

Oldfield School Prospectus 2024

Our ethos has always been the same; to provide an exceptional education to all our students.



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Oldfield School is a successful, high-attaining 11-18 mixed comprehensive with over 1,200 students. The school benefits from a large, semi-rural setting with good transport links for students and staff.

Our school has an excellent reputation for academic excellence and the quality of pastoral care and support.

The school has a comprehensive intake which reflects the diversity of the local community. The most recent Ofsted inspection was in January 2020, when the school was judged to be good in all areas. In addition to recognising the good progress made by students, a strong feature of the inspection report was the inclusive nature of the school and the sense of community felt by staff and students.

Inspectors commented that staff were overwhelmingly positive about the support that they receive from leaders and on how friendly and welcoming the school is for staff.

The teaching and support staff at the school are an excellent team who work well together to provide opportunities for students to achieve or exceed their potential. The needs of our students are paramount and this is recognised by all staff, who have a common view that only the best is good enough.

*Our school values are:
Be Kind, Be Ambitious,
Be Resilient.*



Teaching and learning is exemplary at Oldfield School and our well-qualified and experienced staff work very hard with all students to achieve academic excellence.

The importance of education and our role as a school in developing our young people cannot be underestimated.

We want to ensure our students are fully prepared for their future careers and have the skills and knowledge to allow them to flourish and succeed.

At Oldfield we take a child centred approach, preparing students for learning and life. When students feel happy and safe, they progress in their learning, and this is reflected in their excellent academic achievement.

In addition to academic success, we have a strong focus on extra-curricular activities. Our programme includes sports, performing arts and a wide range of other activities.

These opportunities provide memorable and rewarding experiences for our students and make a significant contribution to their development.

The school builds strong relationships between staff and students which are vital in supporting students through the school. We see school as a partnership with teachers, students and parents and it is through strong communication that we can work more effectively together.

The strength of Oldfield is its teachers and students. The students are respectful and kind and benefit from the excellent guidance from a dedicated staff.

I hope the prospectus supports you in your decision for secondary education. If you choose Oldfield, we look forward to working with you in the future.

Best wishes

Andy Greenhough Headteacher



What we offer at Oldfield School

Oldfield School has always been proud of its high academic attainment, remaining consistently above the national average year-on-year.

We have experienced, enthusiastic and well-qualified teachers, committed to promoting a learning environment in which each and every student is able to achieve their potential.

Student attainment is carefully tracked and monitored against aspirational targets to maximise the progress of our students. This is also used to inform our carefully targeted and individualised intervention programme. We have high expectations with regards to behaviour and conduct and as a consequence our students learn in a calm working environment and treat their teachers and peers with respect. We recognise and reward good work and behaviour, so that students know that positive behaviour is valued.

Homework

Homework is an integral part of the teaching and learning process. Not only does it extend our students' education, it teaches self-discipline, encourages independent learning and a sense of responsibility.

We know that on entering secondary school, homework is often an area of anxiety for our students, and we try to do everything we can to help them manage this transition.

More able students

Oldfield School prides itself on the high levels of progress made by our more able students (as seen by the significant number of grades achieved at the highest level at GCSE and A level). Providing them with an intellectually challenging learning environment, and ensuring there is a wide and varied extra-curricular and enrichment programme, encourages cultural and academic stimulation beyond the classroom.

We're very glad we chose Oldfield for our daughter and are looking forward to Year 8
Parent Year 7 student

Your staff have been responsive and helpful every time we have asked for help, so thank you to them all for that. I was also very impressed by all of her teachers at parents' evening, their dedication and enthusiasm shone through and they really seemed to know and understand her.
Parent Year 7 student

Curriculum Information

The curriculum is delivered through eight learning areas. These are: **Creatives; English; Humanities; Maths, Computing and Business; Modern Foreign Languages; PE and Dance; Science and Social Sciences.**

Years 7, 8 and 9 (Key Stage 3)

All students follow courses in the following subjects:

Art

Dance

Design & Technology

Drama

English

Geography

History

ICT and Computing

Mathematics

Modern Foreign Languages
(French and/or Spanish)

Music

PE

PSHE

Religious Studies

Science



Years 10 and 11 (Key Stage 4)

In addition to PE, students follow courses in:

English Language

English Literature

Mathematics

Science

PSHE

In addition to these compulsory subjects students are able to choose further courses from a list similar to:

Art and Design: Fine Art

Art and Design: Photography

Business Studies

Child Development

Computer Science

Creative iMedia

Dance

Drama

Design & Technology: Product Design

Design & Technology: Textiles

Food Preparation and Nutrition

French

Geography

History

Media Studies

Music

Physical Education

Religious Studies

Sociology

Spanish

Sports Studies

We expect our students to leave us with the skills needed in a modern working environment or for a further education course. Our staff are equipped with devices that allow work on the board to be shared remotely in real time and to be recorded for students to refer back to.

In addition we use cloud storage to enable students to access our materials to support their learning, increasing their level of independence and allowing them more control over their learning outside of the classroom.





You have supported, encouraged, motivated, joked and laughed with my son which has helped him grow and develop into a popular, respected, cheeky but funny, tall young man, I cannot thank you enough for that. Being a tutor is not just taking the register, it's someone who listens, understands and cares and has time for that essential part of the day, making sure the welfare and mentality of the student is considered to help them thrive.

Parent Year 11 student





Nurturing and developing every child's abilities

Seeing students as individual learners and promoting a fully rounded education is at the heart of what we aim to achieve. We work in partnership with students and parents in a caring, secure and supportive environment.

Oldfield staff visit our partner primary schools to meet prospective students and liaise with their teachers.

Transition from Primary School

Students are invited to Oldfield School for an induction day at the end of Year 6 and a parents' information evening. Parents can also request additional visits to the school. There are tailored transition arrangements for students who have additional needs or who might require additional support regarding transition.

Students in Year 7 are placed in mixed ability tutor groups. The tutor will be the first point of contact for parents and students to discuss their achievements, attendance and any concerns. Tutors are supported by the Head of Year who oversees the year group, getting to know the students and helping them feel part of the wider school community.

Pastoral care and support

We take the mental health and wellbeing of all our students very seriously. We offer a range of pastoral support for students who are encountering issues, whether at school or at home. We tailor support to suit the needs of the individual student. We also have Pastoral Support Officers and a School Nursing Officer on site as well as a range of outside services who support students in school, such as the School Nursing Service and Off the Record.

Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND)

For students who may need additional support with their studies or have specific requirements, we have a full-time SENCO to coordinate support where appropriate. If your child has an Education and Health Care Plan (EHCP) or a specific learning difficulty and would like to know more about the school's SEND delivery then this is available on the school's website.



We have a house system to allow for greater social integration and encourage a positive and healthy ethos of competitiveness and community.

House system

The names of the Houses were chosen by the students and link with Bath's Roman connection. The Heads of House are responsible for organising a huge number of fun competitions and activities throughout the year, and particular events, for example, Sports Day or our famous Oldfest.

Each year the winning house is awarded the house shield for collecting the most number of house points, earned from all the different activities throughout the year. The house shield is presented at the end of year whole-school assembly.



Student leadership

We have many opportunities for students to develop their leadership skills throughout their time at Oldfield School.

School Council

The council is divided into four committees, to debate and negotiate issues concerned with the whole-school community:

- Teaching and Learning
- Behaviour for Learning
- Learning, Environment and Sustainability
- Student Wellbeing.

The committee groups are chaired by the head students and meet with the Headteacher, Assistant Headteacher and governors to discuss issues and initiatives relating to school life.

Prefects

We encourage all students to aspire to become a prefect. Year 10 students can apply to join and are selected on the basis of how well they reflect the key values of the school. They contribute significantly to the work of the school, not least as outstanding role models for our younger students.

Thank you. I know my son will miss you greatly as a tutor/mentor but you have no idea how much of an impact, positively, you have had on my young man. I knew I wouldn't need to worry from the first time I met you. I, as a parent couldn't be more proud of him.

Parent Year 11 student

Support for our students includes; one-to-one discussions with the Tutor, Head of Year or the SENCO, regular 'monitoring' meetings with parents/carers, or small group support (e.g. a social skills group) and/or a specific resource to support them.

We ask prefects to represent the school in many ways including; escorting visitors on tours of the site, assisting staff on open evenings, providing invaluable academic support to younger students within a variety of roles, supporting staff on lunchtime duty, and helping to guide new students through the induction process.



SEND students have access to the Hemmings Centre, which is a purpose-built SEND building that allows students time out, sensory space, and separate rooms for provision to take place in.



Enrichment and extra-curricular activities

We believe a vibrant and wide-ranging extra-curricular and enrichment programme is an essential part of personal development and wellbeing for any student. We aim to encourage participation, providing a rich and varied range of activities.

Music and the Arts

At Oldfield, we really value creative subjects, and as such have a thriving music and drama department. All students, regardless of experience, are encouraged to contribute to the extra-curricular clubs and productions, whether that is in school concerts, the annual school production or other events. This can be through playing an instrument, acting, singing, costume and set design, or choreography. Our state-of-the-art drama studio is used for lessons and rehearsals.

Sport, dance and leisure

The facilities at Oldfield include tennis and netball courts, pitches for rugby and football, rounders, an athletics track, a fitness suite and contemporary dance studio. Our sports hall has a full-size basketball court, four badminton courts and we have a MUGA (multi-use games area) which is used by students in lessons and at break times.

Learning experiences outside the classroom

At Oldfield, we believe in encouraging wider experiences for all students and creating some of the most memorable moments in a child's school life.

We offer a variety of school trips, and start in Year 7 with an activities day with team-building games and outdoor pursuits.

Other opportunities include trips to Barcelona, Berlin, Paris, Russia, a WW1 Battlefield trip, a school ski trip, and students have the opportunity to participate in the Duke of Edinburgh Award up to Gold level.

In the summer term we run an activities week for the whole school. This includes trips abroad, day trips in the local area and further afield and many in-school activities. The week culminates in a whole school walk, making full use of our excellent location on the edge of the Cotswold Way.

My daughter took part in the Evening of Dance event. I just wanted to let you know that she thoroughly enjoyed it and was on cloud nine when I met her after the show. I am one very proud parent and I'm sure I speak for many others. It was an amazing effort from you all and the show was brilliant.

Parent Year 8 student

Just wanted to say an enormous thank you for how well you and the team looked after my daughter this weekend. She absolutely loved the experience and felt so supported, it has absolutely boosted her confidence.

Parent Year 10 student, D of E weekend

Activities offered in curriculum time*:

Athletics

Badminton

Basketball

Cricket

Dance

Drama

Fitness

Football

Gymnastics

Handball

Leadership Skills

Music

Netball

Rounders

Softball

Rugby

Tennis

Volleyball

Additional extra-curricular activities*:

Art

Band and Blues Band

Chess Club

Cross Country

Dance; Street Dance, Performance Group

Debating

Drama

Duke of Edinburgh

Fibonacci Club

Film Club

Graphics Photoshop Club

Handbells

ICT

Junior Choir

Language Club

Maths Workshops

Netball

Outdoor Pursuits

Programming Club

Samba Band

Senior and Junior Choir

Table Tennis

Trampolining

Ukulele Group

Throughout the music curriculum, pupils are exposed to a variety of musical styles and instruments whilst developing listening and appraising, composition and performance skills. Oldfield School runs a scheme which allows interested students to have lessons in groups or individually on certain musical instruments during school time.

We are fortunate in having excellent facilities for the performing arts, including drama and dance studios. Both of these subjects are taught discretely in the KS3 curriculum as we firmly believe in the importance of an exciting and stimulating performing arts programme for all, with a real emphasis on excellence, participation, cooperation and enjoyment to enhance teaching and learning.





We have outstanding sporting facilities and a very active and successful physical education programme. Students are encouraged to attend a broad range of activities including after-school sports clubs, inter-house competitions and inter-school fixtures. There are also many sporting tournaments played away throughout the year.



Oldfield is a fantastic school and I am chuffed to bits that my daughter is able to be part of such a wonderful and supportive setting. Thank you!
Parent Year 8 student



Working in partnership with the whole community

Any thriving and successful school depends on the relationship with its students, their parents and the local community, and we recognise the importance of this at Oldfield School.

We appreciate that our partnership with parents is vital. Students are monitored regularly by their tutor and Head of Year.

Communication with parents

There are two parents' evenings for most year groups during the year when parents and students can discuss progress with teachers.

Parents also receive three reports each year. We send out a regular newsletter, *Outlook*, which covers important dates, a variety of articles and celebrates activities that students have been involved in.

Parents with internet access will also have a ParentPay account, which allows online payments to the school for trips, books etc. We communicate via email for the great majority of school communications.

Oldfield School Association (OSA)

The OSA is the Parent Teacher Association – a group of parents and school staff who raise funds for the school. These funds are used for classroom equipment, (e.g. musical instruments or cooking utensils), or subsidising a school trip.

The OSA raise money by organising events, for example quiz nights, the Christmas Fair, 'Battle of the Bands' evening (a chance for the winning band to have their song professionally recorded), refreshments at a variety of evening events held by the school, for example the New Year 7 Parent Evening, and the Celebration Evening in the summer.

The governors liaise regularly with the staff at Oldfield and welcome any comments or queries from parents and staff alike.

Governors

The governing body at Oldfield School aims to raise standards of achievement for all students, which involves providing a strategic view for the school, acting as a 'critical friend' and assuring accountability in upholding the strategic aims of the school.

So my son is in the middle of his A level exams and has a week left. This means his time at Oldfield comes to the end. I wanted to send this email to say a MASSIVE thank you to everyone who has taught him over the years, as well as all the support staff, and for your never ending hard work and support for both him and me.

Parent Year 13 student



The library is an essential part of our school, not only inspiring students and staff to read but to consider the world around them and wider issues that occur. The ever-changing displays make it a joyful space to learn and a peaceful haven to escape to. Our librarian runs several clubs, including Book Club, Young Editors, where students comment on actual manuscripts by real authors, helping the novels develop and get better, and Local Research Group, researching local history.

A highlight of the year is the Harry Potter Evening, where students and staff get to dress up as their favourite characters and take part in games and activities based on the novels.



We are very impressed with communication between staff and parents and the 'we're all on the same side' attitude that is so evident throughout the school. There is no 'us and them'. Something else we've noticed and greatly value is that, while many schools claim to be 'inclusive', this school truly is ... of everyone.

Parent Year 7 student



Introducing Oldfield Sixth Form

The school has a successful and popular Sixth Form of around 200 students, offering a wide range of A level courses and opportunities. A level classes are small, which provides a personalised learning experience for our students.

We aim to make the transition from secondary education to sixth form a seamless and exciting experience.

Our aim is to foster independence and critical thinking, allowing students to become well-rounded, educated people who go on to play a positive role in our society.

We have three key aims for all our Sixth Form students:

1. Outstanding results and academic success

We want to ensure that all students leave Oldfield Sixth Form with the very best results they can achieve.

2. Continued guidance and support

Sixth Form studies carry their own pressures and stresses. At Oldfield we strive to ensure that students are well supported, positive and enthusiastic learners. They meet daily with their tutors, and the Head of Sixth Form has an open-door policy where any student can come to talk through concerns and worries. We also run a well-developed career and higher education guidance programme so that whatever our students want to do post A levels, there will be events, talks and workshops to answer their questions and meet their needs.

We believe our small class sizes, which allow for personal attention from our highly trained, specialist staff, are a key pillar to this success.

Oldfield really is an amazing school, fabulous teaching, the extra miles you all go to, the fantastic extra curricular activities, brilliant communication. I could go on and on and on.
Parent Year 13 student

3. Opportunities in the wider community

Students are fully involved in the wider school community and have the opportunity to engage with a wealth of opportunities above and beyond the classroom.

So whether they want to be part of our highly successful Duke of Edinburgh programme; play an active role in the Sixth Form Committee; take part in sporting, cultural and scientific clubs and events or help and support students throughout the school, we have something to suit all ambitions.

A separate Sixth Form prospectus with further information is available on request and also available to download from our website.

We offer a wide range of Sixth Form subjects including:

- Art/Fine Art
- Biology
- Business Studies
- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- Dance
- Drama & Theatre Studies
- Economics
- English Language
- English Literature
- Film Studies
- Food, Nutrition & Health
- Geography
- Health and Social Care
- History
- ICT
- Mathematics
- Mathematics (Further)
- Music
- Philosophy and Ethics
- Photography
- Physical Education
- Physics
- Psychology
- Sociology
- Spanish
- Textiles

Keep being brilliant! I'm truly sad that being a part of Oldfield has come to the end for us.
Parent Year 13 student

My son has been so happy throughout his time at school, and that's what any parent should want first and foremost, he's had great teachers and made lovely friends. Thank you for enabling him to grow into the happy lad he is. And well done for putting up with the fact he's often a complete ditz!
Parent Year 13 student







OLDFIELD SCHOOL

Oldfield School

Kelston Road, Bath BA1 9AB

Telephone: 01225 423582/3

Email: Enquiries@Oldfieldschool.com

Website: Oldfieldschool.com

