

BRIDGEWATER SCHOOL

Where individuals count



WELCOME TO BRIDGEWATER SCHOOL

I am very proud to introduce you to this tantalising glimpse of the purposeful and varied life at Bridgewater.

Our aim is to guide each individual towards a confident, resourceful, independent and, so, happy adulthood - well qualified in every way. If you share that vision for your child, this is the school for you.

To do this we offer a broad and balanced education- academic, artistic, practical and physical - so that all our students can fully explore talents and interests in their formative years.

Our dedicated teachers, for whom nothing is too much trouble, enthuse and challenge their students to teach them that rewarding work combines hard work and fun; they support them while gradually teaching them the skills to learn from each other and to study independently.

We lead each of them, not only to achieve their highest academic potential but also to enjoy learning itself: that is what makes an alert, ambitious and resilient person who can thrive and prosper in tomorrow's world.

Our school is small enough for your child to be known and valued as an individual but large enough to offer a wide range of subjects, extra-curricular activities and enrichment opportunities.

Everyone has the chance to pursue passions, to participate, to be part of a group: to develop confident relationships but to be unique.

At this 3 – 18 truly family school, there is no awkwardness between the ages or sexes just a gradual change from childhood to independence. You will notice three “uniforms” at Bridgewater to signal that with age come increasing challenges, opportunities, privileges and responsibilities.

The relaxed, warm and unpretentious atmosphere of our diverse, vibrant community will strike you immediately. We stress courtesy, concern and respect for all the members of our school.

To see why children come from such a wide area, visit us and meet our staff and talk to our students – our best advertisement.



Head Teacher





EARLY YEARS (3-5 YEARS)

Our thriving Foundation Stage offers:

- a close partnership between you and our fully qualified staff
- excellent resources with Music, Drama and PE taught by specialist staff
- a safe, caring and stimulating environment
- a happy atmosphere in which each child can learn, play, develop and establish friendships
- an opportunity for each child to realise that learning is fun
- every child a confident platform for future education



“The excellent provision for these children offers a safe, welcoming and exciting learning environment both in and out of the classroom”

ISI Report 2015





KEY STAGES 1 & 2 (5-11 YEARS)

In Key Stages 1 and 2 we offer:

- close contact with parents
- high staffing levels, including specialist teaching in Science, Music, PE, Spanish, History and Drama
- “outstanding care, support and guidance which builds pupils’ confidence, self-esteem and awareness of others.” – ISI Report
- an exciting learning environment to promote enthusiasm and curiosity
- stimulating and wide-ranging work to encourage everyone to participate in everything
- a wealth of extra-curricular activities which help all children to explore and develop their talents and interests
- a little homework each evening to develop good study habits
- progressive steps to a confident transition into the Senior Department



“Their personal and emotional development is excellent and their behaviour is exemplary.”

ISI Report 2015





SENIOR DEPARTMENT (11-18 YEARS)

In joining the senior department, you will make new friends to last a life time.

For the future in which you will live, you will need curiosity, sound knowledge, good learning skills, the ability to deal with people and a positive attitude to change.

Within a secure, caring and stimulating environment, we offer a varied and challenging curriculum and excellent specialist teaching which will bring out the best in you- intellectually, emotionally, creatively and physically.

We recognise and teach you to recognise that you are an individual who learns in different ways and at a different pace from others; we encourage you to see that getting things wrong is something to learn from so that you develop the confidence to experiment - a huge factor in success.

We want you to enjoy increasing satisfaction as you explore your talents so

we make your class work and assignments increasingly demanding. You will choose your favourite options as you get older but we make sure you keep all your options open.

You can also develop your interests by participating in a vast array of extra-curricular activities, some individual but most communal.

Our excellent pastoral care is built on close knowledge of you as a person. In our school, individuals are important. You have a form teacher who is concerned for you and who will support, guide and mentor you.

We pride ourselves on our relaxed but purposeful discipline which helps you to develop the skills and confidence which will prepare you for GCSEs and then towards the sixth form and independence.



“In the senior school there is an increasingly high level of achievement in sport with pupils gaining regional, national and international recognition.”

ISI Report 2015





GCSE YEARS

In your first upper school assembly, wearing your new smart black blazer, you will begin to sense the excitement and nervousness of making your own life. Your aim now is to achieve your personal best.

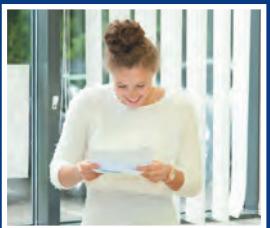
Studying your chosen GCSE subjects, in a smaller group, with enthusiastic teachers will fire you for learning; and your new form teacher will be helping you to develop a habit of success, showing you how to recover from set backs and turn them into triumphs. To make sure you can now learn to manage your time, minimise stress, be independent of thought and know how to learn, we give you a period devoted to learning the skills which will prepare you for joining our sixth form.

Now explore your potential to the full. Hanging over a cliff during your Year 10 residential will certainly test your character! Try a new activity, have the courage to take a risk, learn from others and investigate your future in your work experience week.

This is a time when you learn more about yourself, especially under pressure, and of course get to know more about the people you thought you already knew. You will make stronger bonds of affection and laughter as you learn that to succeed you have to take care of each other. Peer support works much better than peer pressure.

It is not always easy to grow up but, while having all the fun of working in groups, you will also become able to stand alone, being proud of yourself, your achievements, ideas, opinions and principles.

You will have many opportunities now to pay back the support given to you by sharing responsibility and representing school: giving a vote of thanks to a visiting speaker, helping to run clubs, participating in citizenship day; and, possibly becoming a Year 11 prefect with all the pleasure and responsibility of being looked up to by younger students.





SIXTH FORM

Preparing for University Life

**Sixth form is a very different life:
ambitious, grown up, exciting and demanding.**

In your common room, a strong bond develops between you as sixth formers, sharing ambitions, laughter, ideas and space with like-minded people, learning to live together and learning to be part of a team. This prepares you properly for the step to university.

As you now concentrate on your favourite subjects, you enjoy a more equal relationship with your subject tutors, sharing and debating ideas with passionate interest and mutual respect.

You will be stretched to your limits, steered into thinking for yourself and taking responsibility for your work as you would do at university. You are encouraged to take risks, confident that staff know you inside out and will support you to independence.

Your tutor works with you, helping you to develop yourself and your abilities to the full, reinforcing the skills employers want and enabling you to make informed choices about the future.

Of course, you enjoy the many freedoms and privileges of sixth form life; you are trusted to make intelligent choices about how to spend your non-contact time in school- in the study rooms, the common room, the careers or dedicated computer rooms.

Sixth form is the time to take opportunities for leadership and initiative, acting at times like a member of staff with younger students, motivating, guiding and organising them, serving as a role model, running charities, leading societies. Through the senate, you learn to make a difference and contribute to shaping the school and its future.

By the end of the sixth form, you are a confident adult, able to deal with any challenge and ready to grasp your future.







“The school’s family atmosphere and inclusive and tolerant ethos underpins the excellent personal development of pupils.”

ISI Report 2015



BRIDGEWATER SCHOOL

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