



William Brookes School PROSPECTUS





William Brookes School



Welcome to William Brookes School

Students and staff have much to be proud of at William Brookes School. We are a top-performing comprehensive school with a unique Olympian ethos. Named after the founder of the modern Olympics, William Penny Brookes who lived in Much Wenlock, our school is part of the global Coubertin network of schools, and we aspire to our motto “to be the best we can be through enterprise, courtesy and endeavour”.

William Brookes School is an 11-18 comprehensive school catering for both boys and girls and including a vibrant Sixth Form for our A level and BTec students. All our students enjoy access to state-of-the-art learning, sports and IT facilities thanks to our £27 million investment in the complete and custom re-build of the school in 2010.

Our students are taught and supported by our motivated and dedicated team of teachers and support staff, whose expert guidance and instruction help our students achieve consistently excellent exam results.

The curriculum we offer to students is broad and balanced so that they can be successful whatever their personal ability level. In this way, we measure student progress as a key indicator of our success with students.



A student who feels happy and safe at school is one who is open to learning. Our staff are passionate about creating a safe, secure and positive learning environment, in which every student can achieve to their full potential. Our strong academic results stem directly from our emphasis on pastoral care and student support.

There is more to our school than an impressive set of exam results from contented students. We believe in educating the whole student, and give every one the opportunity to explore the performing arts and sport both in lessons and in school clubs, and to develop a sense of responsibility and initiative.

Geoff Renwick
Head

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WBS Life

UNIFORM

The WBS school uniform is simple and smart, and is strictly enforced in Years 7-11. Boys wear black trousers, socks and shoes, pale blue shirts, navy WBS V-neck sweatshirts and special House ties. Girls have the same uniform with the added option of skirts if they prefer.

“At first I was a bit nervous, but I have settled in really quickly. I have joined three new clubs already, which has helped me to make new friends. I really like science and working with the new equipment in the laboratories.” Millie, Year 7

ADMISSION

Admission to William Brookes School is generally into Year 7 and later into Sixth Form at Year 12. We are a non-selective, truly comprehensive and fully accessible school.

Our admissions policy is operated by Shropshire Council, and a lot of our students at Year 7-11 come from the immediate official catchment area of eight partner primary schools in Much Wenlock, Broseley and surrounding villages, whilst many extend further into Telford or the Bridgnorth area.

SCHOOL DAY

The usual school day runs from 08:50 to 15:10 from Monday to Friday, but we open the school building to students from 08:00 each day until 17:00 to allow students to work in the library or take part in our many school clubs.

HOUSE SYSTEM & TUTOR GROUPS

Following our new student induction days in the summer term, we stagger the September start for these year groups so they can explore the school before the majority return. New students quickly find their feet thanks in part to our House System and vertical tutoring system. The four Houses are - appropriately for a Coubertin School - named after the four host cities of the Olympic Games from 2000 - 2012 Athens, Beijing, London and Sydney, and students work together across the academic years to win points in the many inter-house competitions.

Tutor groups are organised by House and vertically across the school years, so that there are 5 students from years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 in every tutor group. Students are in tutor period for 20 minutes a day with frequent house and year group assemblies. We find that this encourages friendships across the years and makes for better cross-school communication. Tutors monitor students' academic and pastoral progress and are the principal point of contact for parents and students.

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STUDENT SUPPORT

We place great emphasis on creating a secure and positive environment for our students to thrive. Bullying is not tolerated and any concerns are dealt with swiftly by the support teams in the Hubs. As a school we develop students' awareness of behaviours that are unacceptable towards them and others, and how they can help keep themselves and others safe. This is part of the culture of the school and specific learning is delivered through PSHCE lessons, tutor groups and assemblies.

SAFEGUARDING

At William Brookes School the health, safety and well-being of every child are our paramount concern. We listen to our students and take seriously what they tell us. Our aim is for children to enjoy their time as students here and we want to work in partnership with you to help them achieve their full potential and make a positive contribution to school life. You will find full details of all WBS school policies and procedures on our website www.williambrookes.com





WBS Curriculum

Over the course of Years 7-9, students follow a broad, balanced and stimulating curriculum. This provides a strong grounding in the core academic subjects and a comprehensive, structured introduction to the Performing Arts, Information Technology, Art & Design and a wide range of sporting disciplines. Every classroom is equipped with interactive whiteboards and trolleys of laptops on demand, in addition to the dedicated Apple and PC suites for ICT lessons :

ART

DANCE

DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY - FOOD

DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY - PRODUCT DESIGN

DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY - ENTERPRISE

DRAMA

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

ENGLISH LITERATURE

FRENCH/SPANISH *

GEOGRAPHY

HISTORY

ICT

MATHS

MUSIC

PSHCE

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

* In Year 7, all students experience a taste of both languages. In Year 8 and 9, students take one of these two subjects so that they are well prepared for a language at Key Stage 4.

GCSE OPTIONS

In the autumn of Year 9 – and with the advice and support of their teachers and parents - students decide on the GCSE courses they will study once they enter Year 10. In addition to their core lessons in PE and PSHCE and the compulsory GCSE subjects of English Language, English Literature, Maths, Science (students can opt for double or triple science), we strongly recommend students take a Language (French or Spanish) and a Humanities (Geography or History), for the English baccalaureate, providing balance with subjects from the following options:

ART & DESIGN

BUSINESS STUDIES

COMPUTER SCIENCE

DANCE

DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY – FOOD

DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY – PRODUCT DESIGN

DRAMA

FRENCH

GEOGRAPHY

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

HISTORY

IMEDIA (DIPLOMA)

MUSIC (AFTER SCHOOL)

PHYSICAL EDUCATION OR BTEC LEVEL 1/2 FIRST CERTIFICATE IN SPORT

RELIGIOUS STUDIES, PHILOSOPHY AND APPLIED ETHICS

SPANISH

There are also a limited number of places for students on vocational courses off site one day a week:

IMI LEVEL 1 OR 2 DIPLOMA: LIGHT MOTOR VEHICLE

STUDENT PROGRESS

Throughout their time at WBS, students' academic progress is closely monitored and assessed. Information is fed back to parents on a termly basis including annual target setting meetings and parents' evenings as well as individual meetings where required.

GCSE RESULTS

We are proud to be one of Shropshire's top performing comprehensive schools.

Exam results are a key requisite for a successful career and this involves many students aiming for a place at university or a modern apprenticeship. Our qualified Information, Advice & Guidance Officer, together with a programme of work based learning, allows students to be well placed to make good choices for the future.

Qualifications are more important than ever as it is expected that young people today will probably have four different careers during their working lives.

“I was shocked with how well I did at GCSE especially my grade 9 in Maths, and was keen to return to the Sixth Form. The school helped me to gain a place on the National Citizenship project this summer, which was amazing. It has helped me to feel more confident and work better as part of a team.”

Sam, Y12



WBS Sixth Form

MOVING ON UP TO A LEVEL SUCCESS...

As a Sixth Form we pride ourselves in providing high quality personal development, with an extensive range of extra-curricular activities on offer for students, from physical fitness to mentoring and coaching. All students participate in a recreational and leisure programme to contribute to effective mental health and wellbeing. Also, all students are assigned a personal tutor who acts as an academic coach and pastoral support providing relevant life skills. Appropriate careers advice and guidance is also a very important aspect of the curriculum provision in our Sixth Form. Meaningful career related experiences, such as tailored work experience linked to a student's future aspirations, University and Apprenticeship careers talks, and mock interviews to support post 18 destinations, all contribute to ensuring our students are well equipped to make the next steps post 18.

WILLIAM BROOKES SIXTH FORM INTENT STATEMENT:

Leaders and teachers have high expectations of achievement and progress for all students, including the most disadvantaged and those with high needs at William Brookes Sixth Form. The quality of teaching, learning and assessment is high. Opportunities to sequence learning, recall, retrieval and interweaving knowledge is embedded within the curriculum to enable students to make connections between topics within a subject rather than learning facts in isolation. Teaching aims to be consistent across all curriculum areas, and when it is not, this is picked up and subject areas are supported to make effective adaptations to ensure students are able to make the desired progress. Throughout the academic year staff are presented with guidance of these key teaching and learning pedagogical ideas and given opportunities to reflect and develop their own practice during the academic year. There are robust and effective systems to monitor and develop the quality of sixth-form programmes, including attendance and punctuality, extra-curricular study including rec and leisure and a PSHCE programme that develops and widens students cultural and social experience. Cultural capital is addressed through all aspects of a Sixth form students experience, including a bursary scheme, additional study support and up to date careers advice. Academic, social, emotional and safeguarding concern procedures are such that vulnerable students are identified quickly and the appropriate support is put into place. Students leave WBS Sixth form feeling proud of their achievements and with the confidence to pursue their next chosen career pathway.

“Joining this Sixth Form from a different secondary school has been a great decision. The subject teachers here are impressive and very supportive. I came not knowing many people but instantly made many new friends.” Ben, Year 13

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A LEVEL COURSE OPTIONS

At William Brookes Sixth Form we have 20 subjects on offer each year as well as the option of an Extended Project Qualification. All our courses are interesting but they are also demanding and students need to have a real desire - as well as the ability - to study them at Advanced Level.

The choice of A Level subject options builds on from those offered at GCSE, and makes the most of both the school's expert teaching from subject specialities and its exceptional facilities:

ART	HISTORY
BIOLOGY	ICT *
BUSINESS STUDIES *	MATHS
CHEMISTRY	FURTHER MATHS
ENGLISH COMBINED	PERFORMING ARTS *
ENGLISH LITERATURE	PHYSICS
FRENCH	PSYCHOLOGY
GEOGRAPHY	PHILOSOPHY AND ETHICS
GOVERNMENT & POLITICS	SPORTS SCIENCE *
HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE *	

* Offered as a BTEC or Cambridge National at Level 3





WBS Personal Development



TAKING A ROLE

At William Brookes School, we firmly believe in nurturing the whole student by giving them opportunities to develop their initiative, wider interests, skills and sense of responsibility.

Students can be nominated as their tutor group representative on the School Council, where they discuss issues around the life of the school and can put forward the views of the student body. There are roles for Heads of House, Sports Captains, Prefects and additional Sixth Form leadership roles.

Many students get involved with School Open Days, taking groups on tours of the school or welcoming visitors on their arrival, or demonstrating their work to visitors in classrooms.

Older students support younger students as mentors in English, Maths and Science, and can apply for roles as lunchtime supervisors during the school day or lifeguards, Leisure Centre or Edge Arts Centre support staff in the evenings.

TRIPS

Amongst the regular trips that our staff organise around the curriculum are the WWI trenches, Worcester Commandery, art galleries, the law courts, Opal Coast (Northern France), combined History and Religious Studies trips to Germany and London, as well as specialist trips like the A level Geography trip to Iceland and an A Level Physics trip to CERN.

Our students have been to watch England play cricket at Edgbaston, football at Wembley, rugby at Twickenham and athletics at Alexandra Stadium. We have offered sports training in Barcelona, skiing in the Alps, exploring in Iceland and adventuring at Arthog.

The Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme opens to WBS students at Year 10, and the combination of voluntary work, skills development and expeditions is both a great character-building experience and highly regarded by employers and universities.

CLUBS

We offer a wide variety of after school extra-curricular clubs and activities which are open to all students. These include sports, performing arts, ICT, STEAM, Art, GCSE homework support sessions as well as subject catch-up/support sessions. We also participate in various competitions sponsored and supported by the Rotary Club of Ironbridge, namely Young Photographer, Young Chef and Young Speaker.

ACADEMIC PRESENTATION EVENING

The WBS annual presentation evening recognises achievement in the classroom. It rewards students who have achieved exceptionally in their year group not only in terms of academic attainment, but also effort and progress.

Our presentation evening provides a wonderful opportunity to celebrate student success and endeavour in the company of staff, family members and peers.





WBS Sport

OLYMPIAN INSPIRATION & RESOURCES

Sport is a vital part of life at William Brookes School. We believe that the measure of the heart of a school is best seen in its sports and performing arts. In re-building the school site in 2010, we were able to install exceptional sporting facilities for a wide range of disciplines.

Students have the use of an all-weather athletics track, an all-weather astro pitch for hockey and football, a rugby pitch, four floodlit MUGA (multi-use games areas) courts for netball, 5-a-side football and tennis, a 33m x 18m sports hall for basketball, volleyball and gymnastics, a 25m indoor swimming pool and a fully equipped 20-station fitness suite.

Sport is a core part of the curriculum for every 11-16 year old student, and they are given opportunities to try out a range of sport in lessons, from the classic team sports of football, netball, rugby, basketball and hockey to more individual pursuits such as athletics, trampolining, badminton, gymnastics and swimming. So many students take part in after school sports clubs to develop their skills and practice for inter-house and inter-school competitions, that the school was awarded a national School Games Platinum Award by the Youth Sports Trust.

We are one of only 20 secondary schools in Great Britain to have been awarded platinum status under the national 2018 Sports Mark Scheme. We have regained this prestigious award for a second time, and were nominated for a national school business award in recognition of this achievement. This emphasizes that over the last 7 years, participation rates in school clubs and teams have been exceptionally high and, true to our Olympian credentials, the school makes the most of its exceptional sporting facilities. We have had national performers in Fencing, Handball, Biathlon, Hockey and Triathlon. We also have players at a county or regional level leading to great success in football, basketball, hockey, netball, swimming, athletics and biathlon. Many of our students represent school including taking on coaching or leadership roles.

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With new clubs attracting wider audiences I hope that even more students can gain the benefits of a healthier lifestyle and help us to maintain our platinum status. The photo gallery in the Leisure Centre showcases student achievements alongside those of our school teams.

SPORTS PRESENTATION EVENING

The annual celebration of WBS sport is a special event for students and their families that recognises not only our outstanding sporting stars through WBS Colours, but also those who have made significant progress through real personal determination, such as learning to swim.

Inspirational speakers at the event have included Jon Hartson (ex Premiership footballer and Welsh international), Mel Clarke (Paralympic Silver medalist in archery) and Tom Davis (Commonwealth and British judo champion).

The Sports Presentation Evening acknowledges the importance of team sport in developing communication skills and teamworking, and highlights the exceptional contribution many of our students make to sports development, giving hours of their time to volunteer for school clubs, primary school competitions and Shropshire School Games initiatives.





WBS Performing Arts



SPECIALIST STATUS

We are the only school in Great Britain to hold Coubertin status. This allows us to attend a bi-annual event with students from across all continents of the world, celebrating all things Olympic. The students fortunate to attend these events experience something life-changing that would be hard to replicate anywhere else in this country.

OUTSTANDING RESOURCES

We offer our students exceptional resources across the Performing Arts disciplines, including a large dance studio with sprung wooden floors and a mirrored glass wall and a drama studio that can be reconfigured into a 120 seater performance space. We have two large dedicated music classrooms equipped with tuned and un-tuned percussion, keyboards, guitars and world music instruments and support by the latest Apple and PC systems. In addition, there are sound-proofed practice rooms and a state-of-the-art recording studio. The Edge is our 260-seat theatre with tiered seating and specialist theatrical lighting and sound systems.

CURRICULAR & EXTRA-CURRICULAR

The Performing Arts are taught as part of the compulsory core curriculum to every student from Years 7 to 9, and then offered as option subjects at GCSE and A Level. Students have gone on to secure places at prestigious drama, music and dance colleges across the country.

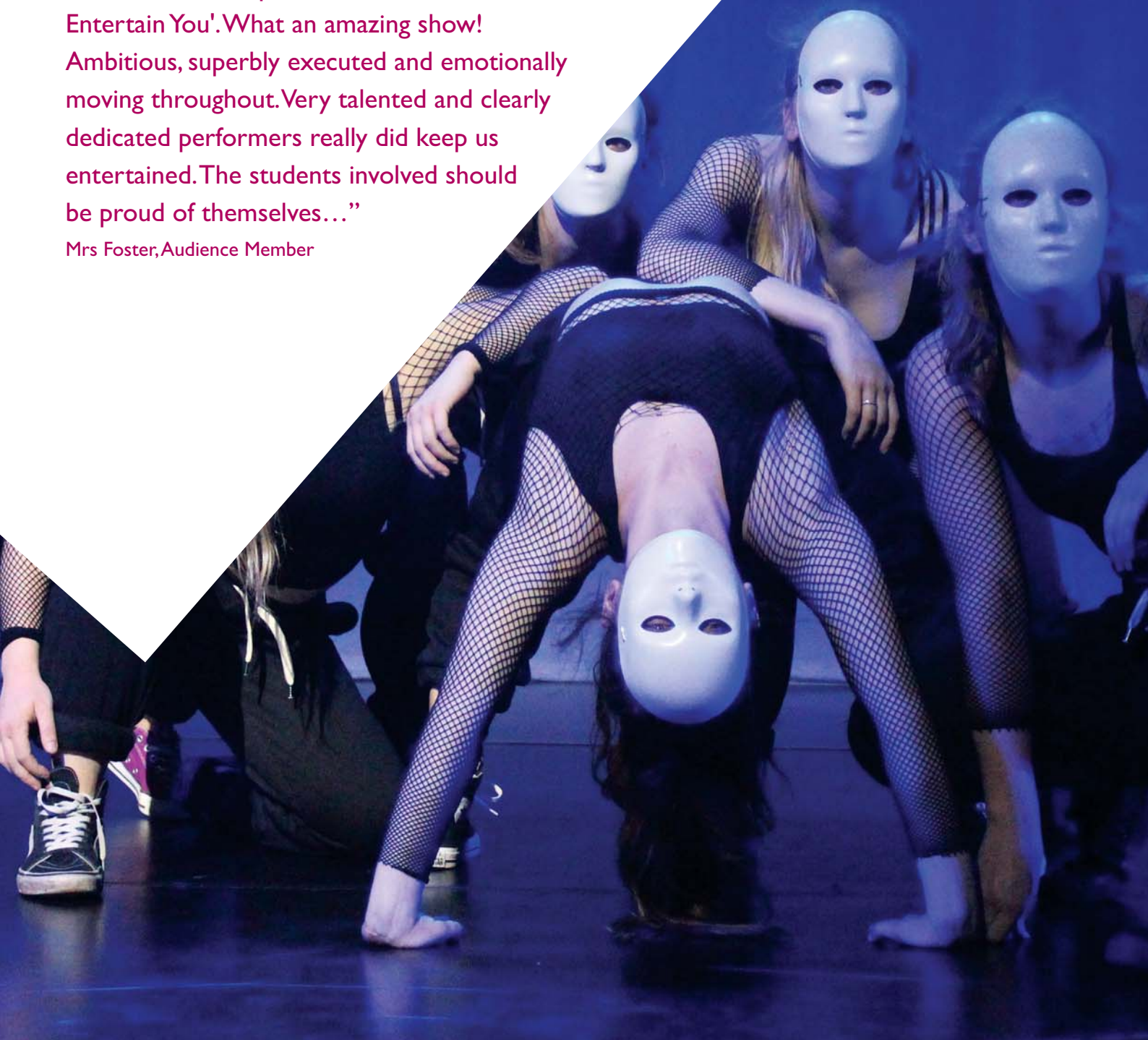
All students are encouraged to get involved in lunchtime and after-school clubs for the drama groups, school choirs, orchestras, or to form their own bands. There are live public performances every term including the hugely popular annual Musical, Sixth Form Panto, Christmas and Spring concerts.

PERFORMING ARTS FESTIVAL

Our inspirational team of Performing Arts teachers are constantly exploring new and creative ways to collaborate across the disciplines of music, dance and drama. They initiated the WBS Performing Arts Festival 'Let me Entertain You', which ran over the course of three weeks and showcased the exceptional talents of WBS students in three spectacular public performances: Summer Dance, Drama Fest and A Feast of Music and constantly evolve new opportunities to showcase student talent.

“We visited last night with family and friends to watch the Dance performance 'Let Me Entertain You'. What an amazing show! Ambitious, superbly executed and emotionally moving throughout. Very talented and clearly dedicated performers really did keep us entertained. The students involved should be proud of themselves...”

Mrs Foster, Audience Member





William Brookes School

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