



WELCOME TO  
**Blenheim**

WORK ETHIC | RESILIENCE | INNOVATION | IMPROVEMENT

PROSPECTUS 2021-2022

[www.blenheim.surrey.sch.uk](http://www.blenheim.surrey.sch.uk)

# WELCOME



Blenheim is a dynamic, exciting and supportive secondary school which opened in September 1997 with one year group and has grown to its current size of 1275 students on roll including 200 in the Sixth Form.

Blenheim is a mixed comprehensive academy and in the recent past has become very popular. The intake comprises of students from all surrounding areas with ability levels being favourable; over 50% of all students boast high prior attainment at the end of Key Stage 2.

## Year 7 Admissions 2017-2021

Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Number of Year 7 Students Recruited	188	209	234	248	248
Number of 1st Preference Applications	165	185	154	209	263
Waiting List	-	-	-	44	135
Furthest Distance	5.2km	5.1km	5km	4.8km	2.9km

Blenheim revolves around a growth mindset where all members of the school community are expected to value and develop the characteristics of hard work, resilience, innovation and improvement. There is a constant expectation of 'wanting to get better'.

As a community, we strive to ensure that Blenheim students are afforded every opportunity to reach their potential both inside and outside the classroom. Inside the classroom, improvements in the consistency and quality of teaching, quality of assessments and the impact of feedback have ensured that students flourish. Outside of the classroom, sporting, musical, artistic, dramatic, STEM and other extra curricular activities including an extended day, ensure that students continue to benefit from rich experiences that develop them as students and as people.

Blenheim sets high standards in terms of uniform with several 'non-negotiables' and there are strict expectations regarding behaviour and conduct. Ofsted described Blenheim as 'calm, orderly and purposeful' and our students as 'respectful, kind and courteous', which is what we expect and see every day.

As we prepare our students to take up their place in society we actively encourage them to become independent learners. Part of this process involves the integration of iPads across the curriculum. Over 98% of Blenheim students own their iPad as part of our iPad for Learning Scheme. Technological evolution is inevitable and we believe this approach is key to ensuring that our students develop attributes that will allow them to adapt in a rapidly changing world. The iPad complements daily teaching and allows students to easily access a multitude of interactive and innovative resources both in and away from school. Parents/Carers enjoy the safety that the iPad brings due to it being firewalled by Blenheim software.

Choosing a secondary school is a crucial decision-making process and I hope the information in our prospectus, at our Open Mornings and Evening along with a tour of the school helps you to make a genuinely informed decision.

Should you wish to arrange a tour, please contact Blenheim's Admissions Officer, Mrs Kann, at: [admissions@blenheim.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:admissions@blenheim.surrey.sch.uk).

In the meantime, thank you for considering Blenheim.

**Mr A. A. Bodell, Headteacher**

# STUDENTS' LEARNING

A balance of traditional, well researched teaching practices coupled with innovative ICT based opportunities ensures that the learning experience is both secure and personalised.

Our curriculum is well balanced and regarded as a strength by Ofsted. A six period day, a three year Key Stage 4 and a comprehensive 'extended day' combined with regular assessment and clear 'next steps' advice all contribute to a thorough and rigorous

student learning experience. 'Show My Homework' and 'Showbie' software coupled with iPad technology ensures that students and parents/carers have consistently clear sight of homework tasks and expectations.

“Pupils benefit from an innovative, personalised and creative curriculum which secures their engagement and ensures their good progress. The recent introduction of the extended day allows more time for subjects as well as for opportunities for intervention and support.”

Ofsted



“New appointments, especially in English, mathematics and science, have ensured a rapid rise in achievement because of subject leaders' knowledge, determination, expertise and expectations.”

Ofsted



# SCIENCE & ENGINEERING

English, Maths and Science are prioritised at Blenheim and the crucial skills of literacy, numeracy and exploration are fundamental to students realising their potential both inside and outside of the curriculum.

The Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) Centre is furnished with the latest technology and our STEM programme engages and inspires students not only to lead to a higher level of academic achievement within the subjects but to also educate them in a range of diverse career pathways.

Our most able Scientists flourish through the teaching of a varied and innovative Science curriculum at Key Stage 3. The High Performers' programme provides

a pathway for the strongest performing scientists at Key Stage 3 to explore wider Scientific concepts. These students then have the opportunity, at Key Stage 4, to follow an extended GCSE Science curriculum in small groups being taught by A level specialist teachers. This bespoke journey helps inform a natural progression through to an A level Science based pathway often resulting in students gaining access to undergraduate and post graduate Scientific study.

“ Leaders, staff and pupils work together to make the school a harmonious community. Pupils are respectful, kind and courteous to their teachers and to one another. Pastoral systems provide high-quality pastoral care for pupils in the school.”

Ofsted



# COMMUNITY & TEAMWORK

Blenheim has a strong sense of community which creates an environment where students can thrive. Students are both encouraged and supported to be themselves and are celebrated as individuals.

There is an excellent pastoral support system in place along with dedicated SEN, EAL and Pupil Premium programmes which ensure that every student is able to reach their full potential, both academically and socially.

So much can be achieved with a strong sense of commitment and teamwork and through persistence and determination,

students excel at all levels, working both individually and as part of a team to challenge themselves. The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme provides an excellent platform for students to experience and benefit from sustained individual and group challenges. There is an expectation that all students enrol onto this excellent character building scheme.

# IMAGINATION & FREEDOM

During their time at Blenheim, students acquire a variety of qualifications, but also lifelong skills and talents.

A thriving and academically excellent Creative Arts department provides an abundance of opportunities for students to engage their imagination, nurture their creativity and harness

their artistic talents. Our annual production provides students with a unique opportunity to be part of a schoolwide family and builds an enormous sense of belonging, self-assurance and confidence that will be with them for the rest of their lives.

Our Physical Education and Dance Department allows students to choose from a range of traditional competitive team-based sports on offer, together with other popular activities such as gym, dance, trampolining and table tennis.

Blenheim students participate over 7,500 times in PE enrichment activities through a typical year and the commitment and dedication that students show is reflected in their academic efforts throughout their school life.

In the recent past, Blenheim girls' under 14 Football team were National Champions for two consecutive years winning the English Schools Cup. This involved winning 8 national 'knockout' rounds between September and May, just like the FA Cup winners have to do! As you can imagine we are incredibly proud of the team.

“The curriculum is enriched by a wealth of extra-curricular activities, including the forthcoming school production at the Leatherhead Theatre, the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, sport, dance, orchestra and choir.”

Ofsted



# LIFE AT BLENHEIM

At Blenheim, we prioritise relationships. We are a community comprised of many stakeholders with a common belief in the British values of tolerance, mutual respect, liberty, democracy and the rule of law.

As teachers, we get to teach for the remainder of our careers but students get one chance to ensure they achieve the qualifications needed to open doors and to learn the values and characteristics to cooperate and compete in an ever-changing and smaller world. Strong, trusting relationships help inform the quality of teaching and learning students receive.

Clear, frequent and straightforward communication with parents is vital so that students, parents and teachers understand where students are in their learning. Clear 'next steps' advice is routinely communicated to students via regular assessments. This allows parents to be kept 'in the loop' regarding student progress.

Parents' Evenings, the Headteacher's weekly bulletin and other events throughout the year ensure that dialogue is alive and well.

Curriculum and pastoral practices are constantly reviewed and improved. In the curriculum, students are in receipt of bespoke branded exercise books, communicating clear messages and prioritising well researched practices that ensure Blenheim students are in the best possible place as they progress through school. At the same time the student experience is complemented by iPads which help ensure an individualised learning experience.

A pastoral team including Heads of Year, Safeguarding Leads, Pastoral Facilitators, Counsellors, Child Welfare Practitioners and an Attendance Officer co-operate to ensure the best deployment of resources, ensuring that students' academic progress, well-being, safety, health and attendance are prioritised.

A comprehensive rewards system recognises high levels of attendance, punctuality, commitment, effort and achievement.

It is never too soon to begin thinking about the future and as an Investor in Careers award holder (re-awarded), we offer a structured careers education programme, individual careers interviews, mentoring, employer led events, a school online careers information portal and a range of activities and trips throughout the academic year. One of our sayings when it comes to careers is that, whatever the future holds, 'you will never regret getting a great set of examination results.'

“ The Headteacher and his senior staff are extremely ambitious for the pupils and the school. They are passionate and committed to raising standards and ensuring that all pupils leave the school with the qualifications and personal qualities that will allow them to be successful in their future lives.”

**Ofsted**

# — THINKING —

By Walter D. Wintle

If you think you are beaten, you are,  
If you think you dare not, you don't,  
If you like to win, but you think you can't,  
It is almost certain you won't.

If you think you'll lose, you've lost,  
For out of the world we find,  
Success begins with a fellow's will,  
It's all in the state of mind.

If you think you are outclassed, you are,  
You've got to think high to rise,  
You've got to be sure of yourself before,  
You can ever win a prize.

Life's battles don't always go,  
To the stronger or faster person,  
But sooner or later the one who wins,  
Is the one who thinks they can.

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