BURFORD SCHOOL
DAY & BOARDING

PROSPECTUS
Tell me and I’ll forget.
Show me and I may remember.
Involve me and I’ll understand.

*Traditional Proverb*
We provide outstanding educational opportunities for all our students across a wide range of subjects. We were inspected by Challenge Partners (2017) who graded the school as ‘Outstanding’ on every measure. In May 2018 Ofsted visited the school and confirmed that our results, at both GCSE and A level, were outstanding. More importantly they said ‘You encourage pupils to be individuals and follow their dreams’. Something we feel is extremely important.

Academic success forms part of what makes Burford special and the commitment of our staff, to help students achieve the best possible grades to enter the most appropriate university, is rewarded each summer. Over the last nine years our exam results have consistently improved from good to outstanding and for the last three years our A level results have put us in the top 25% of schools nationally.

The majority of our sixth formers go on to university; most of them to those in the Russell Group, including Oxford and Cambridge, or to 1994 institutions. Some choose highly regarded art and drama schools and a number each year gain valuable apprenticeship places within prestigious companies such as IBM, Mercedes and Air Tanker.

Burford continues to grow and develop within both the day school and the boarding department and we continue to invest in the school estate. Recent successful capital funding bids in excess of £600,000 have been secured from the Academies Condition Improvement Fund (CIF), for the student canteen refurbishment and replacement roofing to teaching blocks. Improving the facilities for both the day and boarding students benefits everyone at Burford.

The best way to learn about us is by visiting and I would encourage you to make an appointment to see the school when it is in operation. We feel it is the best way to understand how our well qualified and hardworking staff ensure that every student achieves their full potential.

We look forward to meeting you.

K Haig
Mrs K Haig – Headteacher
In 2017 the proportion of students achieving a Grade 5 or 5 and above in English and Mathematics was well above the national rate for the past two years.

Ofsted 2018
When I started at Burford, I did not know anyone as I didn’t come from a partnership school. I settled in quickly and felt very welcomed by other students and teachers. I was looking forward to the sports the school had to offer and all my new subjects. I have already taken part in lots of sports events. I am really enjoying my time at Burford and can’t wait to see where it can take me.

Burford School is an outstanding learning community with academic excellence at its heart.

The school puts teaching and learning at the centre of all that it does. A positive learning experience is provided for each student through effective planning, inspirational teaching and a constant evaluation of the curriculum. Individual needs and stages of development are taken into account, building on students’ knowledge and experience to ensure their full potential is reached.

On-going professional development, at a national level, enables all our staff to engage with new teaching methods helping students to learn efficiently and effectively.

High expectations motivate students to take responsibility for their own learning and to undertake independent research and wider reading. The school has excellent IT facilities and our well resourced and up-to-date library provides outstanding support for literacy across the curriculum. Students extend and enrich their learning through regular homework and independent study projects.

The School’s ‘Learning Zone’ offers personalised learning programmes. Gifted and talented students are provided with enrichment and extension opportunities to prepare them for future academic excellence at university. Those with additional needs have tailor-made curricula and interventions to engage them in their learning, and students with English as an additional language have access to the support they require.

Central to the outstanding teaching is our commitment to challenge and inspire our students. We are a centre of excellence for music and offer our students access to a wide range of exceptional musical opportunities. Through the Burford Institute of Music students are able to perform with established orchestras, take part in professional masterclasses and work on a programme of activities with the University of Oxford.
Pupils behave very well, both in lessons and round the school. They wear the school uniform with pride and are respectful and courteous to one another and to adults.

Ofsted 2018
PERSONAL GROWTH

We are a highly successful and thriving Academy school catering for both day and boarding students from 11-18.

Situated at the ‘Gateway to the Cotswolds’, we are fortunate to be within an area which is not only inspirational in its beauty, but rich in history and tradition. Our site, of more than forty acres, sits high above the town of Burford, whilst our boarding house, in what was the original Grammar School, lies centrally near the church.

Our borders, who number just under a hundred, add an international feel to our community and enrich the lives of those who attend. The boarders are highly visible within the town as they walk to and from the boarding house each day and they share a close and positive relationship with the local community.

The atmosphere within the school is one of mutual respect and positive attitudes. High standards of behaviour and the building of mature relationships prepare students to become thoughtful, considerate and responsible individuals. The extensive pastoral care gives them the motivation to strive towards higher and more rewarding personal goals. Fundraising, charitable campaigns, and inter-house competitions are fundamental to life at Burford.

Students achieve their best when they are happy, secure, and confident. The building of close and positive relations with our Partnership Primary Schools, ensures that the transition into Year 7 is not only smooth but eagerly embraced. For the increasingly large number of students who choose to come to us from outside catchment, we hold additional orientation days.

The student body is fully involved with shaping the school and year councils, peer mentoring, and student leadership roles offer a variety of ways for students to contribute to decisions made within the school. Our Head boy and Head girl attend governors’ meetings to ensure that student views are fully represented.

The dedicated and experienced staff give above and beyond for every student, but it is the combined commitment of staff, parents, and the students themselves that enables each individual student to reach their full potential.

Yvonne – Year 10

Burford offers many opportunities that I’ve been so lucky to take part in; from going into local primary schools as a Language Leader to getting my voice heard on the School Council. The school offers a wide range of subjects at GCSE that many other schools don’t. My teachers were incredibly supportive throughout the process. I am so glad to be a student at Burford School!
A rich, wide ranging curriculum is offered to all.

Challenge Partners Review 2017
Academic and individual interests are celebrated and recognition is given to the varied knowledge and experiences they bring to school.

Our curriculum provides a balanced framework which promotes intellectual curiosity, creativity, and the physical development of all students in preparation for life in a rapidly changing world.

Challenging goals and targets set for each student and regular feedback through reviews, parents’ evenings and academic mentoring enable all students to take a positive and responsible role in their own progress. Parent Forums, in each subject, allow parents to be involved with their child’s learning and better understand the nature and style of today’s learning experience.

At Key Stage 3 students follow a core curriculum which includes English, Maths, Science, IT, French, German or Spanish, Technology, Geography, History, Art, Drama, Music, RE, PE and PHSE. Students are taught in mixed ability groups in Year 7, except for Maths and French which are set. More subjects are set in Years 8 and 9, allowing students to be taught in groups where they can best succeed.

Key Stage 4 sees preparation for GCSE and BTEC qualifications. Years 10 and 11 continue to cover the core curriculum of English, Maths, Science, RE, PE and PHSE, however, a wide range of academic option choices and vocational links with Hartpury College and Abingdon and Witney College, are available at this point. Students choose up to four option subjects, carefully matched to their academic strengths.

In the Sixth Form students choose from an extensive selection of thirty A level and BTEC courses, selecting pathways which enable them to continue on to further studies or into employment. The vast majority of our students go on to study at top universities.
Burford's arts and culture provision extends across a broad and balanced curriculum delivered throughout the whole school.

Chief Executive - Arts Council, England
We believe that learning outside the taught curriculum develops and extends our students, enhancing rapport, mutual understanding and respect. We therefore have a rich and exciting range of extended learning and extra-curricular programmes for all year groups both during and after school. In addition, our boarding students enjoy an extensive programme of activities after prep each evening and at weekends.

All students are placed in one of four houses: named after each of our founders. This gives them a sense of belonging and provides them with opportunities to participate and achieve success across a variety of activities, some of which they may never have experienced before. The House system extends to the Boarding House enhancing the sense of community and giving rise to some lighthearted rivalry.

Whether scientist, artist, sportsperson or performer, there is room to flourish at Burford School. Whatever a student’s level of skill, encouragement is given to take part and acknowledgement is made of both effort and success. New and life-long friendships are made, talents discovered and the energy, enthusiasm and patience acquired transfers itself into the classroom, significantly enhancing everyday performance.

The importance of these activities is formally recognised at our annual Prize Giving ceremonies and at our Charter Day celebrations.
There are many effective teachers in a wide range of subjects who provide interesting and varied lessons.

Ofsted 2018
SPORT

Sport plays a key role in life at Burford and we are fortunate to have extensive grounds which we make full use of throughout the year.

Beyond the timetable, sport takes place at lunch-times, after school, at weekends and on residential trips during the holidays.

Students participate in a variety of team sports including Netball, Hockey, Rugby, Football, Tennis and Cricket. They also enjoy individual sports such as Gymnastics, Badminton and Athletics. This culminates in inter-house competitions each term.

In addition, a full and varied selection of clubs is provided and the school prides itself on the extensive list of fixtures organised for students. From these fixtures District, County, Regional and National competitions frequently follow. Last year students were involved in three hundred and fifty inter-school fixtures across eleven sports, including Rugby Union, Netball, Cricket, Tennis, Softball, Swimming, Athletics, Rowing and Basketball.

Burford has developed strong connections with schools from all over the world and we regularly compete with teams from abroad.

In addition, we hold an annual cricket match against the MCC which is thoroughly enjoyed by our U19 team and always well supported by parents.

A major sports tour takes place every three years. So far students have been to Australia, Canada, New Zealand, and Singapore. These trips are always extremely popular and undoubtedly add a further dimension to the already busy, extended curriculum.

Support for our annual Ski Trip is always considerable and many students taking PE at GCSE and A level make the most of this opportunity to cover some of the practical requirements of their course.

Our thriving Equestrian Team take part in countrywide competitions throughout the year and we hold our own Show at school during the summer term. Students represent the school individually and in teams competing for places at the NSEA Championships at Hickstead - the highlight of the riding year.
A wonderful place that is home to a vibrant community of hardworking students and caring staff

Ofsted 2018
As one of the few State Boarding Schools in England, we are in the enviable position of being able to offer first-rate boarding provision to students at a cost far below that of Independent Schools. Students who hold a British or EU passport are eligible to apply for a place and each year we attract students living within the United Kingdom and also international students who wish to experience a traditional British boarding school education.

Numbering around a hundred, students are housed a short walk away from the school in one of the town’s most historic buildings. Comprising a range of nationalities and ages, the boarding house is warm and friendly and the family atmosphere is enhanced by the presence of siblings.

The accommodation is of a high standard with younger students in shared bedrooms and senior students in study bedrooms, twin or single rooms. Common rooms, kitchens for independent cooking, a gym, prep room, refectory, large central courtyard, garden and orchard for outdoor activities all contribute to making the boarding houses a ‘home’ to come back to at the end of the day.

A dedicated boarding team, which includes some teaching staff, teaching assistants and specialist boarding tutors, provides a balanced influence for boarders and helps them to develop and flourish. Careful attention and support is given to welfare and the academic and social progress of each student. ‘Students progress as a result of boarding, both in their academic achievement and in their social development.’ (Boarding Ofsted 2018)

Students who wish, or need, to stay on after school can join the boarders for tea and supervised prep from Monday to Thursday. They can make use of this facility occasionally or on a regular basis.

Boarders are an integral part of this historic school with a high and enviable reputation. They achieve consistently excellent academic results and are well noted for their achievements and their mature approach to individual and community activities, as well as their positive relationships with adults and their peers.
In the Sixth Form students are fully engaged in their learning and are extremely positive about the guidance they receive from their teachers. Ofsted 2018
SIXTH FORM

Life in the modern world is exciting and fast moving and so in the Sixth Form we seek to prepare our students for the journey ahead.

We equip them with the confidence and enthusiasm to succeed in whatever challenges they may face. ‘The Sixth Form is a real strength of the school’ (Ofsted 2018) and a large and vibrant community. We currently have over 200 students, 10% of whom joined the school in Year 12. Students go on to a range of top universities within the Russell Group, including Oxford and Cambridge. Others study a mix of A levels and Level 3 BTEC qualifications, moving on to university, college or into employment.

We provide a learning environment for young adults with the emphasis on developing self-discipline and independent learning. Our sixth formers are fully involved in the life of the school. They act as role models and mentors to younger students and take part in a wealth of activities including sports, debating and performing arts.

A significant number are involved in the Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award. Important business skills, including team work and entrepreneurship, are developed through the Young Enterprise Scheme, and leadership opportunities arise through extra-curricular activities and the Community Sports Leader Award.

Sixth Form students at Burford choose their programme of study from twenty four A level subjects and a number of Level 3 BTEC awards. Students study either three (or occasionally four) A levels over two years or a combination of A levels and other Level 3 courses (BTEC/L3 Diploma). In Year 12 all students also take one subject from the Extended Curriculum.

Whether the next step for our students is further study or the world of work, they leave us at the end of their two years in the Sixth Form as well-rounded young adults, instilled with the personal values and skills that will allow them to contribute positively to the wider world.

Hannah – Year 13
Since Year 7 I have known the Sixth Form would be for me. The range of subjects available has allowed me to pursue my creative interests through photography and media studies, and my love for humanities within sociology. In addition the breadth of extra-curricular activities and the support from the staff have made Burford the perfect place to develop both my learning and personal skills.
MOVING ON

Funmilola Adeshina
History, Cambridge University
I came to Burford in Year 12 and I immediately received strong support from the encouraging staff in the sixth form. Through the stimulating ways of teaching in class and from encouraged wider reading, I explored my keen interest in history. This was developed alongside the interpersonal and organisational skills I gained from being the Academic Prefect in the Boarding House. I strongly believe that I have learnt invaluable life skills from Burford that will stand me in good stead at university.

Alexander Roberts
Aircrew Officer Pilot, Royal Navy
I have applied to the Royal Navy to pursue my life-long dream to become a Royal Naval officer and fighter pilot to serve the sovereign and the country in the best way I can. Burford has given me the knowledge and skills I need for the future and also developed my core principles and values. The role of Deputy Head Boy has taught me organisational skills fundamental to the person I am today and I’ve made life-long friends here that, no matter where I go in the world, I will never forget.

Abby Netherwood
Medicine, Bristol
Burford has supported me throughout my application for medicine: from help refining my personal statement to arranging a meeting with a neurology consultant for interview advice. Being Head Girl and part of the debating team improved my confidence and helped me enormously with my university interviews. Wide ranging opportunities within the Sixth Form, and the overwhelming support from staff were a massive factor in the success of my medical application and have made me the person I am today.

Benjamin Norgrove
Civil Engineering Apprenticeship & Part-time Engineering Degree
I have really enjoyed my seven years at Burford and took A levels in Maths, Physics and Geography. After working for an engineering company for my work experience, I decided that an Engineering apprenticeship combined with a part-time degree was the route I wanted to take after school. I was lucky enough to be offered a three year apprenticeship and will be combining this with a part-time Bachelor of Engineering degree from Coventry University.
The mind is not a vessel to be filled but a fire to be kindled.

Plutarch
Pupils are encouraged to be individuals and to ‘follow their dreams’.

Ofsted 2018