

Introduction

Welcome to the Sixth Form of Borden Grammar School.

At Borden we offer a wide range of A-Level qualifications for our students. This range is extended considerably through our partnership with Highsted Grammar and Fulston Manor Sixth Forms to include over 30 different courses. Our aim is to produce students who are confident, responsible and able to take their place in society. This is achieved through matching the skills and interests of the student with correct courses to enable them to achieve their potential.

Borden Grammar admits approximately 120 students to the Sixth Form each year, the majority of whom come from Borden's present Year 11. However, an increasing number of students join from other Grammar Schools and High Schools in the area. We typically admit between 20-25 students from these local schools each year. Students in the Sixth Form are tutored in smaller form groups where students are able to learn and gain experience from one another in an environment supported by an experienced pastoral team.

The purpose of this prospectus is to give you information regarding the Sixth Form so that you can make an informed judgement as to the courses you might wish to pursue. Subject staff, Year 11 tutors and Senior Staff are always available to give advice as to which choices would be the most appropriate.

The Sixth Form are an essential element of Borden Grammar, through prefectship, role models and student mentors. The wide ranges of options beyond the academic provide the Sixth Form with the opportunities to develop their skills and pursue their interests. A first-class Learning Resource Centre with a dedicated Sixth Form learning area complete with ICT facilities is available to all Sixth Form students, together with an impressive Sixth Form work room and newly refurbished common room.

If you would like further advice or have any queries or questions then please contact me at the school.

Mr C Brinn
Assistant Headteacher – Head of Sixth Form

Admissions Procedure

Applications to Borden Grammar Sixth Form are welcomed from both internal and external students. The vast majority of Year 11 pupils return to Borden to enter the Sixth Form and each year they are joined by a number of external candidates, both boys and girls. The entry requirements are stated over, as well as recommended entry grades which are stated on the school website. In practice however, the majority of students achieve far higher than the minimum and the character of the Sixth Form reflects this.

All internal applicants will have an interview with a member of the Leadership Group to identify where their interests lie and which courses might be best for them. Heads of Department and subject teachers are always available to discuss their subjects at A-Level. Applications to the Sixth Form are made through the Kent Choices website which is co-ordinated in partnership with KCC. Support will be made available in school for students who are finding the process difficult.

External candidates are welcome to apply for courses from 17 November 2024, through the Kent Choices website. They are also welcome to visit the school and be shown the facilities available in order to get a feel for Sixth Form life at Borden.

Where possible the subject choices of each applicant will be offered. However, it is in the nature of timetabling that some combinations of subjects may not be possible. Should that situation arise, then Borden will endeavour to match the combination from within the partnership of schools. During this process the school will be in contact to inform the applicant of the progress being made. Regrettably, each year a small number of applicants will find that not all their choices can be fully accommodated. Information on whether requested combinations are not possible will be communicated to students, and alternatives discussed.

The overriding concern is that students select courses whose demands match their interests and capabilities.

Students wishing to apply should do so by February 2024 in order for their course combination to be taken into account when developing the timetable. Students are welcome to apply after this date but should recognise that their course combinations may not be considered when developing the timetable.

Places on courses will be confirmed after GCSE results in August 2024 followed by a formal registration at the beginning of September.

Admission to the Sixth Form 2024

The school will admit boys and girls to Year 12 who obtains the entry requirement of:

- At least 5 GCSE passes at grades 9 - 5 in the new qualifications (or A* - B grade in the old GCSEs) including English (either Literature or Language if both were taken) and Mathematics;
- Preference on Advanced Level courses will be given to those students securing at least a grade 6 (or grade B in the old GCSE assessment system) in the subject they wish to study.

For students wishing to commence a new course at Advanced Level their performance in a GCSE subject that relates to the new subject will be paramount; in certain subjects the minimum entry requirement is higher and this is noted in the sixth form prospectus under individual subjects.

Priority for admission to Year 12 will be given to existing students transferring from Year 11.

The PAN for external candidates will be 30 but this figure may be exceeded in the event that this and the number of internal students transferring into Year 12 is less than the overall total figure for the year group. Offers will be made on the basis of predicted performance at GCSE, with the requirement that the above grades are achieved in the final examinations prior to entry to the Sixth Form and the pupil's chosen subjects being accommodated on the timetable, in feasible group sizes. All offers made in Year 11 are conditional on pupils meeting the grade criteria specified and will only be realised upon confirmation of actual GCSE results. Offers will be made before the end of May 2024. Where learners have achieved better results than predicted grades they will be considered on the basis of grades achieved and ranked accordingly for any places that become available as a result of other learners failing to meet the required entry levels.

The school will admit external students to Year 13 if there is a vacant place, if the specification studied in Year 12 dovetails with the Year 13 provision at the school, and if the student would have met the entrance requirement to join the school in Year 12.

In the case of oversubscription, the following criteria will be applied in the order laid out:

- Children in the Care of the Local Authority – as defined above**
- Internal candidates transferring from Year 11**
- Free School Meal eligibility – as defined above**
- Current Family Association – as defined above**
- Health and Special Access Reasons – as defined above**
- Traditional School Area – as defined above**

In the case of oversubscription within one of the above criteria, places will be allocated according to the proximity of the student's home to the School, as defined above. Parents/Carers/Guardians have a statutory right of appeal, should an application for a place be refused, by writing to The Clerk to the Trustees, care of the school, marking the envelope 'Sixth Form Appeal'.

Later applications for places in the Sixth Form will be considered if places in appropriate subjects are still available after all other applicants have been considered.

Sixth Form Curriculum

All Borden students follow Advanced Level courses in line with the linear structure recently introduced by the government.

Core Expectation:

Borden's students choose to study **3 or 4** subjects in Year 12 depending on their GCSE performance; in addition, they have a weekly enrichment session. The minimum requirement to be a Borden Grammar School student is to complete three A Levels in Year 13.

Competitive edge: some students' futures will be better served in Year 13 by completing the four subjects that they started in Year 12. This route might be right for a student due to their academic ability, their level of interest in a subject or due to their desire to keep career and/or university options open.

For many students it will be more prudent to pursue three subjects to completion in Year 13. Without doubt Advanced Levels are challenging and the ability to complete three A Levels well will be the priority for most students. In turn this is reflected in the overwhelming majority of university offers.

Students who study three subjects will also complete **the Extended Project Qualification** which is an independent research project designed to extend and develop students' abilities beyond their A level specifications and prepare for University of their future career.

Details of the individual subject specifications can be found under the departmental entries in this booklet. As ever, we will try to ensure that as many students as possible can access their first choices however timetabling restrictions may apply in certain cases. The courses available to take at A Level are as follows:

Art & Design	Biology	Business Studies
Chemistry	3D Design	English Language & Lit.
Film Studies	French	Geography
History	ICT/Computing	Mathematics
Further Mathematics	Photography	Physical Education
Physics	Politics	Psychology
Spanish	Statistics	

To summarise

- Students must select **3 or 4** A Levels to study and list them in order of importance on their application, with number 1 being their first choice.
- Borden will review your progress through the audit system (grade sheets) and will guide you as to the appropriateness of following four subjects to the full A-Level.
- Our experience is that Sixth Form students do not know in advance which subjects they will perform best in, or enjoy the most, so decisions about which subjects to pursue to the full A level will be best off being made later in their courses.

Studying A-Levels at Borden Grammar

A-Level studies make very different demands on students from GCSEs. Students are required to assume greater responsibility for their own learning and will need to show the ability to organise themselves so that the many pressures on their time can be met.

A normal four subject course will provide a full timetable when including enrichment. You will normally be allocated four lessons of contact time per subject per week. In addition to these five hours of teaching per subject, it is expected that students undertake and manage their own private study time per subject per week. Clearly then the development of a capacity to work independently and effectively is essential. Sixth form should be viewed as a stepping stone from the formal work of GCSE to the independent work required at University or in working life. The aim at Borden is to provide our students with the skills to make this transition smoothly.

During private study time students are able to use the dedicated facilities in the Library Resource Centre as well as the Sixth Form work room. This has proved extremely popular as it enables students to work in a quiet environment with access to all the resources they may need.

Sixth Form life is not merely about work. There are greater opportunities for the pursuit of personal interests. Team sports can be played to a higher standard. Musical and dramatic skills can be extended in school concerts and productions, and voluntary work in the local community through sport or education can be arranged. In recent years the Sixth Form have been involved in Peer Mentoring, volunteering at local charities, the junior branch of the Rotary organisation, Swale Youth Forum and Borden Theatre.

Part time employment and the 16-19 Bursary Fund

Employment is not something we would wish to discourage but there has to be recognition that part time jobs must not take priority over sixth form study. It is important that you do not take on an excessive number of hours in this way. Although experience in the world of work is useful (as is the income it generates) it should certainly not involve, **as an absolute maximum**, more than one evening and one weekend session a week. To do more than this will almost certainly prove disastrous. Recent research shows a clear link between working more hours and obtaining lower grades at A-Level. Effectively, over 9 hours per week will cost one grade per subject.

The 16-19 Bursary Fund is available to eligible students who meet certain criteria. Students who are eligible will receive a payment that should go towards expenses relating to their education. These expenses may include, but are not limited to, transportation, educational materials, food and clothing.



Careers

During the Sixth Form, students will receive a wide range of information designed to help them make a positive decision about the future. The majority of students who attend Borden Sixth Form will take up a place at the University of their choice. Some will take a Gap Year and the remainder will go directly into work. It is important that whatever pathway the students decide to follow, the decision is a positive one based on evidence gained during the Sixth Form.

Advice is available from a range of different sources: Unifrog (an online careers platform), Mr Brinn, Mrs Searle, Ms Das and Miss Lucas along with Form Tutors and subject teachers. Throughout the spring term in Year 12 students have talks from a range of outside speakers on different aspects of University life and the benefits of taking a Gap Year. There is an opportunity for all Year 12 students to take up a work shadowing placement in Term 6 as well as a careers day where individuals from different professions and HE institutions come in and deliver talks in July.

Towards the end of Year 12 students will gain substantial advice on their own career path, including an explanation of the process of applying to University or work.

All candidates applying to University submit their application via the UCAS 'apply' system. This is an internet based application process and as such can be accessed from any computer with the internet. Applications will be completed in the autumn term of Year 13 and students are strongly encouraged to have made their choices by the end of Year 12. This is essential in the case of those students applying to Oxford and Cambridge as well as those interested in studying medicine, veterinary science and dentistry. Preparation for interviews is given to those students who require it.

Sixth Form Partnership

The Sixth Form Partnership between Highsted, Fulston Manor and Borden is designed to increase student choice post-16, particularly at A-level.

The advantages

- Students can select subjects from their own school and also choose subjects from the partner schools.
- As a result of the schools combining in this way, over thirty A-Level courses become available to each student.

Combining resources in this way gives students a broad range of subjects to choose from. Although not every combination is possible, due to a common timetable of five option blocks there is a greater possibility that a student's choices can be accommodated.

How does it work?

- Year 11 pupils from each school, and their parents, are given information about the courses at all three schools. They may also attend Partnership Schools' Sixth Form information evenings.
- When Year 11 pupils are asked about their provisional choices for A-Level, they can indicate whether they wish to take a course at a Partnership School.
- The senior teachers in charge of the timetable at each school share this information and use it as part of their planning data.
- Students wishing to make use of the Partnership may select one, or more exceptionally, two courses at a neighbouring school. In normal circumstances students remain in their home school. In exceptional cases a student may wish to transfer to another Partnership school. These circumstances should be discussed with the Headteacher of the home school.

Entry Qualifications

Borden, Fulston Manor and Highsted operate a Sixth Form Partnership rather than a joint Sixth Form. We try to harmonise as many aspects of the day-to-day working as possible. Discussion is taking place regarding policy decisions to widen and strengthen co-operation post-16 across Swale. There are at present elements which differ between the three schools, one of which is the entry qualifications for starting A-Level courses. The current minimum requirement may be found in each school's Sixth Form Prospectus.

Borden Grammar School



What are the additional A-Level subjects available within the Partnership?

Additional subjects from Fulston Manor: Health and Social Care; Leisure and Tourism; Sociology; Religious Studies; Performing Arts and Music.

Additional subjects from Highsted: Science in Society; German; Sociology; Economics; Media Studies; Theatre Studies and Music.

What are the limitations of choice?

Each school will try to meet the subject combination choices of as many students as possible. If staffing for a course cannot match demand in any particular school, then the staffing resources of the other two schools will be used to help the situation wherever possible. If, in spite of this, there are more students wishing to take a subject than can be accommodated then the students will be prioritised in the following order.

- Year 12 students from the Home School
- Year 12 students from the Partnership School
- Year 13 students from the Home School
- Year 13 students from the Partnership School