



# BROMSGROVE SCHOOL

## **ADMISSIONS INFORMATION**

International Applicants  
2021 – 2022

## **INTRODUCTION**

Thank you for enquiring about a place at Bromsgrove School for your child. This booklet will help guide you through the admissions procedure and give you some useful background information about the School.

Though over twelve hundred of the sixteen hundred pupils in the constituencies of Bromsgrove School are British, Bromsgrove is home to almost fifty different nationalities. We celebrate this and take enormous pride in the unique atmosphere such a demographic produces. Many large universities have less diversity than Bromsgrove, and when a pupil leaves this School, they will understand that no nation, no individual can stand alone. We dare to hope that seeds of future cooperation are sown in our classrooms, debating halls and playing fields.

Pupils can gain admission to Bromsgrove School in any year group, but the main points of intake are:

|             |                        |
|-------------|------------------------|
| Preparatory | Year 3, Year 5, Year 7 |
| Senior      | Year 9, Sixth Form     |

For International pupils we also offer a one year GCSE programme – the Bromsgrove Accelerated Learning Programme - (BALP) with a limited number of places available in Year 11.

The Admissions team are always happy to talk to parents and their educational agents looking to make an application to the School. They can advise about the availability of places and give guidance about applying for a place. Please do contact them if you require any additional information either before registering for a place or during the application process.

### **Admissions Contact Details**

Telephone: 01527 579679

|                              |                                                 |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| Mrs Jo Courtney (ext 273)    | Senior School (13+) applications                |
| Mrs Tracey Collard (ext 318) | Sixth Form (16+) applications                   |
| Mrs Liberty Chance (ext 347) | Preparatory School (ages 7 – 13) applications   |
| Mrs Julie Cross (ext 214)    | International applicants 13+, and Summer School |

Email: [admissions@bromsgrove-school.co.uk](mailto:admissions@bromsgrove-school.co.uk)

### **VISITING BROMSGROVE**

Wherever possible we would always encourage applicants to visit the School and experience for themselves the atmosphere that makes Bromsgrove School special. We can arrange for testing (when this has been approved) to take place as part of that visit. Please contact Mrs Amanda James, the Visits Co-ordinator to arrange a visit: [ajames@bromsgrove-school.co.uk](mailto:ajames@bromsgrove-school.co.uk) 01527 579679 ext 383.

We can also organise online meetings with the Admissions team who will be able to answer any questions you may have.

The Assistant Head, Miss Rachel Scannell, is also happy to meet with individuals when visiting your country – this can usually be organised via your educational agent.

## **GUIDELINES FOR ENTRY**

Bromsgrove School is always delighted to consider bright, high achieving students who are likely to go on to top UK and other world-class universities. We do expect a reasonable level of fluency in the English language from the outset although we offer a great deal of extra language support to our international pupils where it is needed.

We encourage pupils applying from outside the United Kingdom to use the services of one of the excellent educational agents that we have contracts with. The main reasons we require the use of educational agents are to help pupils through the selection process, assist with paperwork, legalities and translation. If you don't know of an agent in your country, please contact our admissions office and they will be able to send you a list of approved agents.

If a pupil is already studying within the United Kingdom, we normally ask the pupil to visit Bromsgrove School to be interviewed and assessed.

All pupils wishing to gain entry to Bromsgrove School are required to sit our entrance examinations.

Once we have assessed the candidate's school reports we will advise whether we are able to accept a Registration from them. On receipt of the completed Registration Fee, and payment of the £200 Registration Fee, we will then proceed to testing. Tests, including relevant online links and passwords will be emailed to the agent. The Registration Form and payment of the Registration Fee must be received prior to sitting the entrance tests.

All tests must be completed under examination conditions, this can be at the agent's office, in your current school, at a lawyer's office or (in some countries) at a British Council office.

Details of the entrance examination structure is available from the Admissions Office.

The offer of a place will be based on performance in the examination, confidential reports from your agent and your current school and, where possible, a personal or online interview with our senior staff. For pupils already studying at another UK school, we will also request a confidential school report.

## **COMPLETING THE REGISTRATION FORM**

Please ensure that the registration form is completed in full (including all phone numbers, email addresses, marital status etc) that it is signed by both parents and that any covering letters specifying special circumstances are included.

Agent details should not be used instead of the parents' own phone numbers and email addresses, nor should forms be signed by anyone other than the parents. There is no need to complete the 'Guardian' details at this stage if one has not been appointed. If you need any assistance in completing the Registration Form the Admissions Team are happy to advise you.

## **DATA PROTECTION**

The admissions forms which you complete give us lots of personal information about you and your child. Your child's former school also gives us information about your child. Like other organisations, we need to keep this information safe, up to date, only is for what we said we would, destroy it when we no longer need it and most importantly, treat the information we get fairly. For more information about how the School will use your information, and your child's information, please see our Pupil Privacy Notice and our Parent Privacy Notice. Both of these documents are published on the School website [www.bromsgrove-school.co.uk](http://www.bromsgrove-school.co.uk). If your child is aged 12 years or over he/she has the maturity to exercise his/her own data protection rights, please discuss the Pupil Privacy Notice with him/her. If you have any questions about our Privacy Notices, please contact the School's Bursar.

## **BOARDING HOUSES**

Bromsgrove School has recently made massive investments into its boarding accommodation and is proud to offer facilities of the very highest standard.

### **Preparatory School**

Page House caters for around 100 boys and girls aged from seven to thirteen. These young boarders are cared for by resident Houseparents, supported by a team of tutors and resident staff.

### **Senior School**

All pupils, be they day or boarding, are attached to a House. The Houses are small communities of 13 to 18 year olds, usually consisting of around 60 pupils. A houseparent, housemother and dedicated team of tutors and support staff are responsible for the well-being and happiness of pupils within the house. Houseparents are resident in the boarding houses with their own families. They are academic staff, and are supported by a housemother. Bromsgrove boarders routinely see family life going on around them.

There are six boarding houses:

|                |                                  |
|----------------|----------------------------------|
| Oakley         | Girls                            |
| Mary Windsor   | Girls                            |
| Elmshurst      | Boys                             |
| Wendron-Gordon | Boys                             |
| Housman Hall   | Boys and Girls (Sixth Form only) |
| Webber House   | Boys                             |

All the accommodation within the boarding houses is of a very high standard. A rolling refurbishment programme means that all the boarding accommodation is updated and decorated regularly.

Pupils board full time, we do not operate exeat weekends, so full time boarders are not required to leave the School at any time during term time, other than for School holidays. This means that there is always a large number of boarders on site and that an exciting activity programme is available to them.

All meals are taken centrally (except for the evening meal at Housman Hall), so Bromsgrove's twelve day and boarding houses are continually integrating.

Most pupils return home or go to their guardians in the UK during the longer school holidays but the Covid-19 pandemic highlighted a need for pupils to stay in the safe school environment and so we introduced our Guardian Angels holiday care which offers rest and relaxation stays at School. This is a very popular option and is run by members of our own staff, full details are available if you would like to find out more.

The School of course provides and organises transport services to airports whenever necessary.

## FEES SEPTEMBER 2021

### DEPOSITS

#### Registration Fee

|                |      |
|----------------|------|
| Day Place      | £100 |
| Boarding Place | £200 |

#### Acceptance Deposit

|                                                                     |         |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| Day Place / Forces Boarder                                          | £500*   |
| Boarding Place<br>(parents resident in, and fees paid from, Europe) | £3,000* |

#### Additional Deposit

|                      |          |
|----------------------|----------|
| Non-European Boarder | £10,385* |
|----------------------|----------|

\*this amount is refunded once the final term's fees and extras have been settled.

### FEES

#### SENIOR SCHOOL

| All Years |                | Fees per term              |
|-----------|----------------|----------------------------|
|           | Day            | £5,980 (including lunches) |
|           | Weekly Boarder | £8,870                     |
|           | Boarder        | £13,385                    |

#### PREPARATORY SCHOOL

|             |                |                            |
|-------------|----------------|----------------------------|
| Years 3 – 6 | Day            | £4,175 (including lunches) |
|             | Weekly Boarder | £6,345                     |
|             | Boarder        | £8,700                     |

|             |                |                            |
|-------------|----------------|----------------------------|
| Years 7 & 8 | Day            | £5,415 (including lunches) |
|             | Weekly Boarder | £7,680                     |
|             | Boarder        | £10,730                    |

Please note that the prompt payment allowance for settlement within seven days of the start of term is £200 per term, applicable to Senior and Prep School fees. The fee shown is net of this deduction.

### OTHER CHARGES TO CONSIDER

|                             | Approximate annual cost |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Uniform                     | £500                    |
| Sports kit essentials       | £200                    |
| Public Examination Costs    |                         |
| GCSE                        | £450                    |
| A Level                     | £450                    |
| IB Diploma                  | £450                    |
| Boarder trips costs         | £15 - £35 per trip      |
| Music Charges               |                         |
| Per 40 minute lesson        | £32.00                  |
| Hire of Instrument per term | £32.00                  |

Additional charges, including any items purchased in the School shop using the pupil shop card, will appear as extras on the following term's bill.

### NOTES ON FEES

1. The fees include all meals for boarding pupils. Weekly laundry is included.
2. The Sixth Form Fee is a two-year fee and fees are spread out equally over six terms. No change of status is allowed in the Upper Sixth or from the Lower Sixth to the Upper Sixth.
3. EAL Support - the boarding fee at Senior School is inclusive of all EAL lessons and relevant support where necessary. EAL lessons may lead to qualifications in IGCSE (ESL), IELTS and Cambridge Proficiency.

### **INTERNATIONAL PAYMENTS:**

Bromsgrove School have partnered with Flywire to make international payments safe and easy. Flywire allows you to pay from almost any country by bank transfer, credit card and other local payment methods. In most cases you can make a payment in your local currency. After selecting your country of origin, preferred payment method and payment details you will receive a confirmation of booking and will be able to track your payment. Flywire provide a 24 hour multilingual customer support service. The link for Flywire payments can be found on the School website: <https://www.bromsgrove-school.co.uk/feespayment2>

### **A REVIEW OF THE ADMISSIONS PROCEDURE**

1. Parents/Educational agent approach Bromsgrove School to find out if places are available
2. Educational agent assesses whether the pupil meets our required standard
3. Agent sends to the School:
  - a copy of the pupil's two most recent school reports
  - a copy of the info page from the child's passport
  - their assessment of the pupil and
  - a 200 word written statement from the pupils explaining why they have chosen Bromsgrove School
4. School assesses the application and then advises agent whether we would:
  - a) welcome an application
  - b) or reject the application without testing
5. Parents/agent pay the £200 Registration Fee and return the completed Registration Form
6. School sends link to online testing to agent
7. Tests are marked and other elements of application are considered
8. Either a place is offered or application is rejected.

*Please note for unsuccessful applicants there is no refund of the Registration Fee*

## ACADEMIC RESULTS 2021

At GCSE 27% of all entries were awarded the top grade of a 9. With half of all GCSE grades being 8 or above Half of all GCSE grades were an 8 or above and 70% of all entries were awarded at least a 7.

In the Upper Sixth year group there were a mixture of IB, A levels and BTEC qualifications.

- At A level, 89% of all entries were graded A\* to B, with 62% at A\*/A and 26% of all entries at A\*.
- In BTEC, 42% of all entries were awarded a Distinction star which is equivalent to an A\* at A level.
- In the IB diploma, 69 students secured an average of 40.2. 43 students, just under two-thirds of the total cohort scored 40 or more points. Four students achieved the coveted 45 point maximum whilst three fell just a point shy of this. These 7 students gaining at least 44 points represent a tenth of the total IB cohort for the year.

Our sixth form leavers now head off to a wide range of top universities in the United Kingdom, with many going to prestigious overseas universities such as Toronto, Bocconi, New York and Leiden.

Headmaster, Peter Clague, paid tribute to the resilience and steady determination of all candidates and their teachers for having persevered through an academic year fraught with disruption. "Despite the intrusion of repeated lockdowns, quarantining and self-isolation, and the challenges of remote online learning, teachers remained professional, and pupils focussed and positive. That this year's results are in line with Bromsgrove's traditional averages is testimony to the integrity of that process."

## UNIVERSITY DESTINATIONS 2021

### **Aston University**

Business and Sociology

### **Arts University of Bournemouth**

Visual Communication

### **Bath University**

Accounting and Finance

Architecture

Economics (2)

Sports Management and Coaching

### **Birkbeck (University of London)**

Language and/or with Global Politics

### **Birmingham University RG**

Geography

Physiotherapy

### **Bradford University**

Physiotherapy

### **Bristol University RG**

Film and Television

Law

### **Cambridge University RG**

Economics

Geography

Human, Social, and Political Sciences

### **Cardiff University RG**

Architecture (2)

Biological Sciences

Business Management (Int. Management) (2)

Business Management (Marketing)

Law and Politics (Integrated)

Physiotherapy

Sociology and Social Policy

### **Cardiff Metropolitan**

Sports Media

### **Courtauld Institute**

History of Art

### **Derby University**

International Hospitality Management

### **Dundee University**

Biomedical Science

### **Durham University RG**

Combined Honours in Social Sciences

Economics

Modern Languages and Cultures

### **Edinburgh University RG**

Ancient and Medieval History

Arabic and Politics

Chemical Physics

German and Politics

Psychology

Psychology and Business

Spanish and English Literature

### **Edinburgh Napier**

Quantity Surveying

### **Essex University**

Law with Business

Management Economics

### **Exeter University RG**

Arabic and Islamic Studies

Business and Management (3)

Business Economics

Economics (2)

Economics and Politics

Environmental Science

International Relations and Modern Languages

Mechanical Engineering

### **Falmouth**

Photography

### **Glasgow University**

Economics/Psychology (SocSci)

### **Goldsmiths (University of London)**

Fine Art (Extension Degree)

### **Greenwich University**

Games Design and Development

### **Imperial College London RG**

Biomedical Engineering

Computing

Mechanical Engineering

Medical Biosciences

### **Keele**

Radiotherapy (Diagnostic Imaging)/Radiography

### **King's College London RG**

Biochemistry

Biomedical Science (2)

Business Management (2)

Chemistry with Biomedicine

Political Economy

### **Lancaster University**

Economics

Medicine

### **Leeds University RG**

Business management (4)  
Economics (2)  
Physics with Astrophysics  
Politics

### **Leeds Beckett University**

Sports Business Management

### **Leicester University**

Medical Physiology

### **Liverpool University RG**

Accounting and Finance  
Business Management  
Geography  
International Business (2)  
Political science

### **Loughborough University**

Computing and Management  
Economics and Management  
Geography and Management  
Mathematics and Sport Science  
Politics and International Relations  
Psychology

### **LSE RG**

Data Science  
Economics (3)  
Management  
Philosophy, Politics and Economics

### **Manchester University RG**

Aerospace Engineering  
Architecture (2)  
Chemical Engineering  
Chemistry  
Economics  
Fashion Management  
Geography  
Mechanical Engineering  
Medicine  
Management (Innovation, Strategy & Entrepreneurship)  
Physics with Astrophysics  
Social Anthropology and Philosophy

### **NCH University**

Law

### **Newcastle RG University**

Chemical Engineering  
Geography  
Journalism, Media and Culture  
Maths and Accounting  
Politics and Sociology

### **Nottingham University RG**

Chemistry  
Economics  
Environmental Science  
Industrial Economics with Insurance  
Pharmacy  
Political and International Relations

### **Nottingham Trent University**

Business Management and Entrepreneurship  
Business Management and Marketing  
Fashion Management  
Fashion Marketing and Branding (2)  
Sports and Exercise Science

### **Plymouth**

Physiotherapy

### **Queen's, Belfast RG**

Medicine

### **Queen Mary University RG**

Business Management  
Computer Science  
Environmental Science  
International Relations with Business Management  
Law (2)  
Law and Politics  
Maths and Statistics

### **Reading University**

Business and management  
Investment and Finance in Property  
Law  
Speech and Language Therapy

### **Royal Holloway University**

Economics and Management  
Financial and Business Economics

### **Sheffield University RG**

Aerospace Engineering  
Biomedical Science  
Business Management

### **St Andrews**

English  
International Relations  
Management and Spanish  
Mathematics

### **St George's**

Biomedical Science

### **Strathclyde**

Human Resource Management

### **Surrey University**

International Event Management

### **Sussex University**

Psychology

**Swansea University**

Economics and Finance  
Sports and Exercise Science

**UCFB (Football and Sports Industry)**

Football Coaching and Management

**UCL RG**

Applied Medical Sciences  
Arts and Sciences (2)  
Chemical Engineering  
Civil Engineering  
Computer Science (2)  
History (2)  
Information Management for Business (2)  
Language and Culture  
Management Science  
Medicine  
Politics, Sociology and East European Studies  
Statistics, Economics and Finance (2)

**University of the Arts London**

Media Communications

**Warwick RG University**

International Management  
Politics

**Westminster University**

Business Management  
International Marketing

**INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITIES****Amsterdam QS**

Business Administration

**Bocconi Milan**

Economics and Management  
Management Science

**Boston, US**

Engineering

**Charles University Prague Czech**

Medicine

**George Washington, US**

Course Unknown

**Georgia Institute of Technology QS**

Engineering

**HKUST**

Civil Engineering/General Engineering

**Hong Kong Polytechnic University QS**

Physiotherapy

**IE, Madrid**

Business Administration  
Economics

**Kent State, Ohio**

Fashion Design

**Leiden University, Holland**

Political Science

**Middlebury, US**

Liberal Arts

**Northeastern USA**

Economic and Business

**NYU, USA**

Liberal Studies

**Parsons NY, USA**

Fashion Photography

**Sydney QS**

Psychology

**The Hague, Netherlands**

International Business

**Toronto QS**

Accounting and Finance  
Computer Engineering

**UBC QS**

Sauder School of Business

**UC San Diego QS**

Biological Sciences

**University of California Davis**

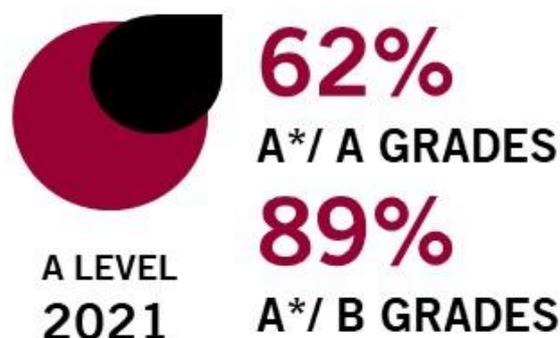
Business Management/Political Science

**University of Tilburg**

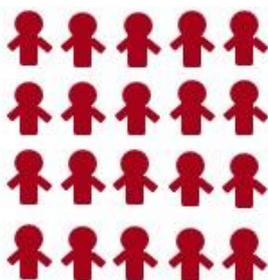
BSc in Econometrics and Operations Research

**WHU – Otto Beisheim School of Management**

Arts and Sciences/International Business  
Administration  
Economics and Data Analysis  
Life Sciences/Psychology  
Psychological and Health Sciences



20+ DIFFERENT  
NATIONALITIES  
STUDYING THE IB



**HALF**

OF ALL GCSE GRADES  
WERE AN 8 OR ABOVE  
(2021 RESULTS)

The logo for The Good Schools Guide, featuring the text 'THE GOOD SCHOOLS GUIDE' in white, serif, all-caps font, centered within a dark red square background.

## THE GOOD SCHOOLS GUIDE

Bromsgrove was inspected by the Good Schools Guide in February 2017:

### Headmaster

Following a glittering career in New Zealand that embraced the state and independent sector, Peter Clague joined Bromsgrove as head in 2014. Attracted by its sense of heritage and purpose, Peter says it was Bromsgrove's challenge to the traditional public school image that clinched the deal for him. He is a huge supporter of IB and believes that its genuinely international spirit suffuses the whole school, bringing with it a progressive liberalism and excitement about modern educational developments. He has introduced more flexibility in the timetable, with longer lunch breaks for pupils to pursue co-curricular interests, and aligned the prep and senior school more closely, but perhaps the biggest changes are in the importance he is giving to the arts. There is more music and drama than ever before and a huge investment into the building of a new theatre at the prep school and concert hall at the senior school.

'He is not as scary as he looks', said one girl to us, which is more a comment on his height and presence than anything else because he is universally seen as charming and warm. The school is proud of its international leader and feel he mirrors the increasingly global outlook of the school. They like also the way in which he respects the traditions of the school but helps them all to look critically at what works and change what could be better. He is described as a visionary and also praised for being in touch with reality. 'He's not all idealism – he has his finger on the business pulse and is very data focused', one senior member of staff told us. He is a skilled wood turner and works beside staff and students building stage sets. He is an 'awesome' public speaker, pupils told us: 'we never know where his metaphors are taking us'.

His litmus test for everything is 'Is it good for the pupils?'

### Academic matters

This is a school that really does embrace and value the vocational and the academic. A Level, IB and BTec are all on offer in the sixth form and each has its strong supporters. The IB group loves the small, but growing, tightly knit IB community and tells us that they get all the very best teachers – but the other groups said the same, so we assume there are just a splendid lot of wonderful teachers. A Level students assured us they get the breadth through all taking the EPQ (Extended Project Qualification). Geography is 'amazing', politics is 'brilliant' and both attract large A level groups. Science and maths flourish. There are currently nine sets taking single maths and three further maths groups. Results are strong. At GCSE, 64 per cent A\*/A grades in 2016. At the end of the sixth form, virtually all BTec results are double distinctions, the average IB diploma score was 38 in 2016 and at A level, 86 per cent are A\*-B pretty and 60% at A\*/A. The government contextual value added tables put Bromsgrove as the top independent school in the Midlands in 2016.

The only criticism on curriculum breadth came from parents who wanted the school to be offering much more on the home economics and cookery side of things, but apparently the school is taking this on, and other than that there is an impressive range of opportunities.

Saturday mornings are not compulsory but a large proportion of pupils are likely to be there, not least because that is when some of the additional academic classes take place – whether in the form of catch-up and support 'surgeries' or Oxbridge preparation. There are plenty of other academic interest groups running too for anyone not falling into those categories. For those who miss a Saturday, there are departmental tweets that keep you interested.

Learning support is highly rated, though one parent gave a word of caution that moderate learning difficulties were beyond the scope of the school.

There is a very attractive and well used learning resources centre on three levels and we were delighted to hear it is open till 10.00 in the evening and at weekends. This is the sort of opportunity that makes boarding so attractive to the serious student as well as those who want one long sleepover.

## Games, options, the arts

Everyone was at pains to tell us that this is not just a rugby school. Well it certainly brings home the rugby silverware, winning the last two national finals, but then the girls' netball team are national champions too. There is genuinely a big variety of sport on offer with D teams that inspire just as much enthusiasm as the A teams. The school was ranked fourth in the country this year in School Sports Magazine. The elite senior rugby players do have to make the sort of serious commitment you would expect at national level, so it is not really an option to be in the U18 squad and play the lead in the school play. Sports facilities are excellent as you would expect, with a particularly impressive new indoor arena with pull-out seating for 400 where the national indoor hockey finals take place. The pool and gym are open at weekends for boarders.

There is an exciting variety of clubs and societies and the school has invested heavily in staff on the co-curricular side to make a strong offering for all. Everyone was rightly proud of a girl who had entered an international competition to build an electric car and had ended up racing it at Rockingham. Drama, even before the new theatre is completed, is big and lots of departments - including art and DT - contribute to productions. Music is getting stronger all the time with smaller lunchtime concerts as well as the big school showpieces. There is Model United Nations and the school sends pupils to the European Youth Parliament. Pupils and parents were keen to tell us that the school looks for what every individual is good at and helps them find their niche and passion.

All year 10s do CCF. Some continue and others take up Duke of Edinburgh awards separately. There are service projects running so everyone makes a community contribution at some stage.

## Boarders

At first the size may be a little intimidating but it is that which ensures the wide opportunities and it is ameliorated by the house system. Each house has its own internal family structure with older pupils acting as mothers and fathers and the younger ones as children. At the end of year 11, students can move to a sixth form house, but some can't bear to leave their first boarding house, home from home, at that stage. Apart from those in the sixth form house, everyone eats in a central dining room. There are some separate day houses and one with day pupils and boarders. A full cycle of impressive refurbishment is just about completed.

House tutors have about eight in a group and, with a 50 minute weekly session timetabled, get to know their tutees well. Sixth formers say that if you act like an adult, tutors treat you like an adult. Houses are good at communicating with parents and pupils – there are house newsletters and blogs as well as balls that help create a strong house identity. House competitions are seen as big bonding experiences and we were urged to get onto the school website to enjoy the full splendour of house music competitions.

The medical centre is highly praised. The nurses visit each boarding house every night to check all is fine and the focus on well-being, which includes bringing in outside speakers, is welcomed. Boarders say it is a 'full on' school. If you want to spend your weekends and evenings on a couch, the Bromsgrove experience would be wasted on you.

## Background and atmosphere

Teaching staff come from a range of educational backgrounds – Oxbridge as well as the old polys – and this gives a sense that the school is grounded in the realities of life outside. There is a drive to ensure an authentic connection with the local community, who use the sports facilities and will be enjoying the new performing arts additions. Senior pupils have links with local state schools through CCF, D of E and university preparation. There's a sense of energy and hard work. The days are long for boarders and day pupils but they are full of purposeful activities.

It is a large campus, 100 acres, in the middle of Bromsgrove, a medium sized Midlands town. Buildings vary in age and the overall impression is of a site loved, cherished and very well maintained. Teaching blocks are attractive with wide corridors and big classrooms, all well lit. There is a delightful little school museum in the old chapel which is just one of a number of reminders of the school's heritage. There are 11 houses, all but one single sex, some in modern buildings, some in charming older ones; the only co-ed house, in a converted hotel a few minutes from the main campus that was once the home of A E Housman, is a real stunner. The 'new' chapel is very prominent on the school site and there are assemblies three times a week for everyone.

There is a popular café, open all day, for older pupils – but we were assured by earnest sixth formers 'it is never a substitute for a proper lunch'.

We were impressed by the careers department where there has been a serious investment in staffing. Year 11 and sixth form pupils have a number of one-to-one interviews and these are supplemented by a Bromsgrove Futures

programme of weekly visiting speakers. The contact with ex-pupils is also strong, so current pupils can get advice on careers and university choices and the chance to practise interview technique. There is a diverse intake and the careers department is well aware it is catering for wide range of needs – another example of how, despite its size, the school is interested in individuals.

Pupils clearly feel the school is good at listening. The head boy and girl lead regular school forums with no member of staff present and they told us the very positive results from these meetings. Pupil voice is increasingly bedded into all aspects and creates an atmosphere that pupils really are at the centre of this school.

### Pastoral care, well-being and discipline

The pupils do need a degree of self-discipline to flourish, parents told us. They need to manage themselves to some extent especially as they get older – which is seen as excellent preparation for life beyond Bromsgrove for those who succeed, but some parents knew pupils who had struggled with it. Discipline is seen as being robust and fair and pupils need to be prepared to accept it without arguing the toss. Uniform regulations are enforced strictly. Punishments for serious breaches of school rules ('but it's very rare,' pupils assured us) are consistent and take sensible account of the culprit's previous history, but there is very little debate round drugs or sex – you are out. The underpinning rule is that you must not stop others from learning.

Pupils and parents spoke very warmly and appreciatively about members of staff both on the academic and pastoral side. The overriding sense is that well-being and the whole person really do matter to staff.

### Pupils and parents

The school sits somewhere between highly competitive Birmingham and posh boarding school clientele. Families typically have both parents working and are fairly diverse, but probably not a lot of old money and quite a number of military families. It attracts English families who want an international community - there are boarders from all over the world - and a choice of routes post-16. Bucking national trends, there has been an increase in British boarders and prep boarding in recent years. The pupils we met were delightful and genuine. They were articulate and thoughtful and all quite different from each other, which was refreshing. The situation of the school is an asset – it is in a good central England location, easy to reach from all corners of the country.

### Exit

There is a seriously impressive range of courses, universities and countries in terms of pupil destination that reflects the wide sixth form clientele. In recent years, pupils have gone on to do catering, boat building, digital games study as well as maths at Cambridge, PPE at Oxford and mainstream academic subjects at strong UK and global universities, including lots of future doctors and engineers.

### Money matters

You are paying for the excellent facilities and opportunities as a boarder or a day pupil. Learning support is included in the fees as is ESL tuition. The head is very conscious of the need to widen access and play a part in promoting social mobility. He is actively building a bursary fund and currently there are 98 children on significant fee reduction. He tells us that past pupils are very receptive to raising funds for bursary support. Scholarships are on offer for academic, sporting, artistic and musical talents.

### Our view

Bromsgrove manages to combine the feel of a local family day school with an international boarding school, attracting pupils both for its sporting reputation and also its academic offer and results. It is a carefully crafted hybrid that works. There is a culture of hard work and hard play and an earnestness about the pupils that is beguiling, far from the arrogant outcome some parents fear in independent schools. The arts side of the school is definitely in ascendency, both in terms of the huge financial investment and in the mindset of the community. We want to be invited back for the first performances in the new theatre and concert hall - we expect them to be world class.