



BORDEN GRAMMAR SCHOOL INFORMATION BOOKLET 2022



Welcome to Borden Grammar School

“Welcome to Borden Grammar School’s open evening. We are very proud of our school and really hope you enjoy your visit. In the interests of modernising and caring for our global climate, we have moved to an online prospectus which you can find by scanning the QR code below with the camera on your mobile device. This will also take you directly to lots of other useful information, including videos, virtual tours of the school and guidance on the Kent test. Please do not hesitate to ask us about any aspect of admissions and do ask the students lots of questions; they are our best advert. We hope you like what you see and look forward to many of you joining us on the exciting journey we are on as a school.”

Ashley Tomlin (Headteacher)

The arrangements for the evening are as follows:

- Students of the school will guide groups of visitors around the school to see the various displays for each department. Staff and students in the subject rooms will be available to answer questions and your guides will also be very happy to answer general questions about school life.
- There will be a presentation that includes the headteacher and head of Year 7 in the main hall at **6.10pm, 6.40pm and 7.20pm** respectively. Your guide will escort you to the next available talk after your arrival, but if this interrupts your tour, we will ensure that a guide is available to enable you to continue on your tour after the talk.
- Members of the Parents and Friends Association (PFA) are serving refreshments throughout the evening in Room 11 and the Quad.
- If you have specific questions about admissions arrangements please ask your guide to direct you to see Mr Tomlin (Headteacher), Mr Mulligan (Deputy Head), Mr Artingstoll (Assistant Head with responsibility for KS3), Mrs Brooker (Assistant Head with responsibility for KS4) or Mr Brinn (Head of Sixth Form) or Miss Irinoye (Head of Year 7).

Please scan the QR code here to see our prospectus and lots of other useful information!



If you need any further information, do contact us on 01795 424192 or by email at school@bordengrammar.kent.sch.uk

Our website is at bordengrammar.kent.sch.uk

Joining us at Borden

Why choose Borden?

Borden is proud of being a caring grammar school, in fact Ofsted recently described our school community as “*harmonious*” with relationships being “strong and supportive”. This provides the underlying pastoral support for us to be able to provide a challenging, selective education for able students hailing from the local area. Whilst we care a great deal about making sure that our students get the best outcomes, this is all in the context of a school that believes strongly in the ‘values’ we develop as students experience their journey with us (you can see these around the school and on the back page of this booklet).

What about outcomes?

As a result of the pandemic, all results published for schools are now almost three years out of date. However, as a selective grammar school, our results are always amongst the highest in the area, at both GCSE and A level. Most of our Year 11 students stay with us to do A levels and a huge proportion of our Year 13 students leave us to join prestigious universities or high-quality apprenticeships. Indeed, our Ofsted inspection in November last year said that “*teachers carefully guide pupils in their learning. Their advice and support mean pupils are highly motivated to always do their best*”.

However, whilst important, the outcome we value even more will hopefully be evident at this open evening; the fact that our young people leave us to be successful as confident, thoughtful, critical and respectful young adults. Again, Ofsted also said that our students are “*keen to learn and respectful to all*”.

What about if my child has a special educational need?

Whilst we are a selective school, we are also inclusive. We have a fair number of students who have a variety of needs and we always do whatever we can to support them. For more information on this, please look at our SEND policy on the website or contact Mrs Zarzycki, our school SEND coordinator at the school.

How do I choose Borden? What is the process?

Your son will need to sit the **Kent Test**. In order to be eligible to sit this test, you **MUST** register with Kent County Council on their website. The registration window is 1 June to 1 July. If you do not register during this window you cannot sit the Kent Test. Here is the link:

www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/school-places/kent-test#tab-1



Once you register, you will receive an email receipt. Keep this safe. The Kent Test will take place on **Thursday 8 September** in primary schools.

The Borden Procedure (Optional): Admissions to Year 7 September 2023

In addition to the Kent Test, this year Borden Grammar is introducing its own optional admissions test. To be eligible for this additional assessment, you **MUST** also sit the Kent Test. Registration for the Borden test is **paper based and must be received by the school no later than 1 July 2022**. You can download a registration form from our website or contact the school for us to post one to you.

Here is the link to the form to print off:

bordengrammar.kent.sch.uk/information/admissions



Fill in the form and attach your registration email proof for the Kent Test. Send or bring this into Borden and we will issue you with a receipt. The Borden test will take place on **Saturday 10 September** in the morning. Further details of the test will follow to those who register.

The school will admit boys through the Kent PESE (Procedure for Entrance into Secondary Education) procedure. The school will also admit boys through success in the Borden Assessment procedure where a boy has been unsuccessful in the Kent testing process.

The advantage of doing the Borden Test in addition to the Kent Test is that if your son is a 'near miss' with the Kent test but does well in the Borden test, he may be accepted by Borden without having to wait for the appeals process in May 2023. This reduces stress levels all round.

How can I help my son prepare for these tests?

There are lots of ways you can help your son prepare for these tests. Familiarising them with the style of questions and doing practice papers is an obvious way to help. Kent County Council have a familiarisation booklet on their website and the link to that is below:

www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/school-places/kent-test#tab-3



There are also commercial products such as 11+ practice papers and software that can easily be found using search engines or popping into bookshops. The Kent and Borden tests are set by a company called GL Assessment and so any practice which includes these style of questions will be useful. Software that has been recommended by parents is Planet BOFA which requires a paid subscription. Borden is also trialling free FROG familiarisation software through selected primaries for disadvantaged students in order to widen access. If you feel this applies to your son, for example, you are in receipt of free school meals, please contact your primary or Miss Irinoye at Borden.

Finally, please try to keep stress levels low with your son in the run up to these tests. Practice little and often and reassure them that, as long as they do their best, that is all you can ask for.

Curriculum Information

Choices at GCSE

Pupils are invited to choose from a range of options as detailed in the table below. The choice will be made in the light of discussion with teachers at the Year Nine Parents' Evening and with the help of a booklet giving details of all courses and of the options available. In addition, all boys in Years 10 and 11 will follow courses in Physical Education and Personal Development (including PSHE, Careers and Citizenship) and, unless withdrawn on parental request, in Religious Studies.

Compulsory Subjects	Mathematics, English Language, English Literature, Science (Separate Science or Combined Award)
EBacc Options (choose two from four)	French / Geography / History / Spanish
Free Choices	Art, Business Studies, Design Technology, Drama, French, Geography, History, Information Technology, Music, Physical Education, Religious Studies, Spanish, Statistics and Further Maths

Choices at Advanced Level

Year 11 pupils normally move on to study at A Level where they are joined by able pupils from other schools. Students in our 6th form will mostly take four A Levels together with the option to also take the Extended Project. Subjects offered are detailed in the below.

ADVANCED LEVEL

Art	ICT
Biology	Maths
Business Studies	Music (Taught at Highsted)
Chemistry	Photography
Design Technology	Physics
English Language & Literature	Politics
Extended Project	Psychology
Film Studies	Religious Studies
French	Spanish
Geography	Certificate of Financial Studies
History	Further Maths

Other subjects not taught at Borden may, timetable permitting, be taken at our Partnership Schools, Highsted or Fulston Manor.

Religious Education and acts of Collective Worship

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from religious education and/or collective worship. Arrangements should be made with the Headteacher. All other subjects are required as a part of the national curriculum.

And finally...

We hope that you find this booklet and evening useful. Transitioning to a secondary school is difficult on its own, but is complicated further by the selective process. Please don't be worried about asking lots of questions and do talk to us at any point if you need further guidance.

We look forward to seeing many of you in the near future!

Please scan here to complete our feedback form



BORDEN VALUES

