

BRYANSTON SCHOOL

Founded in 1928 by J.G. Jeffreys, Bryanston is a leading co-educational boarding and day school for pupils aged between 13 and 18, based in Blandford Forum, Dorset.



CO-CURRICULAR

Bryanston's longest-serving headmaster, Thorold Coade, once said that education's purpose was 'the widening and deepening of the experience of life'. Bryanston still fully subscribes to this notion of encouraging every pupil to participate in a varied spectrum of activity, in order to add to his or her intellectual, social and emotional development.

The School offers more than 100 different extra-curricular activities to inspire and engage every child outside the classroom. New activities that have recently been introduced include Craftivism, Japanese Culture, Riddles, Scalextric and Skateboarding for Girls. In support of its outdoor education programme, Bryanston believes that it's often these experiences outside the classroom that pupils remember most from their school days. Outdoor education makes our pupils stronger, more resilient and more likely to achieve their full potential in life.

'Pioneering' has long been a part of a Bryanston education. The programme offers pupils the opportunity to get involved in a wide range of activities around the School and in the local community and encourages them to offer something back. Activities include everything from visiting senior citizens to help combat loneliness, helping with maintenance of the School's woodland, pathways and orchard, visiting local primary schools to assist with classroom learning – and so much more!

Set in 400 acres of stunning Dorset countryside, Bryanston attracts pupils from around the world, as well as London and other regions of the UK. The School aims to equip its pupils with the skills to become independent learners and encourages them to discover areas in which they can flourish and excel.

ACADEMIC MATTERS

Bryanston's one-to-one tutorial system is without question the School's defining strength, enabling tutors to develop a mutual and deep form of understanding and trust with pupils. The word tutor has a unique resonance at Bryanston, which owes more to its Latin derivation: watcher, protector, defender, guardian.

Before arrival at Bryanston, each pupil is carefully assigned a personal tutor based on what is learnt during the admissions process about their individual interests and character. The tutor, who is a member of the academic

staff, takes care of the pupil's academic and extra-curricular growth throughout their time at Bryanston, but as mutual trust develops, the conversation will naturally extend to pastoral matters too.

Tutor and pupil meet one-to-one on at least a weekly basis, with an emphasis placed on individualised care and support, so that every pupil, regardless of their ability, is able to discuss their studies, their extra-curricular commitments, their achievements and aspirations, as well as their challenges and concerns, throughout their five years at the School. This close connection is truly what sets Bryanston apart.

Academic work is assessed in terms of both achievement and effort, with grades and comments entered weekly onto the eChart, which is part of the School's virtual learning environment and provides an up-to-date monitoring tool for pupils, teachers, tutors and parents.

With a particular focus on the individual and learning independently, over the course of their time at school, Bryanston pupils are introduced to methods of learning and research by their subject teachers and through the provision of weekly assignment periods. From D, the first year at Bryanston, teachers and tutor act as 'stabilisers', as the pupil learns the proper confidence for learning independently. By the sixth form, pupils spend as much time outside the classroom - in one-to-one discussion with their individual subject teachers, undertaking their own research in assignment periods and working in prep time in the boarding house each evening - as they spend in the classroom learning with other pupils.

Bryanston's approach has its origins in the Dalton Plan, an educational model that encourages active rather than passive learning and places responsibility on the pupil through a series of weekly

assignments, which require a degree of independent research and thought. Teachers guide pupils and monitor progress carefully, nurturing strong learning habits from their very first day. In addition to timetabled classes, teachers see pupils individually for work review periods, known at Bryanston as 'correction periods'. These give pupils the opportunity to test their grasp of a subject and to clarify aspects they might not fully understand. Correction periods are introduced in the GCSE years and are used extensively in the sixth form, when they are as important to an individual's progress as taught classes.

PASTORAL CARE

Housemasters/housemistresses (known as hsm's at Bryanston) are at the very heart of the School and at the core of the pastoral care of the pupils. Each boarding house is headed by a hsm, who takes a close interest in every pupil's general progress and welfare. The hsm nurtures the interests of each pupil, working together with the tutor and parents to make sure each child is happy and achieving their best. The relationship between hsm, tutor and parent is critical to forming a network of support around each child.



All hsm's are supported in the house by a matron, live-in residents and a house team (made up of teaching staff) who help to supervise prep and bedtimes, as well as pupil heads of house and other house prefects. The pupils also have access to the school chaplain, who is resident on the site, the staff in the medical centre and school counsellors.

Bryanston is well known for the quality and variety of its food, which is prepared with great care by its award-winning catering team. All pupils eat together in the School's dining hall; menus are well-balanced and nutritious, enhanced by occasional 'theme nights' for pupils in the evening. The catering team are aware of the importance of healthy eating and help pupils to make sensible choices whilst recognising the needs of hardworking teenagers.

In addition to the dining hall, there is a much-loved café which is open to pupils throughout the week and is the go-to meeting place in the evenings and at weekends. The café team are trained baristas, but through their experience of working with teenagers day in and day out, they have also learnt that their role involves so much more than serving coffees. Seeing the pupils at various stages in their emotional and physical growth gives the team the opportunity to spot issues that inevitably occur, which they pass up to a relevant houseparent or tutor.

FACILITIES

Bryanston is a unique mix of old and new, perfectly suiting its motto 'et nova et vetera'. The campus features a number of listed buildings with contemporary buildings seamlessly nestled alongside.

The magnificent Norman Shaw house is the School's heart and Bryanston's family home. The entrance hall and 100-yard central corridor are both a meeting place and main thoroughfare, providing areas of work and relaxation for the school community.

The School's facilities for the arts are simply outstanding. Coade Hall, a purpose-built theatre, has a raked auditorium seating 600, a fly tower, a large stage, an orchestra pit and a sophisticated system of stage lighting and sound. In addition, a large Greek theatre provides a beautiful setting for outdoor productions and provides the backdrop for Speech Day. The Tom Wheare Music

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Bryanston takes seriously its role and responsibility as a member of the community and has introduced a number of initiatives to ensure the School can support the local community in meaningful ways. The School has joined the Blandford Schools' Network (BSN), introduced a loyalty card and has become the first independent school in Britain to sign Inspiring Governance's School Governor Champion Charter, an organisation that aims to recruit skilled volunteers to serve as school governors in the state sector, of which there is a severe shortage.

The BSN group aims to offer all Blandford children a rich, inclusive and challenging education to enable them to reach their maximum potential as future citizens. The schools

in the group work in close partnership to communicate and share ideas on key pastoral issues such as attendance, behaviours, punctuality and safeguarding.

Bryanston's loyalty card scheme was introduced to support independent businesses in its neighbouring town of Blandford Forum and to consolidate its increasingly close relationship with the local community. Thirty-two local independent businesses have already signed up and are offering discounts to cardholders. The School is keenly aware that, with 620 staff, it is not only a large employer, but a community with the spending power to make a real difference to local shops and services. This new scheme is an effective and practical way of benefiting pupils, staff and parents, while at the same time supporting local independent shops and businesses.



School contains 35 teaching or practice rooms, two large academic classrooms, a music library, a recital room, a chamber music room, recording studio and a film-music editing suite, two keyboard computer rooms, a large percussion studio, a specially sound-proofed band room and a courtyard for outdoor performances. The centrepiece is the 300-seat Sir Mark Elder Concert Hall, with a 150 square-metre performance space.

The award-winning Sanger Centre for Science and Mathematics is named after Old Bryanstonian and two times Nobel Prize winner, Frederick Sanger. Access to resources, both practical and human, is achieved through the large, open assignment areas, while the teaching laboratories offer space for a vast range of practical activities for all year groups.

Bryanston enjoys excellent sports facilities: playing fields cover 56 acres, including two artificial pitches, numerous tennis and netball courts and a 400-metre grass athletics track. These facilities accompany

a state-of-the-art and newly renovated sports centre. In addition to a 25-metre heated indoor swimming pool, the centre is home to a world-leading performance sports facility with equipment that includes force platforms, 360-degree motion analysis cameras and the ability to produce ground-breaking data in the sphere of growth and maturation in young sportspeople.

The playing fields are bounded by the River Stour, which allows the School to offer rowing and kayaking to pupils. The School's renowned Equestrian Centre has recently undergone extensive refurbishment and offers a range of outdoor arenas for show jumping and dressage, as well as an indoor training school, cross country schooling fields and extensive hacking options around the estate.

CONTACT DETAILS

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We wanted something to support her natural wants and loves – to be who she is. Develop what she loves – not streamlined to anything in particular. Bryanston lets pupils go their own way.

Parent of Year 9 pupil

