few of the challenges on offer. We also explore the digital language of code as children progress in the technological journey, looking at the world of block coding, HTML, python and javascript among others through our Computing Curriculum.

Mathematical understanding

Investigating, describing, interpreting, solving – our approach to Maths covers a breadth of skills and encourages pupils to think for themselves and apply the methods they have learnt. We think together about which strategy suits the problem in front of us. Would a mental method be more suitable than a written one?

Pupils discuss the methods that they use and share their ideas with others to show their full understanding of a solution. Mental Maths and learning key facts underpin and lay the foundations for all our mathematical work. Making links with Maths across the curriculum, especially through Science and Technology, our approach is about exploring and experimenting, playing and creating – and, above all, inspiring curiosity and enjoyably challenging our pupils.



Scientific understanding

We love Science and our pupils develop their curiosity and explore and consider what the world is made of and how it works. Their scientific quests could lead them from the tiniest particle to looking into the vastness of space. They might design an interactive function machine in Maths and see how numbers play a vital role in everyday life.

To house our scientific quests, we have a specialist Science lab, which offers the opportunity for our pupils to develop their passion for the subject as they build on their ability to become independent investigators.

We extend children's love of Science by offering Biology, Chemistry and Physics to our older pupils, so we can embrace their curiosity and extend and challenge their theories and understanding through experiments and investigations. We make the most of our wider parent, governor and school community to explore and identify science opportunities to further develop the children's learning through links to companies in our local science parks, Addenbrooke's Hospital and the University of Cambridge.

Humanities: social understanding

Through humanities, we discover more about ourselves, our place in the world and our effect on the planet in Geography, History, Religious Education and PSHEE.

We see how events of the past have shaped our thinking and explore the ways in which different communities cope with rapid change as they plan for the future.

We connect Humanities with Art, Design, Music and Drama - unlocking creative ways to explore the subjects and from Geography at the coast to experiencing a Victorian classroom, we bring topics to life and use our local, regional and national heritage to invoke, inspire and engage the children through visits and trips.



Creative and Performing Arts

We offer plenty of opportunities to create, design, play, dance and perform – it's all about learning whilst having fun!

Art and design colour and enrich our experience of everyday surroundings, as they develop our powers of observation. In our Create Design Engineering lessons, the topics encourage our pupils to be confident in developing their ideas and designs while learning techniques, using different materials and increasing their competence in handling tools.

Many projects involve looking at and discussing works of art, or designs from different periods. Children visit and meet local artists, innovators and people who can inspire and help them to understand the links from learning to making a living. In this way, our pupils become aware not only of their own creative abilities, but also of the world of artists and craftspeople.



Aesthetic choices confront us at all times and we believe it's vitally important that artistic sensibilities are developed to the fullest extent, ensuring a lifelong interest and understanding of colour, form, tone and texture.

We combine these ideas aligning them with the tools and innovative practices from the world of Science and Technology to take our ideas further to embrace future skill sets.

Drama forms an integral part of the Dame Bradbury's curriculum. Drama, speaking and listening skills are embedded across the curriculum and from Year 3 discrete Drama lessons encourage collaboration and creativity and help to boost self-confidence. Through participation, children at Dame Bradbury's begin to acquire the skills needed to stand up in front of an audience and to create imaginative and effective theatre.

There are plenty of opportunities to take part in Drama activities and performances throughout the school: we aim to be totally inclusive and believe that everyone deserves to play a good role. We also offer specialist LAMDA classes supporting and extending skills in addition to our

curriculum for pupils who strive for further excellence in areas like Acting, Musical Theatre and Public Speaking through workshops to push their talents and skills further.

Music is everywhere at Dame Bradbury's! Everyone plays the recorder, while flute, clarinet, piano and violin top the popularity charts, with saxophone and guitar rising fast. Whatever your level, there are opportunities to perform – in lessons, assemblies and clubs, as well as in concerts, recitals and performer's platforms – where families join us to hear the results of all that practice. All types of musical genres are explored from classical and traditional to rock and electronic, our musical journey encompasses all aspects of the musical world.

- Music is part of our core curriculum – orchestra and choir are integral to our timetable.
- Everyone plays an instrument.
- Over half our pupils take specialist music lessons.



Sport, PE and Wellbeing

We believe physical activity plays a vital role in a child's development. That's why we offer a dedicated sports programme designed to nurture a love of movement, teamwork, and healthy competition.

For our youngest learners, one lesson a week is dedicated to developing essential skills such as strength, discipline, coordination and balance. Activities include gymnastics, yoga and fitness training. The other lesson introduces the fundamentals of team sports through fun outdoor games. These games will involve basic equipment like rackets and balls, fostering a spirit of cooperation and communication. From age eight onwards, children benefit from an expanded sports curriculum.

All children from Nursery to Year 6 are able to enjoy the following facilities:

Rainey Hall is a spacious indoor hall where children enjoy a variety of physical activities, including gymnastics with specialised equipment. The hall can host a full sized netball or basketball match, three indoor tennis or badminton

games, or two full size indoor cricket nets with a bowling machine, to keep our keen cricketers at the top of their game.

Our large outdoor Multi-Use Games Area is perfect for energetic games and team-building exercises and used year round for Netball, Tennis, Hockey and other activities.

Our small outdoor Multi-Use Games Area is designed for our younger children, offering a dedicated enclosed space for playing games like football and basketball on a soft surface in all weathers.

Our Astro pitch is used for short tennis, football, hockey and netball.

Our large sports field has two football pitches, one large rugby pitch and an athletics area, all set on grass. We have two outdoor cricket nets with a bowling machine.

The school also benefits from the use of local facilities at Lord Butler Swimming Pool, Saffron Walden and Wendens Ambo Cricket Club and the Carver Barracks Athletics Track.





Beginning in Nursery at Dame Bradbury's, I moved up to Stephen Perse Cambridge in Year 7 and I am now in Sixth Form. I have really enjoyed the friendly and supportive atmosphere and having a range of opportunities to tailor my choices according to my interests.

The highlight of my time has been the support that I have received from the staff as they helped me develop my self-belief in the academic ability that they saw in me. I have made many friends in this close-knit community and my advice to new students joining the school is "Do what you love and utilise the great support and help that the staff offer."

George W



Forest School

We strive to maximise time spent outdoors. While our nursery class enjoys Forest School onsite every week, led by a trained Forest School leader, our Kindergarten and Reception classes spend a full day and children in Years 1 and 2 spend a half day. In support of our learning in the classroom, playground and sports ground, our bespoke Forest School programme is located in the historic Castle Grove Woods in Elmdon.

Our private Forest area offers children ages 4-7 the following unique opportunities.

Thrive in a Natural Environment

We hold regular, long-term Forest School sessions in a private, safe and beautiful woodland setting with historic wood and fort.

Connect with Nature Year-Round

Rain or shine, your child will explore, play, and discover the wonders of nature across all seasons.



**Build Confidence and Resilience**

Our programme fosters a safe space for children to take calculated risks, express themselves freely, and learn from their experiences.

Develop Social and Emotional Skills

Forest School fosters social interaction, emotional well-being, and a sense of belonging in a supportive outdoor environment.

Embrace a Growth Mindset

We believe in learning by doing, and Forest School encourages children to experiment solve real-world challenges, and build self-belief.

Community Spirit

The children learn about their local environment alongside parents and staff, it is a great opportunity to enjoy time together outside, linking the love of learning with the beauty of local nature and wildlife.

Children also have access to the sand, mud and water play areas in school. As part of our love for outdoor learning, we often use the forest area of school for bushcraft, the science garden for growing and we love to be creative where possible to explore the local areas around Saffron Walden when there are brilliant links to our learning.

A group of approximately 20 diverse children, including boys and girls of various ethnicities, are posed in a courtyard. They are all wearing bright yellow high-visibility safety vests over their regular clothing. The courtyard features a two-story building with a white facade, dark wood balconies, and a series of large, golden-brown stone arches. The children are looking towards the camera with various expressions, some smiling. The overall scene suggests a school activity or field trip.

Expanding Horizons

Our commitment to learning through nature extends beyond the classroom walls at Dame Bradbury's. Examples include:

Year 4: Building Confidence in the Outdoors

Norfolk Adventure: Combine the thrill of bouldering with the challenge of raft building on the lakes in Norfolk. This trip equips young learners with practical skills and a sense of accomplishment.

Year 5 & 6: Conquering New Heights

Peak District: Embark on a four-night expedition into the heart of the Peak District. Explore hidden caverns, develop teamwork skills, and discover the wonders of the Peak District countryside on bicycle and by foot.

French Residential: Children in Years 5 and 6 visit a French Chateau, exploring the local market and chocolate factory as part of this cultural and language experience.

Spanish Residential: Our older children visit beautiful Salamanca in Spain on this Spanish cultural trip, using their Spanish skills, whilst indulging in food tasting and learning more about the way of life and culture of this wonderful area.

Ski Trip: We host an annual ski trip when children experience the excitement of living in the mountains and learning new ski skills on the slopes. This is a popular interactive trip for those who love excitement in the snow.

Snowdonia Challenge: Your child's Dame Bradbury's journey culminates with a triumphant climb of Snowdon, Wales' highest peak. This unforgettable four night adventure includes abseiling, gorge walking and an exploration of life in the river.



Co-curricular, Sports and Arts



“

Athletics and
sports day
helped me make
new friends of
competitors.”

Alumnus, George W

32 **From theatre trips and art exhibitions, to accessing a wealth of local options in Saffron Walden - learning in context away from the classroom is integral to our curriculum, both within the timetable and through our clubs and societies.**

Whether you want to try your hand at tennis or LAMDA, spend time exploring the grounds in our Forest School, hone your jazz skills, develop your chess game, delve into local history, create amazing art and learn about the digital worlds combining technology, science and design, or enjoy team sports, there is something for everyone in our enrichment and outdoor education programmes. Opportunities are offered in a variety of ways, from before school to lunchtime and after school clubs to residential trips, encouraging young people to challenge themselves, gain independence and develop their practical and social skills.

For those who enjoy developing their creativity, School Orchestra, Jazz and Funk Band, and Ceramics Club offer a range of opportunities, whilst clubs like Strategic Games, Critical Thinking and Chess Club to help the children to learn and develop their thinking and problem solving abilities.

Through clubs like Messy Science, Eco Council, Digital Skills and in our Forest School provision and club, there are opportunities and challenges focusing on issues with wider world implications. Music Technology, Creative Crew and Digital Production Club allow our pupils to master digital and manual tools to enhance musical and artistic performance, developing technology skills by recording music in composition or sequence both in person and online.


Trips include language and cultural experiences to France and Spain, whilst those more adventurous can carve the slopes of France on the ski trip.

As a school which adores sport, we challenge and thrive against the best local schools' competition and are very active locally as part of the Uttlesford Sports Partnership engaging in athletics, tennis, cross country, dance and swimming events.

There are opportunities to shine, but equally to take part and enjoy all that sport has to offer at Dame Bradbury's School.







The U11 girls cricket team from Dame Bradbury's Junior School in Saffron Walden were delighted to finish in second place at the annual IAPS Cricket Festival.

The festival showcased the strongest school cricket teams across Essex, Hertfordshire, Hampshire and Buckinghamshire. Dame Bradbury's U11 girls began Winter Net training during the spring term and had been developing their skills in preparation for the event.

Sam Godfrey, Head of Sport at Dame Bradbury's, said:

"The girls gave an exceptional performance, achieving an excellent second-place finish against very strong opponents. We are incredibly proud of not only their performance at the festival, but also their remarkable progress as cricketers. Their hard work and determination have led to significant improvement. We look forward to continuing to support the team in developing their cricketing skills."



Wrap Around
**Care & Holiday
Provision**

Extended School Hours

We are open from 7:30am to 6:00pm, providing a safe and supervised environment for your child before and after school. Our after school care includes a Homework Club to support Year 3-6 pupils with work under supervision, and opportunities for pupils of all ages to use our wider facilities for a range of activities until the end of the day.

Convenient Home-to-School Transport and Home Run

We offer home to school transport from several key drop-off points to Dame Bradbury's, allowing children from Year 1 and above to travel to and from school on a bus at a convenient location near you. We are also part of Home Run, an app for parents to arrange lift-shares, or seek support for school journeys to and from school.

Clubs

We offer a host of clubs during and after school to enable our pupils to explore existing interests or discover new passions. Try something new like golf, ballet or rock band, or delve deeper into a favourite subject.


Holiday Programme for ages 5-11

Every holiday offers an exciting programme in Cambridge. From musical theatre and orienteering to classic sports like football and tennis, there's something for everyone. Transport to and from Saffron Walden is offered free for Dame Bradbury's children attending our Holiday Programme and a number of our local club providers and staff are involved, ensuring that children see some familiar faces.



The Stephen Perse Guild

The Stephen Perse Guild Annual Reunion 2024



The Stephen Perse Guild is the alumni association for all Stephen Perse Foundation schools. It was founded in 1903 as the Old Persean Guild and updated its name to reflect the contemporary senior school in 2009.

As Stephen Perse Guild members, our alumni and former staff members are a life-long part of the Stephen Perse family and we are always keen to hear all about their successes and achievements and to remain connected with them. Guild membership provides our alumni and former staff with easy access to a supportive, friendly and useful network of friends and contacts throughout their lives.

From raising families and volunteering in their communities, to excelling in their professional lives, Guild members are ambassadors for our schools' values and support one another in many ways, including volunteering for Careers and Guidance events and activities and making gifts, or leaving legacies. These donations are the embodiment of Stephen Perse values and fund bursaries, scholarships and outreach programmes with a lasting and positive impact for current and future generations of students and society.

Guild members contribute to society in many ways, as creative and performing artists, journalists, medical and health professionals, teachers, engineers, campaigners and more. Whether performing at the Royal Albert Hall, winning a Grammy, working as President of the Royal College of Emergency Medicine during a global pandemic, protecting national security at the head of GCHQ, or teaching the next generation, Guild members make meaningful contributions across society.

How to Apply

Join us at Dame Bradbury's and embark on a journey of intellectual discovery, personal growth, and lifelong learning.

We welcome applications from talented and motivated pupils from the UK and overseas.

Main entry points are at Reception and Year 3, with entry into other year groups where spaces allow.

Find out more

For detailed information on the application process, entrance requirements, and to book a tour, please visit our website at **[stephenperse.com](https://www.stephenperse.com)** or contact our Admissions Team on **admissions@stephenperse.com**

Final Thoughts

At Dame Bradbury's, we believe in educating the whole child. Our students live, learn and thrive in an environment that fosters academic achievement, personal growth and social responsibility.

Join us at Dame Bradbury's and embark on a journey of intellectual discovery, personal growth, and lifelong learning.





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