



BORDEN GRAMMAR SCHOOL INFORMATION BOOKLET 2023



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 both the Kent Test and Borden 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 in the main hall at **6.10pm, 6.45pm 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), Mrs Brooker (Assistant Head with responsibility for KS3), Miss Powell (Assistant Head with responsibility for KS4) or Mr Brinn (Head of Sixth Form).

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 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 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 2021 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 our school SEND coordinator at the school Mrs Zarzycki - nzarzycki@bordengrammar.kent.sch.uk.

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 3 July. If you do not register during this window you cannot sit the Kent Test. Here is the link to scan:



Once you register, you will receive an email receipt. Keep this safe. The Kent Test will take place on **Thursday 7 September 2023** in primary schools.

The Borden Procedure (Optional): Admissions to Year 7 September 2024

In addition to the Kent Test, Borden Grammar has 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 separate to the Kent Test and is **paper based and must be received by the school no later than 3 July 2023**. You can download a registration form from our website or contact the school for us to post one to you.



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 9 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 which is referred to as the Kent Test. The school will also admit boys through success in the Borden Assessment procedure, known as the Borden Test, 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 2024. 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 and Borden Grammar School have free familiarisation material on their website.



Please note that since 11+ tests vary from one area to another, it's important to note that the free familiarisation materials are generic and may differ from the exact test taken in September. These differences may include the length of papers, the types of questions covered, and/or the level of difficulty.

There are also commercial products such as 11+ practice papers and software that can easily be found using search engines or visiting bookshops. The Kent and Borden tests are set by a company called GL Assessment and so any practice which includes these styles 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 school or Mrs Johnson at Borden Grammar School.

Finally, please try to keep stress levels low with your son in the run up to these tests. We would always advise against tutoring, but practising little and often helps to take some of the stress away. Please always reassure them that, as long as they do their best, that is all you can ask for.

Key Stage Three Curriculum

All pupils in Key Stage Three (Years 7 - 9) study balanced programme which gives them access to all the Core and Foundation subjects, as well as a second language, Personal Development (including Careers & RSE) and Religious Studies.

The curriculum at Key Stage 3 enables students to access specialist teaching in a wide and balanced range of subjects.

In addition, we provide opportunities to develop skills in working as part of a team and independent learning through creative and cross-curricular activities. This means our students enjoy a rich and varied learning experience.

From September 2023, the school will be moving to a 5 period day. This will not impact on the start and end times of the day, nor will it change the amount of learning that takes place in school. The reasons are to do with evidence on concentration spans for young people, on increasing the frequency with which subjects get to see students.

We work on a two-week cycle of lessons, with each lesson being one hour in length.

A typical year 7 timetable is set out below:

	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>
<i>Period 1</i>	Mathematics	Science	English	Mathematics	Design Tech
<i>Period 2</i>	Personal Dev	Music	Physical Ed	Geography	French
<i>Period 3</i>	Art	Mathematics	History	English	Physical Ed
<i>Period 4</i>	English	Computing/ICT	Spanish	Religious Studies	Science
<i>Period 5</i>	Science	Spanish	Mathematics	Drama	Geography

	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>
<i>Period 1</i>	French	English	English	Art	English
<i>Period 2</i>	Music	History	Science	Computing/ICT	French
<i>Period 3</i>	Mathematics	Drama	Spanish	Science	History
<i>Period 4</i>	Physical Ed	Mathematics	Design Tech	Personal Dev	Science
<i>Period 5</i>	English	Physical Ed	Religious Studies	Mathematics	Geography

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 online feedback form or collect a paper copy from reception on your way out



BORDEN VALUES

