



# Brimsham Green School

## A Specialist Humanities College

Headteacher - Mr A J Williams



# Information for applicants

## 1. GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION:

Brimsham Green School is situated in the northern part of the developing community of Yate, which is a privately developed new town. It is a growing community with all of the accompanying opportunities. Its employment base is developing, with engineering, electronics and a wide range of service industries predominating.

Bristol is a thriving city just 11 miles distant which offers employment particularly in the areas of Aerospace Industries and financial services.

Bath, 16 miles South, is a fine Georgian city with a good shopping centre and a wide range of cultural facilities.

Yate is close to the M4 and M5 and lies on the southern escarpment of the Cotswolds close to countryside of outstanding natural beauty.

## 2. CATCHMENT AREA:

The school is situated on a 38 acre site close to open countryside. Yate and Chipping Sodbury are served by three comprehensive schools with a consortium catchment area, although in practice most of our pupils live in the north Yate area. There is a wide range of housing in the area to provide for the first time buyer and those already in the housing market. The catchment area also includes an established council estate and thus the school has a wide social and economic mix of pupil background.



Parental aspirations are high with many parents looking to the school to provide the key to their children's future. We are committed as a school to building a close and enduring relationship with the parents and adhere to the belief that successful education results from a close partnership between school, pupils and parents.

Working at Brimsham Green School is exciting, challenging and demanding. We have always believed that high quality education is the right of every child and is achieved through a combination of the best of traditional and modern educational practice.

### **3. THE SCHOOL : BACKGROUND**

The school opened with a first year intake in 1977 in temporary accommodation on a neighbouring school site and moved to its present, purpose built, accommodation in 1978. The school admits up to 210 pupils each year and is usually over subscribed; in addition there is a growing sixth form of some 160 students and a physically disabled unit for up to 20 pupils whose disability requires support, but who are fully integrated in normal classes.

### **4. HUMANITIES COLLEGE:**

In September 2004 we were designated as a specialist Humanities College, one of the first schools in the country to achieve this specialism. Re-designation took place in April 2009 following a successful OFSTED. Our lead subjects are English, History and Religious Studies. We are using the extra resources to enhance teaching and learning throughout the school and further develop community cohesion and partnership.

### **5. STAFF STRUCTURE:**

The Head works closely with a senior leadership team in formulating school policy. The team has regular timetabled meetings and, in addition to the Head, it includes Ms A Sharpe (Deputy Head - Curriculum), Mr R Clammer (Deputy Head - Pastoral), Mrs R Edwards (Assistant Head - Teaching and Learning and CPD), Mr A Martin (Assistant Head - Timetable and Data Systems), Mr P Whittock (Assistant Head - Intervention and Middle Leadership) and Mrs M Tait (School Business Manager).

Heads of Departments and Heads of Year meet regularly with the senior staff at the teaching and learning forum and the Year Heads' meeting. A robust line management system also ensure good communication and accountability.

Department and Year Heads are expected to hold regular meeting of their teams and forward copies of their minutes to the appropriate members of the Senior Leadership Team. In addition, ad hoc committees are set up to discuss particular items and are expected to report back according to an agreed schedule.



This pattern of frequent and close consultation on all matters affecting the school is seen as a key feature. It is expected that all staff will be fully involved and feel able to make a valuable contribution to the further development of a thriving comprehensive school able to respond positively to changing local and national needs. Increasing numbers of high quality support staff work with teachers and pupils to further the aims of the school.

## 6. THE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT:

The philosophy of the school is that the dichotomy between pastoral and academic roles of teachers is false; all contacts between teachers and pupils should be caring and that if classroom style and curricula are right, then caring is right. The pastoral organisation supports the school's prime purpose which is to be an agent for learning in its widest sense. An outstanding curriculum, well taught, is a key feature of a caring school.

In Years 7 - 9 all pupils follow a common curriculum. Breakout days are used to further enhance provision and help students develop better personal, learning and thinking skills. Pupils with special needs or who are underachieving receive additional personalized support. Initially pupils are taught in mixed ability groups and most subjects set mid way through Year 7. In Years 10 and 11 all pupils continue with a broad curriculum which includes some opportunity for pupils to choose courses to suit their particular interests. These option subjects include access to Diploma qualifications and other vocational routes where appropriate. All pupils also take Citizenship, Personal and Social Education and Careers in timetabled periods. Sixth form courses are provided on site for many of the more popular subjects and a consortium of two schools (Brimsham Green and Chipping Sodbury) provide for other subjects. The two schools provide for some 300 sixth form pupils in all.

The ethos of the school is based upon the following key philosophies:-

1. *That education is an equal partnership between the home, the school and the child. We expect parents to take an active involvement in their child's education.*
2. *That it is our responsibility to educate the whole child - to help fulfil his/her intellectual, physical, personal and social potential.*
3. *That this school should inculcate the additional values of courtesy, consideration, self-discipline, intellectual rigour and enquiry together with an understanding of the world in which we live.*
4. *That a child learns best in a caring and well ordered environment.*
5. *We believe that pupils should be proud of the school to which they belong and that this is reflected in their respect for their physical surroundings and in their personal appearance. The school insists that pupils wear our uniform.*
6. *That a school is part of the community to which it should be both supportive and responsive.*
7. *That we should always strive for excellence in the service that we provide.*

*Please also see attached the school vision statement*

## TIMETABLE

The school operates a 10 day timetable with 5 periods per day each of 60 minutes. For pastoral organisation the school is divided horizontally into year groups, each with its own Head of Year. Pupils are tutored in mixed ability groups and remain with those groups throughout the main school.

The tutor is seen as the key person in helping each pupil to grow as a person, in promoting academic progress and in maintaining discipline. However, no system can be expected to replace the duty of each member of staff to deal with such matters as they occur within the classroom and in the school at large.

## 7. FACILITIES:

The attractively designed buildings, predominantly single storey provide excellent specialist accommodation for an 11-18 school. In addition to the 30 classrooms, facilities comprise a fiction library and study centre, 8 laboratories, 3 art rooms and kiln room, 5 computer rooms, 2 music rooms, 3 music practice rooms, a drama studio and lecture theatre capable of being combined into one area for larger assemblies, sports hall, dance studio and a gymnasium. There is an attractive sixth form common room and adjacent specialist post 16 study centre. There is an outstanding design and technology facility which includes further ICT resources. There is a large dining/social area with school kitchen attached. A detached self-contained purpose-built youth wing incorporates facilities for coffee and lunch, a social area and committee room. There is also a purpose built resource base for pupils with a physical disability. The administrative block contains the reprographics and audio-visual aids studio, staff room, offices and medical unit. Most departments have their rooms arranged in suites and have their own office and storage facilities.



## 8. EXAMINATION PERFORMANCE:

Exam results are consistently above the national and local authority averages.

## 9. THE SCHOOL AND THE COMMUNITY:

It is the belief of the Governing Body and the Senior Leadership Team that a successful school must draw from and give to the community of which it is a part. Some measure of our links with our community can be judged by the following examples.

## 10. JOINT USE FACILITY: YATE OUTDOOR SPORTS COMPLEX



Adjoining are 38 acres of fields which are being developed as a "centre of excellence" as a joint use project between the school and local sports clubs. This includes a floodlit all-weather athletics track and a further floodlit Astro turf pitch for hockey etc. 2 cricket squares, tennis courts (with floodlights), 10 pitches etc. The school's sports hall is also available to the local community outside school hours. We also make use of Yate Leisure Centre (which includes a swimming pool).

## 11. YOUTH WING:

This facility on the school site offers a wide range of youth club activities to its members, who are mainly drawn from the school.

The building is also used by the school for a variety of activities during the day.



## 12. LINKS WITH EMPLOYERS:

These are strong and include work experience and a careers convention. Each department is working to include vocationally relevant activities within its scheme of work. This relationship with local employers is set to improve still further as from 2010 we will also be part of the Concorde Consortium of schools.

## 13. "WEDNESDAY" CLUB:

Part of sixth form general studies, it is a senior citizens club run by its members which meets in the youth wing.

## 14. A CHALLENGING PROSPECT:

Brimsham Green is a school with enthusiastic and talented staff. This school relishes the challenge of providing high quality education in a rapidly changing educational and social environment. We are looking to appoint in all cases staff who are committed and enthusiastic.

We consider applicants on their suitability for the post, regardless of sex, race, disability or sexual orientation.

### POSTAL ADDRESS

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