



**Oldfield School**  
**Prospectus 2016-2017**





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**To inspire. To learn. To succeed**

**We provide an exceptional education in an environment that challenges all students and fosters ambition. Our students have respect for themselves, each other and their school and are well-prepared to face the world as compassionate, confident and resilient young people.**

## **Welcome**

Here at Oldfield we are acutely aware of the importance of education in today's society and the part that teachers play in developing our young people so that they are fully equipped to make positive contributions in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. 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. We are justly proud of the high quality education we provide, having been commended by Ofsted on our inspirational teaching and learning, excellent behaviour in lessons and around school and the excellent academic achievement of our students.

In addition to excellent academic outcomes, we have a strong focus on extra-curricular activities including sports, performing arts and many other opportunities, alongside an established Duke of Edinburgh programme.

At Oldfield School we aim to work in partnership with students and parents to raise students' expectations and standards of achievement in a caring, secure and supportive environment. We value enormously the links between school and home; success is built on strong partnerships. I hope this prospectus goes some way to answer some of the questions you may have and gives you an insight to life at Oldfield School. I look forward to meeting with you at a future date.

Steven Mackay  
Headteacher





## Learning and achieving

The central philosophy on which the curriculum of Oldfield School is based is that all students are of equal worth and that each has an entitlement to a properly planned and delivered education that is broad, balanced, relevant, coherent and differentiated. We have experienced, enthusiastic and well-qualified teachers, committed to promoting a learning environment in which each and every individual has the potential to grow.

### Results

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

The hard work of students and staff has been rewarded this year (2016), with 74% of GCSE entries gaining an A\* to C grade and 24% of all entries were at A\* or A.

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.

A full breakdown of our results is available separately in the Results Booklet.

### Rewards and Recognition

Oldfield School seeks to create an environment in which effective learning can take place. Students should be able to learn in a calm working environment and teachers should be able to meet their learning objectives without being hindered by poor behaviour. It is vitally important that we recognise, reward and reinforce good work and behaviour, so that students feel that their positive behaviours are valued and acknowledged. We believe this encourages students to exhibit good, rather than poor, behaviour. The principles underlying this policy are based on respect – for self, for others and for the environment.

We use a range of strategies for promoting good behaviour and for discouraging poor behaviour. We use a stepped approach for both rewards and sanctions.

We very much believe in recognising and celebrating individual student's strengths and achievements. House points are awarded for good behaviour and can be exchanged for prizes.

*"Students' behaviour in and outside of lessons is impeccable. Students are polite, courteous, helpful and constructive."*

### Ofsted

### Curriculum Information

The curriculum is delivered through six faculties. These are: Art and Technology; Communications; Humanities; Maths, Computing and Business; PE, PSHE and Performing Arts and Science.

The Heads of Faculty are always pleased to meet parents by appointment or to answer queries by telephone when teaching commitments allow.

## Subjects

At Key Stage 3 (Years 7, 8 and 9) all students follow courses in the following subjects:

<b>English</b>	<b>Design and Technology</b>	<b>Music</b>
<b>Mathematics</b>	<b>Drama</b>	<b>PE</b>
<b>Science</b>	<b>Geography</b>	<b>Religious Studies</b>
<b>Art</b>	<b>History</b>	<b>Spanish and a second modern foreign language in Year 8</b>
<b>Dance</b>	<b>ICT and Computing</b>	

At Key Stage 4 (Years 10 and 11) in addition to PE, students follow courses in:

**English Language**  
**English Literature**  
**Mathematics**  
**Science**

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

<b>Art and Design</b>	<b>Design and Technology;</b>	<b>ICT</b>
<b>Business Studies</b>	<b>Textiles, Product Design, Food</b>	<b>Media Studies</b>
<b>Geography</b>	<b>Technology, Photography</b>	<b>Music</b>
<b>Child Development</b>	<b>Drama</b>	<b>Religious Studies</b>
<b>Computer Science</b>	<b>French</b>	<b>Spanish</b>
<b>Dance</b>	<b>History</b>	

## Homework

Homework is an integral part of the teaching and learning process and is a vital part of an individual's education. Not only does it extend studies undertaken in school but it teaches self-discipline and a sense of responsibility.

We use an online homework planning tool called Show My Homework to allow students, teachers and parents to track and manage homework effectively.

The Learning Resource Centre is open from Monday to Thursday from 3.00pm – 4:30pm for students to complete homework. A member of staff is available during this time to offer support and guidance to students and they are also able to access the school's computer network to complete homework.

## School Day

8.30 – 8.55am	Tutor Period / Assembly		
8.55 – 9.55am	Period 1		
9.55 – 10.55am	Period 2		
10.55 – 11.15am	Break		
11.15 – 12.15pm	Period 3		
12.15 – 1.45pm Lunch Period	Years 9 & 10 Lunch 12.15 – 12.45pm	Year 7 Period 4A 12.15 – 12.45pm	Years 8, 11,12 & 13 Period 4 12.15 – 1.15pm
	Years 9 & 10 Period 4 12.45 – 1.45pm	Year 7 Lunch 12.45 – 1.15pm	
			Year 7 Period 4B 1.15 – 1.45pm
1.45 – 2.45pm	Period 5		
3.00 – 4.00pm	Extra-Curricular Activities		

### **More Able students**

“More able” students are broadly defined as those that are making more progress in a specific subject area than the national expectations. Oldfield School prides itself on the high levels of progress made by our more able students (as seen by the significantly above average number of A and A\* grades our students achieve at GCSE). This is achieved by ensuring all our students have the highest of expectations placed upon them, providing them with an intellectually challenging learning environment and ensuring there is a wide and varied extra-curricular programme to provide cultural and academic stimulation beyond the classroom.



*“My daughter is in her third year here and has grown in confidence each year. She is now excelling in maths and science, subjects she struggled with at primary school and even considering a career as an accountant! I wouldn’t have believed it just a few years ago. Thank you.”*

**Parent of Year 9 student**



## Care, Guidance and Support

Seeing students as individual learners and promoting a fully-rounded education of the child is at the forefront of our Mission Statement. We aim to work in partnership with students and parents to raise students' expectations and standards of achievement in a caring, secure and supportive environment.

### Transition from primary school

Members of Oldfield staff visit every partner primary school to meet prospective students and liaise with their teachers. Students are then 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 additional transition arrangements for students who are on the SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) list or if there are any concerns about a student who may have difficulties and/or needs regarding transition.

On entering the school, students in Year 7 are placed in mixed ability tutor groups. Each student is supported by a tutor who will monitor their group's attendance, celebrate their achievements and raise any concerns. In 2016 there were 8 tutor groups in Year 7, with an average of 27 students per class. There is a Year 7 evening in early September for parents to meet the tutors and key members of staff. Tutors remain with their tutor groups throughout their life at Oldfield School, enabling them to build up a solid understanding of each student in their group and ways of supporting them throughout their school life.

### House System

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

The Houses are;

- Austen (Blue)**
- Palmer (Green)**
- Holburne (Red)**
- Shelley (Yellow)**



These names were chosen by the students as they represent famous people who have had a direct link with historical Bath. The students also wanted to ensure that the names would remain current and would not date in 10 years. As a result they selected famous architects and authors. The school provides a comprehensive range of competitive opportunities including inter house competitions which range from sports day to pumpkin carving.

### Student Leadership

We have many opportunities for students to develop their leadership skills throughout their time at school. Each tutor group elects two representatives annually to attend their House meeting once a term. In these meetings the representatives coordinate tutor group issues/ideas and organise house events including charity and community projects throughout the year. In addition, we also have a school council which meet once a month, and whose members are selected by making a written application. They run whole school events, for example school elections for the Make Your Mark campaign and leading awareness campaigns on road safety and equality. They are involved in developing school policies including the Positive Behaviour for Learning and Anti-Bullying policies and even interviewing prospective staff.

Students are also able to mentor other students with reading, meeting on a one to one basis and supporting others through a “buddy” system. Our Year 7 students play a crucial role in supporting the transition and induction process by acting as mentors during our Induction Day. Year 8 students play an important role in the every day life of the school, acting as guides for prospective parents, and supporting the work of the office with reception duties.

### **Special Educational Needs and Disability**

For students that may need additional support with their studies we have a full-time Inclusion Manager to coordinate support where appropriate.

All staff have clearly defined roles and procedures to follow that assist the school in meeting the needs of students with special educational needs. If your child has a Statement, an Education and Health Care Plan or a disability it is strongly advised that you make an appointment to see the Inclusion Manager.

### **Pastoral Care and Support**

We offer a range of pastoral support for students who are encountering issues during their time at school. We offer support in a variety of ways to suit the needs to the individual student, this could include

- 1:1 discussions with the tutor, Head of House/Head of Year 7 or the Inclusion Manager
- regular ‘monitoring’ meetings with parents/carers
- small group support (e.g. a social skills group) and/or include a specific resource to support your son/daughter.

We also have a full time pastoral support worker and Student Welfare Officer on site as well as a range of outside services who we can work with and who can come into school to support the student.

*“My son who is a current Year 10 student, has really enjoyed his time at Oldfield. I feel very confident that he will be fully supported in this first year of GCSE study by the teachers and he has already expressed his excitement at getting to grips with subjects he has chosen to study.”*

**Parent of Year 10 student**



## Enrichment and Extra-curricular Activities

### Science

We have strong links with the University of Bath, University of Bristol and University of West England which see students visiting laboratories, taking part in competitions and workshops as well as gaining an insight into how research scientists work. Trips are running this year to GCSE science LIVE at Bristol's Colston Hall and reward trips are planned to the Cheltenham Science festival.

Students benefit from visits from STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) ambassadors working in industry and research as well as workshops run by the likes of Bloodhound SSC and the Royal Academy of Engineering. National Science and Engineering Week and National Chemistry Week are celebrated with lunchtime, classroom and tutorial activities, and due to popular demand we are launching our own Space Week to join these national events.

### Music

Students from all years are encouraged to take instrumental and singing lessons in addition to their curriculum music. Those who choose to do so have weekly sessions with instructors who are specialist teachers of particular instruments. In addition, grades can be taken by the students when their playing reaches the required standard. The thriving Music Department at Oldfield School plays host to a variety of extra-curricular activities. All students, regardless of experience or level of expertise, are encouraged to join school bands, choirs and groups who perform at various school concerts and functions.

*"I've always been an avid fan of Shakespeare, so when I had the opportunity to see Hamlet for my A2 preparation I just couldn't pass on it. First impressions were good; the set was simple, the costumes appeared periodically authentic and the lighting changes helped with the flow of the story. I thought that, overall, the production was amazing and each character (with the exception of Laertes who seemed to lack a little spirit) was performed fantastically. It was a production I'd love to see again and was a great experience."*

**Year 13 student**

### Performing Arts and Physical Education

At Oldfield we firmly believe in the importance of an exciting and stimulating physical educational and performing arts programme for all, with a real emphasis on excellence, participation, cooperation and enjoyment to enhance teaching and learning. Students are able to develop their learning further with the extensive extra-curricular and sports programme we offer. We offer a broad range of activities which all students are encouraged to attend, this includes after school sports clubs, inter-house competitions and inter-school fixtures and schools performances.



### Activities offered in curriculum time

Athletics	Fitness	Orienteering
Badminton	Football	Rounders
Basketball	Gymnastics	Softball
Circuits	Hockey	Rugby
Cricket	Leadership Skills	Tennis
Dance	Music	Volleyball
Drama	Netball	

## Extra-curricular Activities

Art	Debating	Outdoor pursuits
Astronomy	Drama	Rounders
Athletics	Duke of Edinburgh	Rugby
Badminton	Fitness	Senior choir
Band	Football	Table tennis
Basketball	Gymnastics	Tennis
Blues Band	Handbells	Trampolining
Cricket	ICT	Volleyball
Cross country	Junior choir	Yoga
Dance - street dance, performance group, dance company	Lego robots	Ultimate frisbee
	Mandarin Chinese	
	Netball	

## Facilities

The facilities include tennis and netball courts, pitches for rugby and football, rounders, an athletics track, athletics jumping pits and throwing areas, trampolines, judo mats as well as a gym, fitness suite and contemporary dance studio.

We also have a fantastic Sports Hall with full size basketball court and four badminton courts and we have a MUGA (Multi Use Games Area) which is used by students in lessons and at break times. Our state of the art drama studio is used for lessons and after school rehearsals.

## School Trips

At Oldfield we believe in encouraging wider experiences for all students and that learning experiences outside the classroom can be 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 for each House with team building games and outdoor pursuits like archery and mountain biking. Other opportunities include a week in Barcelona for Year 7s, a Year 9 Battlefield trip, an upper school ski trip, a Year 10 trip to Spain, a World Challenge trip to Morocco (involving hiking up the Atlas Mountains, camping and haggling in the souks!). There are also many sporting tournaments played away though out the year. Individual subjects are always keen to run day trips; Cheddar Gorge, Dorset Coast, London and Bristol Theatre trips, Stratford on Avon Shakespeare experience and castle trips. It is thanks to committed members of staff who actively want to organise and run these trips that we are able to do so many.



*'I really enjoyed the trip as we worked as a team and communicated with our new tutor group!'*

**Year 7 Student**

*"The Munich trip gave me an insight into what it was really like in Nazi Germany. The visit to Dachau Concentration Camp made me feel a sense of connection to the people who suffered. It was one thing to learn about them in the classroom and another to actually go to the places where it happened."*

**Year 11 Student**

*"The Year 9 Battlefields trip put the history into perspective. The massive scale of the war was clear from the size of the cemeteries and the scale of the damage we witnessed. The Last Post ceremony was a touching experience."*

**Year 11 Student**



## Partnership working

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

### Communication with parents

We appreciate that our partnership with parents is vital.

- We provide our students with a contact book so that they can record homework and parents and teachers can communicate with each other.
- Students are monitored regularly by their tutor and subject teachers.
- There are parents' evenings 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, information from specific teachers and celebrations of activities that students have been involved in.
- Parents with internet access will also have a ParentPay account, which allows online payments to the school.
- In-touch is the new form of electronic communication which is being introduced to improve communication between school and home.

### Oldfield School Association (OSA)

The OSA is the Parent Teacher Association at Oldfield School, a group of parents and school staff who raise funds for the school. These are used to purchase items that are not covered by the school budget but which enhance the opportunities given to the students. This could involve funding a piece of classroom equipment e.g. musical instruments, cooking utensils or subsidising a school trip organised by a specific department.

The OSA raise money by organizing events for parents, staff and students during which everyone can get to know each other in a relaxed and informal environment and hopefully have some fun at the same time. The OSA organise

- quiz nights, in October and March. A great evening of entertainment, with a lot of healthy competition;
- the Christmas Fair every December within the school grounds;
- "Battle of the Bands" evening where student bands compete against one another to win the chance to have their song professionally recorded. This event is organised in conjunction with the music department and takes place in July;
- refreshments at a variety of evening events held by the school, for example the Year 7 New Parent Evening and the Key Stage Celebration Evening in the summer.

The OSA are always happy to hear your comments or answer any questions.

**Contact;** OSA@oldfieldschool.com

### Governors

The Governing Body at Oldfield School aims to raise standards of achievement for all students, which involves proving a strategic view for the school, acting as a "critical friend" and assuring accountability in upholding the strategic aims of the school. The governors liaise regularly with the staff at Oldfield and welcome any comments or queries from parents and staff alike.

Chair of Governors; Stuart Weatherall

*"What warm, welcoming engaged teachers!"*

**Parent of Year 7 student**



## Success, Support and Engagement: Oldfield Sixth

Throughout their time at Oldfield School students will be given clear, supportive and impartial advice on the next step of their educational journey. We have strong links with Bath University, Bath Spa, University of the West of England and Bristol University and a highly successful work experience programme that ensures students have the information and develop the skills they need to meet the challenges of a modern Britain. For many of our students, A levels at our Sixth Form is the next logical step.

We offer a wide range of subject courses at Oldfield including;

**Art - Fine Art**

**Biology**

**Business Studies**

**Chemistry**

**Computer Science**

**Dance**

**Drama and Theatre Studies**

**English Language**

**English Literature**

**Film Studies**

**Food, Nutrition and Health**

**Geography**

**German**

**Health and Social Care**

**History**

**ICT**

**Mathematics**

**Mathematics (Further)**

**Philosophy and Ethics**

**Photography**

**Physical Education**

**Physics**

**Psychology**

**Sociology**

**Spanish**

**Textiles**

We believe the Sixth Form experience should be one of discovery of a wider academic and social world and enthusiasm to learn. Here at Oldfield we have three key aims for all our Sixth Form students:

- **Academic Success;** we want to ensure that all students leave Oldfield Sixth Form with the very best results they can achieve. Already our results are outstanding and students achieve the very highest academic results: 42% of the A level exams taken in 2015 and 35% in 2016 were passed at an A\* to B grade and we regularly have students passing their A levels at the very highest grades. This is a strength we will be keen to build on and exceed. Our highly trained, specialist staff are a key pillar to this success.
- **Guidance and Support;** Sixth Form studies carry their own pressures and stresses. Here at Oldfield we strive to ensure that students are well supported, positive and enthusiastic learners. They meet daily with their highly experienced tutors and the Assistant Head Director of Post 16 Learning, Mr Nash, 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.
- **Wider Community;** at Oldfield Sixth Form 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. Our aim is to foster independence and critical thinking, allowing students to become that well rounded, educated person who goes on to play a positive role in our society. 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.



## Admissions

The ethos of this school is based on our desire to provide a high quality education, in return we insist on high standards; we expect our students 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 ask all parents applying for a place here to respect this ethos and its importance to the school community.

### Admissions Numbers

The admissions number in 2017 is 180.

**The closing date for applications for 2017 entry is 31<sup>st</sup> October 2016.**

Oldfield School became an academy in 2011 and is an open access school with places being generally offered without reference to ability or aptitude; however, the Governors may offer up to 20 places in each Year 7 intake to provide education for those showing a particular aptitude in sport.

Oldfield school ensures that it does not discriminate against students' admission to the school on the grounds of race, colour, ethnicity, nationality, first language, religion, attainment level, gender, disability (within the limitations of physical surroundings), class, background or any other reason that cannot be shown as justifiable.

### Determination of Priorities

The Governing Body, as admissions authority for the school, has to operate an equal preference system. In the event of oversubscription, all applications for the school will be considered equally and ranked in order of how they meet the criteria;

1. Students in Public Care (looked after children).
2. Children whose older sibling will be attending the school on the admission date or have left the school within two years of the admission date.
3. Children of members of staff employed by the school in either or both of the following circumstances:
  - a) where the member of staff has been employed at the school for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission to the school is made, and/or
  - b) the member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage.
4. Oldfield School will offer up to 20 places in each Year 7 intake to provide education for those showing a particular aptitude in sport (this will be determined by a reference from a sports coach that the student is playing/competing at a National level).
5. In the event of oversubscription, places will be offered to those living nearest to the school (measurements will be determined using the Local Authority's GIS computerised mapping system).

### Application process

Applications should be made on the Local Authority's Common Application Form and sent to the Local Authority (LA) by the closing date for applications which is **31 October 2016**. Alternatively, parents can make applications on-line by the same closing date.

The Governors will inform the LA of the outcome of applications by the LA deadline each year. Offers of places are made by the LA. Parents/Carers who make a formal appeal will have their child's name kept on a waiting list for any places which may become available at Oldfield School. They may also ask for their child to remain on the waiting list without making a formal appeal. Any places

which do become available will be reallocated using the Admissions Criteria, taking into account those parents who have asked to remain on the waiting list or who have lodged a formal appeal together with any late applications received.

Parents whose school place application is turned down by the Governing Body have the legal right of appeal to an Independent Appeals Panel. Details concerning how to appeal will be explained in the decision letter.

### **Applications for students with statements of SEN**

There is a different procedure for the admission to school for children with Statements of Special Educational Needs: it is administered by the Local Authority (LA) in whose area the family lives. The LA is responsible for issuing the Statement and consulting parents and the governing body of Oldfield School, before the school is named in the Statement. If the school is named in the statement the child will be admitted.

*“Excellent school and brilliant and caring staff!”*

**Parent of Year 11 student**

