



Bristol
Grammar
School



Champions

Candidate Information

Life

Bristol Grammar School: a company limited by guarantee, company number: 5142007
Registered Office: University Road, Bristol, BS8 1SR. Registered Charity Number: 1104425

Life-changing learning, friendships, and adventure

Welcome to Bristol Grammar School, a school where girls and boys aged 4 to 18 find a world of opportunity, the chance to discover their potential, and the encouragement and confidence they need to succeed.

BGS received its Royal Charter in 1532 and has played a central role in the educational life of Bristol ever since.

The values we promote throughout BGS are life values not just school values. These include a love of learning, developing healthy friendships and the building of self-confidence so that pupils are encouraged to take risks, all in the pursuit of excellence.

We value our warm, vibrant and positive learning community, a place where pupils become accountable for themselves, responsible for others and empowered to have a voice and a role in the many activities and endeavours that make our School such a unique and exciting place.

School Community

BGS is a large and thriving school, with around 1,350 pupils aged from 4 to 18. While each phase of the School has its own unique identity, each is very much part of the whole; sharing activities across all phases is a real strength. Our Breakfast Club is held in the Sixth Form Centre so pupils, from Reception to Sixth Form, start the day together; many teachers work across phases; older pupils work with younger pupils (for example, Sixth-formers help Infants with reading, and are encouraged to act as leaders and role models for those in younger years).



There are over 290 staff members across the School, with approximately 150 teaching staff and 140 support staff. There is a strong sense of community within the staff body, with regular social and sporting events organised. The support staff is actively involved in the broad range of co-curricular activities and trips offered and the entire staff body is fully represented within the Information and Consultation of Employees Committee.

Pastoral Care

BGS values warm pastoral care as being key to pupils' enjoyment of school, holistic development and success. Knowing each child as an individual and promoting a culture in which children share their concerns, and staff members listen and support, lies at the heart of our practice. In addition, meaningful partnership with parents ensures triangulation of care around each child.

Pupils throughout the School are supported by the House system. There are four Houses in the Junior School and six in the Senior School. Form Tutors provide continuity of care throughout a pupil's journey at BGS. The system of rolling Tutors in the Senior School ensures that each pupil and their family is known as an individual.

Additionally the School has an Assistant Head with specific responsibility for pupils' mental health and wellbeing, who works across the whole school, supported by two school counsellors – one of whom provides art therapy – and a school nurse.

Co-Curricular

Games and co-curricular activities flourish and are an integral part of education at BGS. In the Junior School, and continuing into Years 7 and 8, a whole afternoon each week is given over to our Activities programme, where pupils can take on a new challenge or find a favourite hobby.

From the Infants upwards, there is a wide range of clubs for pupils to get involved in, either at lunchtime or at the end of the school day. These clubs are supported by the wide-ranging expertise and interests of the BGS staff, both teaching and support.



The creative and performing arts are a valued part of school life. Major dramatic and musical events are put on regularly but the School also offers many smaller-scale and informal opportunities for pupils to perform – from music, dance and drama to public speaking.

The vigorous House system provides valuable extra opportunities for an enormous range of sporting, social and cultural activities, as well as for individual pastoral support.

The School is a Duke of Edinburgh assessment centre and is proud of the large number of pupils that complete either Bronze or Gold awards each year. During the school holidays, there are opportunities for a wide variety of school trips with these often being a highlight of a pupil's time at BGS.



BGS also has a thriving Games programme. Pupils from Year 3 upwards take part in fixtures. The School prides itself on encouraging involvement and achievement in sports at all levels of ability, and we are delighted so many of our pupils choose to be involved with sporting fixtures and competitions.

Academic

At BGS our ambition is to be exceptional in every facet of our provision. To that end every academic department focuses on providing an exceptional learning experience for every pupil and our staff all facilitate that learning.

Children joining BGS in Reception follow the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) curriculum and work towards the Early Learning Goals in each area of learning. Children learn through planned, purposeful play and a balance of adult-led and child-led activities.

As children move through the School, or join in Year 3 or Year 5, they cover all aspects of the National Curriculum and extend beyond it. Lessons are taught either by Form Tutors or subject specialists with a number of teachers working across all phases of the School. During Years 5 and 6, children have Food Technology, Textiles and Science lessons in the Senior School as part of their preparation for the next stage of their education.

In Year 7 all pupils follow a broad core curriculum. As pupils enter Year 8, they follow the same curriculum but may choose to study one of Russian or German in place of French or Spanish; they also follow courses in separate Sciences.

In Year 9, in addition to the core subjects, pupils follow a personalised curriculum selected from a very wide range of curriculum subjects which they may then choose to continue to GCSE. These subjects include Greek, Business Studies, Computing, Physical Education (Sports Studies), Dance, Food and Nutrition, and Theatre Studies; at the end of Year 11 pupils typically take between 9 and 11 GCSEs.



The Sixth Form offers both A levels and, from September 2018, the International Baccalaureate Diploma (IB). Both routes offer a broad and flexible choice of subjects to broaden pupils' overall experience and cultural breadth.

In addition, Sixth-form students are required to follow a course of wider activities, and attend a richly diverse programme of weekly lectures by visiting speakers. They also take part in a wide-range of events, such as essay competitions, Mathematics and Science Olympiads, and Model United Nations Conferences. Students are encouraged to undertake an Extended Project Qualification (EPQ), which provides a helpful transition between school and university learning.

Students from the Sixth Form proceed to a wide range of faculties at leading UK universities, including Oxford and Cambridge, with increasing interest in universities in the United States and Europe.

From Year 8 onwards, appropriate support and careers advice is offered by Form Tutors, class teachers and the well-resourced Careers Department. The aim is to ensure every pupil makes careful and considered choices at each point in their school lives and in considering their options beyond BGS, including the growing opportunities to follow career paths other than university.



All teachers are issued with a laptop and an iPad to aid their teaching and pupils from Years 3 to 13 are issued with an iPad. Learning is supported by an effective Intranet that pupils and staff use from home and in school.

Results

We are proud of the excellent academic results achieved by our pupils year after year. 2018 saw BGS pupils achieve another outstanding set of A level and GCSE results. At A level 55% of all results were awarded an A* or A grade, with a 100% A*–B achieved in a diverse range of subjects, including Design & Technology: Product Design, Dance, Economics, English Literature, French, Latin, Music and Russian.

At GCSE level, almost 90% of GCSE entries achieved A*–B (or 9–7 in the new numerical grades). Fifteen subjects achieved a 100% pass rate, covering the humanities, mathematics, modern languages, and the creative arts which are going from strength to strength at BGS.

Full details of results by subject can be accessed on the School's website.

Scholarships and Bursaries

The School has Bursary Schemes which can offer financial assistance towards the fees of able pupils seeking to join BGS Juniors or the Senior School whose parents have limited means. The schemes are kept under regular review by the Governors and we are looking for ways to extend them all the time.

There is also a range of scholarships offered for Senior School entry, covering both all-round academic ability and specific talents in Sport or the Creative and Performing Arts. The School enjoys a local and national reputation for its academic achievements and the demand for places is strongly competitive.

Recent Developments

In recent years an extensive development plan has included the opening of an Infant School, refurbishment of the Sixth Form Centre, refurbished Science laboratories, extension of the Art school facilities and new Food and Nutrition facilities.

Our Mission and Aims

Mission of the School

Life-changing learning, friendships, and adventure

We aim high at Bristol Grammar School and are proud to do so, inspiring a love of learning, fostering intellectual independence and promoting self-confidence and a sense of adventure among our young. We set our sights on academic excellence in everything we do.

Our purpose is to provide an exceptional education for all our pupils, developing in them a spirit of enquiry and independence of thought through high-quality teaching, warm pastoral care and broad-ranging intellectual, physical and cultural opportunities. We wish to encourage a mature sense of responsibility from an early age, forming well-rounded young people who are able to use their talents and leadership potential in the service of others, here and in their future lives.

Above all, we are committed to supporting our pupils so that every one of them may achieve their goals and leave BGS as confident, compassionate and ambitious young adults.

Aims of the School

For every pupil to:

- achieve their full academic potential through a rich, stimulating and progressive learning experience
- be prepared and motivated to contribute positively and compassionately to the world through the cultivation of our School spirit
- flourish culturally, intellectually, morally, physically, emotionally and spiritually in a happy and nurturing environment through a wide range of far-reaching opportunities.

The 1532 Performing Arts Centre was opened in September 2016 providing greatly enhanced facilities for Drama, Music and Dance. As part of this development, the facilities for History and Philosophy & Religion have been updated.



In 2017 a new 3G sports pitch was opened at the School's sports grounds in nearby Failand, part of the ongoing programme of improvements and enhancement to this valuable facility.

Why work at Bristol Grammar School?

Information for all staff

BGS is a forward thinking organisation, looking for energetic, enthusiastic staff to develop and enhance the provision for all pupils in the school. If you would relish the opportunity to teach inspirational and hard-working pupils, and work alongside dedicated and skilled colleagues, then BGS is the school for you.

Particular benefits of working at BGS include:

- All staff are encouraged to develop professionally. A Senior Leadership Team member is responsible for staff development. The School offers internal INSET and encourages external INSET for teaching and support staff.
- Teaching is supported and developed through the promotion of best practice by internally-appointed *Innovators in Learning*.
- New staff are supported by a series of staff induction sessions. These are held before the start of the term for those starting in September and at appropriate times for other staff.
- New staff are allocated a *buddy* who meets with them on a regular basis in the first year to ensure all queries and concerns are answered.
- NQTs are fully supported with a bespoke programme and have a subject mentor as well as a school NQT supervisor.
- A wide ranging and extensive co-curricular programme, with all staff encouraged to get involved.
- Excellent working environment: dedicated staff working areas in all departments, extensive ICT facilities, ICT support and training. All teaching staff are provided with laptop and iPad.
- Small class sizes, high levels of pastoral care and parental support.
- Generous timetable allowances for teaching staff.
- An Information and Consultation of Employees (ICE) Committee allows staff to be consulted on, and raise any issues relating to working at BGS.
- All staff are included in a pension scheme. Teachers are part of the Teachers' Pension Scheme and support staff are included in the scheme available to BGS staff.
- School lunch is provided for all staff during term time.
- Concessionary School Fees are available to all permanent members of staff, subject to their children meeting the academic entry requirements and subject to a place being available.
- Free access to the School's sports facilities and use of the well-resourced School library.
- Staff well-being opportunities including running club, circuits, Pilates etc.

Why come to Bristol?

“It has everything you'd want from a big city – vibrant nightlife, pretty sights and plenty to do – but all on your doorstep.”

The Independent March 2017

Bristol is a wonderful place to live. In fact it was voted the UK's best place to live in 2017 by *The Sunday Times* – for the third time in four years. It has also previously been named the best place to study, one of the top-five most inspiring cities, and even one of the top-ten cities in the world. It is a small city that feels like a big city, with the added benefit of fantastic countryside and beaches on its doorstep. And – if you should want to head elsewhere – Bristol is well connected by rail, road and air to London, Birmingham and the rest of the country and abroad.

Bristol may lack the picture postcard prettiness of neighbour Bath but this is part of its charm. Beyond the dual carriageways and 1960s and 70s concrete architecture, there are still plenty of fine buildings to discover. The buildings of Bristol Grammar School itself represent a trip through architectural history, from the original Victorian Great Hall to the newly-built 1532 Performing Arts Centre.

With a wide range of venues, there is an extraordinary variety of culture available: plays at the Bristol Old Vic or the Hippodrome, exhibitions at the Arnolfini, cinema

at the Watershed and the Everyman and concerts in St George's. Bristol is of course the home of Banksy, Wallace and Gromit, and bands such as Massive Attack, who persuaded nearly 30,000 people to stand in the pouring rain on Durdham Down for a rare live show.

The entrepreneurial spirit is alive and well here, cultivating a host of independent shops, restaurants, cafés and bars. Many of the best restaurants have something quirky about them. At the Cauldron, everything is cooked on a real fire while at the Lido, in Clifton, you can have a swim before enjoying a two-course Mediterranean dinner.

Bristol is also a fantastic city for families. There are plenty of parks and green spaces to explore: the famous Downs, the Blaise Estate, Snuff Mills, Ashton Court, Leigh Woods, the list goes on. You can enjoy attractions such as the SS Great Britain, the M-Shed and We the Curious, take a ferry across the historic harbour, enjoy the world famous Balloon Fiesta, the Harbour Festival or spend the day at the zoo. Oh – and there's at least one excellent school here too!

