



OLDFIELD SCHOOL

Background Information

An Introduction to Oldfield & its History

Oldfield was founded in 1892, it moved from the city centre to our present location in 1959. Oldfield School is an 11-18 comprehensive converter Academy on the outskirts of Bath. It serves the City of Bath and the outskirts of Bristol. Boys were admitted into Year 7 from September 2012, at present Years 11 is girls only and the Sixth Form admits boys. We have specialisms in Science, English Arts and Sports.

Our Aims and Ethos

Our children are our future. We are justly proud of the high quality of education which we provide. We insist on high standards: we expect our young people to work to the best of their ability, to behave in a way which shows courtesy to those around them, and to wear their uniform smartly. We have high expectations of our young people.

Site & Buildings

Our site is a particularly attractive one on the western edge of Bath, overlooking the beautiful Avon valley. The main building in Kelston Road was built in 1959 and houses the administrative offices, MFL, technology, computing, art, the dining area, the school hall and the gym. The library has been extended to become a Learning Resource Centre. Science is housed close to the main building in two separate blocks. The other part of our site is known as Penn House, it is a grade two listed building and converted stables, which house English, the Sixth Form and music. The two parts of the site are separated by our playing fields. Sports College status enabled us to build five tennis courts; a Dance Studio was completed in September 2006. A new Sports Hall and multi user games area opened in September 2012. Geography is housed in the John Malloy block. A new ten classroom accommodation block opened in 2013 which houses history, RS and maths. A further Drama Studio and classroom block was opened in January 2015.

The Students & Pastoral Organisation

Oldfield draws about half of its students from Bath, the other half come from the Bristol fringes. We have a very wide catchment area and this means that we receive students from a number of primary schools. The intake is comprehensive, with very small numbers gaining places for outstanding artistic, scientific or sporting abilities. Our sixth form provision is focussed on A levels.

For pastoral purposes the school is divided into four Houses with the Head of House taking day to day responsibility for the operation of each House and the co-ordination of the work of the form tutors; most teachers also act as form tutors. All members of the Senior Leadership Team work with a Head of House and House group.

Our Staff

We have around 60 full and part time teachers and 40 support staff. We have a faculty structure consisting of communications (including English, media & MFL), maths (including computing and business), science, humanities (including geography, history, RS, psychology & sociology), AT (including art and technology, and PPP (including PE, PSHE and performing art (dance, drama & music).

Bath Education Trust (BET)

Oldfield School joined BET in 2014. The current members include: University of Bath, Bath Spa University, City of Bath College, Beechen Cliff School, Hayesfield Girls' School, Ralph Allen School, Three Ways School, Wellsway School, Bath Studio School, Aspire Academy, IKB Studio School and Rotork, an international engineering company.

The aim of the Trust is to utilise the expertise, attributes and resources of the Trust Partners to provide exciting, wide ranging and relevant experiences to build young people's capacity for resilience, responsibility, enterprise, confidence and employability. The Trust has developed practical and academic opportunities for members of the Trust community and has provided young people with access to a wide range of courses leading to credible qualifications as well as providing training and research opportunities for staff and students.

Our Curriculum

The school day consists of 5 one hour periods, making up a 25 period week. A common curriculum is followed by all students for the first three years; art, computing, dance, drama, English, geography, history, mathematics, music, physical education, religious studies, science, technology and Spanish. Many students also take a second language from the beginning of Year 8. Special Needs provision is organised by a programme of withdrawal and in-class support during Years 7, 8 and 9. All subjects are taught in mixed-ability groups initially and setting is very limited and only progressively introduced during Year 8 and 9 in mathematics.

We allow our students to make guided choices as they go into Year 10 with students taking a range of option subjects which lead to examinations at GCSE. We have developed alternative pathways for students who want a stronger vocational bias or need additional support in basic skills.

In Years 12 and 13 there are AS and A2 courses in a whole range of subjects. At present we offer no Level 2 courses in the Sixth Form beyond mathematics and English for those who have yet to gain a C+ at GCSE. All Sixth Form students undertake an enrichment period. Sixth Formers also have opportunities to take part in a wide variety of community service projects and sports in addition to their AS and A2 courses.

Extra-Curricular Activities

In addition to a range of sports teams, clubs and societies there is an extensive programme of visits and field study work. In recent years this has included a Ski Trip, visits to Barcelona, World Challenge visits to Morocco, Vietnam and Laos & Swaziland and a Sixth Form trip to Rome. There are residential trips to Field Study Centres, the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme and a wide variety of day visits to museums, theatres etc. There are also strong traditions in Music, Dance and Drama within the School. There is the expectation that staff are committed to the life of the school and offer students or support an extra-curricular activity.

Our Achievements

As a fully comprehensive school we are pleased with our examination results. In terms of GCSE results 61% of Year 11 gained 5 or more A* to C grades including English and maths. 74% of all GCSE grades were A*-C and 25% were at A*/A. At A2 level 23% of all grades were at A*/A and 42% were at A*-B with an overall pass rate of 98%.

Our Ofsted inspection, September 2012, was very successful; we were graded outstanding in all areas. Comments included:

- 📌 "Students thrive in an environment that is highly conducive to excellent learning";
- 📌 "Teaching is outstanding. Teachers have high expectations, and manage their classes very well to ensure that students are fully engaged in learning";
- 📌 "Parents and students have a high regard for the school";
- 📌 "Students' behaviour in and outside of lessons is impeccable. Students are polite, courteous, helpful and constructive";
- 📌 "Teachers' expectations are very high, and a very potent force when coupled with the great pride students take in their work".