



# **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 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 will guide groups of visitors around the school to see the various departments. 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, 6.50pm and 7.30pm** 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 Weller (Assistant Head with responsibility for KS3) or Miss Irinoye (Head of Year 7).

**Please scan the QR code here to see our prospectus**



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

Our website is at [bordengrammar.kent.sch.uk](http://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 last page of this booklet).

## What about outcomes?

As a selective grammar school, our results are always amongst the highest in the area, at both GCSE and A level. For instance, in 2023, 36% of our Year 11 outcomes were the top grades of 7 to 9 (A\*\*/A\*/A). You will find a lot more information on this on our website under the news or exam information links. Importantly, the vast majority of our Year 11 students choose to 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 2021 Ofsted inspection 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 co-ordinator.

## How do I choose Borden?

The main thing to remember is that **you must put us down on your form**. We have included a great deal of more detailed information to help you with this. Beyond this you can access our admissions policy on the website where you will see further details. If you are still unsure at any point, or you have further questions after this event, then please don't hesitate to contact us so that we can advise further.

## How does the system work?

- Parents are able to apply to four schools on the Secondary Common Application Form (SCAF) by **Tuesday, 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023**.
- If you wish to include Borden among your choices, your child must have taken the Kent Test. Results will be sent to parents on **Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2023**.
- If your child took the optional Borden Test then results will be sent in the post at the same time as the Kent Test.
- If a child takes the Kent Test, does not pass and parents wish to make an appeal, **Borden Grammar School must be named on the SCAF**.
- If your child did not pass the Kent Test, but passed the optional Borden Test, then you could also be offered a place at Borden subject to our admission criteria.
- Complete the supplementary Information Form for Free School Meals / Pupil Premium which needs to be returned to us by **31<sup>st</sup> October 2023**.

## Does order of preference on the SCAF matter?

- Once the Local Authority (KCC) has results for the Kent Test and the optional Borden Test, it will seek to allocate your child to a school on his SCAF using criteria set out on the KCC website. Allocations for all children will be posted or emailed (after 4pm) to parents on Friday, 1<sup>st</sup> March 2024. You can also log in to see your allocation online after 5pm that day.
- If your child has passed the Kent Test and/or the optional Borden Test and placed Borden first then they will be allocated a place at Borden unless the school is oversubscribed.
- If your child has passed the Kent Test and/or the optional Borden Test and placed a high school first and Borden second, they will be allocated a place at the high school. Your child may be reallocated a place at Borden provided you request this in writing by Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> March 2024 and there are vacancies. However, if your child has not passed The Kent Test or the optional Borden Test and placed Borden first and a high school second then the local authority will automatically make that high school your child's first choice school before allocation of secondary places occurs.
- Secondary schools in Kent are not told whether a particular applicant placed a school first, second, third or fourth.

## What is a Headteacher review?

- These occur before parents receive the Kent Test results.
- If your child has not passed but was close to the pass mark, their Headteacher may forward a report and samples of work to a panel of primary and secondary headteachers or their Deputies. Some children have their assessment changed at this stage.

## What if my child takes the Kent Test and / the optional Borden Test and does not pass?

- You have the option of making an appeal to an Independent Panel.
- A successful appeal is usually based on a child being close to the pass mark and evidence that demonstrates that a low-test score was uncharacteristic, or that other significant identifiable factors had affected performance in the Kent Test, or both. Additionally, if there is evidence from the primary school of your child making very rapid progress in Year 6 since the September test, you may have good grounds for an appeal.

## When can I make a parental appeal for a grammar school place?

- If your child has passed the Kent Test and you have placed a grammar school first on the SCAF but have not been offered a place because of over-subscription you may appeal from 1<sup>st</sup> March 2024.
- If a Primary Headteacher does not seek a review or if the review is not successful you may request a parental appeal in March 2024 once school allocations have been published. **You can only do this if the grammar school has been named on your child's SCAF.**
- You will be asked to state in writing why you believe your child should be offered a grammar school place and asked to attend a meeting.

## What might be the basis for a parental appeal?

An appeal may reasonably be made if:

- Your child has passed the Kent Test and the grammar school you wish them to attend is your nearest or is your preferred grammar school.
- A child narrowly misses the pass mark in the Kent Test or has a result in one section that is out of character with their work at school.
- Your child's work in Years 5 and 6 is good quality and of a standard to suggest he would be well placed at a grammar school.
- Your child has scores in tests from Year 5 or Year 6 that suggest they would be well placed at a grammar school.
- Significant factors affected their test results.
- If you feel that Borden is the appropriate school for your child then the appeals process is available to you provided you have included the school on your child's SCAF.

## What should Borden Grammar do if I appeal?

- Appeal letters from parents should be addressed to the school for the attention of the Clerk to the Appeals Panel.
- Appeals will be held in April / May. Late appeals may still be heard after that date.
- Borden cannot provide assistance on individual cases as it is an admissions authority. However, staff at the school can answer questions about the process and should (according to the National Code of Practice) provide you with written information and guidance regarding the appeals process. An appeals process cannot be started until after 1<sup>st</sup> March 2024. Please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Cole in the school office if you need further help with admissions and appeals.

# Curriculum Information

## Key Stage Three Curriculum

Pupils in Key Stage Three have a balanced programme which gives them access to all the Core and Foundation subjects, as well as a second language, Personal Development PD (including Careers & RSE) and RS.

In Year 7 both Spanish and French are taught to all pupils

The curriculum at Key Stage 3 (Years 7 - 9) 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. The breadth of the curriculum enables pupils to make informed choices in Year 9 from a wide range of subjects at GCSE.

We work on a two-week cycle of lessons and a typical Year 7 timetable is set out below:

<b>Week 1</b>					
	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>
<b>Registration</b>					
<i>Period 1</i>	French	Drama	Mathematics	English	Science
<i>Period 2</i>	Spanish	Rel Studies	PE	DT	English
<b>Break</b>					
<i>Period 3</i>	Mathematics	Science	Geography	Science	Geography
<b>Lunch</b>					
<i>Period 4</i>	Music	Mathematics	English	PD	History
<i>Period 5</i>	PE	French	ICT	Mathematics	Art

<b>Week 2</b>					
	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>
<b>Registration</b>					
<i>Period 1</i>	Music	History	Science	Science	English
<i>Period 2</i>	ICT	DT	English	PD	Geography
<b>Break</b>					
<i>Period 3</i>	Spanish	Science	Drama	English	Rel Studies
<b>Lunch</b>					
<i>Period 4</i>	Mathematics	PE	Mathematics	Mathematics	History
<i>Period 5</i>	English	French	Art	PE	Spanish

## Key Stage Four Curriculum

Pupils in Year 9 are invited to choose from a range of options as detailed in the table below.

The choice will be made in the light of discussions with teachers at the Year 9 Parents' Evening, Year 9 Information Evening, Year 9 Report and the help of a booklet giving details of all courses and the options available.

<b>Core Subjects:</b>	Mathematics English Language English Literature Science – Biology, Chemistry & Physics or Science – Combined Science	
<b>EBacc Subjects:</b>	French, Spanish, History and Geography	
<b>Other Subjects:</b>	Art Design Technology – Product Design Drama ICT Computing	Physical Education Religious Studies Statistics Further Maths Business Studies Music

In addition, all pupils follow courses in Games and Personal Development (including Personal Development, Careers, Citizenship, RSE, Business Enterprise and, unless withdrawn on parental request, Religious Studies.)

## Key Stage Five Curriculum

Pupils entering the Sixth Form are expected to follow a full time Level 3 programme of study. We aim to offer courses in a wide range of different subjects.

3D Design Art Biology Business Studies Chemistry English Language & Literature Film Studies Certificate in Financial Studies Diploma in Financial Studies French Geography	History ICT Mathematics Further Mathematics Photography Physics Politics Psychology Sport Studies Spanish Extended Project (EPQ)
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Other subjects, not taught at Borden, may, timetable permitting, be taken at our Partnership Schools, **Highsted Grammar School and Fulston Manor School.**

**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!

