

BUNGAY HIGH SCHOOL



The School

Bungay High School is a Group 6 mixed comprehensive Academy school of 988 students, 260 of whom are in the Sixth Form. The school's history stretches back over 400 years and in its time it has had boarding accommodation and has been a grammar school. Its traditional values and sense of continuity are important to the school which seeks to combine the best of the past with an awareness of present day educational needs.

The school achieves high standards and is particularly proud of its very successful and thriving open Sixth Form. We provide a variety of courses and offer traditional AS and A Levels as well as some exciting vocational ones. We are a centre for NVQ as well as BTEC courses. Our most recent Ofsted inspection described the school as 'outstanding'.

Accommodation

Over the last 10 years, a number of building programmes have been completed. The library has been imaginatively designed and offers an excellent environment for private study. Improved access for the disabled has been added. These include lifts and ramps. The school's last building project was finally completed in December 2001 and has provided us with a block consisting of two new Science laboratories and ten teaching rooms.

In April 2004, major renovation work was carried out in the Science area and this provides four completely refurbished laboratories plus a new computer suite.

In 2006, the changing rooms to the Sports Centre were upgraded to give the quality facilities all students and Sports Hall users expect.

Catchment Area, Pyramid Partners and Cluster Arrangements

The school serves the area of North Suffolk south of the Waveney River between Homersfield in the west and Bramfield in the east, a mainly farming area with various small industrial concerns in the market towns. The largest book printing business in Europe is situated in Bungay. The two contributory schools, Bungay and Halesworth Middle Schools, have each sent approximately 120 students annually to the High School at age 13. Many students travel long distances to school, currently within a 20+ mile radius. About 25% of Year 9 will reside outside the catchment area and often out of County. Approximately 65% of Year 11 return to our 6th Form.

We have established a very successful North Suffolk 14 - 19 Partnership with Sir John Leman High School in Beccles, Leiston High School, Stradbroke Business and Enterprise College and Lowestoft College. The North Suffolk Skills Centre in Halesworth is evidence of this. We are also key partners in the Waveney and Blyth Extended Schools Cluster, providing a multi-agency approach to supporting all children and families in our area.

The school population represents a wide social mix. The character of the community, though largely agricultural, continues to change and there are areas of relative social disadvantage. The community is in receipt of European 5b funding. The school has responded imaginatively to the challenge that this represents and EU Funding has been spent on a Suffolk Learning and Resource Centre within the school grounds. The Centre is very well equipped with information technology and video conferencing facilities.

Curriculum and Organisation

We were very pleased at the ‘outstanding’ vote of confidence in our curriculum given by Ofsted in their inspection in June 2011. We aim to build on this foundation in future years.

The school is committed to fostering a happy and positive environment in which students are able to develop academically and socially. It aims to provide a curriculum which is as broad and challenging as possible and of very high quality.

At present, at Key Stage 4 in addition to a common core of GCSE subjects, students may select one subject from four option blocks which contain a wide variety of subjects, and all students follow non-examination courses in PE, PSHE, RE and ICT. Both Years 10 and 11 have students attending the North Suffolk Skills Centre to pursue courses in Hairdressing, Hospitality, Construction and Auto-engineering.

As part of the County’s 14-19 Strategy, we have introduced a new study skills course called ‘Study Plus’ in Year 10. This is aimed at students whose confidence will be boosted by undertaking literacy and numeracy based projects embedded in an everyday context. It is not examined, replaces one GCSE subject, and entry to it is by negotiation with English and Mathematics staff.

The school has an open admissions policy for all who wish to stay on in the Sixth Form. Students choose from a wide range of courses which are offered at different levels and which may last for one, two or three years. The AS and A2 courses demand a great deal of commitment from the students. ICT is also offered.

We operate a three period day, each lesson is 100 minutes long. This is based on evidence of the effectiveness of this in other schools. It is possible for some subjects to ‘twin’ with others in order to have shorter teaching periods if this is desired.

Great importance is placed on making effective provision for students with special educational needs. Good links with contributory middle schools ensure that these students make a smooth transition to the High School. Only a small number of students have statements of special educational needs, but about 20% of the roll require some help with their studies.

There is a wide range of extra-curricular activities. Strong Music and Drama departments stage regular concerts and theatrical productions. High standards are achieved in a wide range of sports and this is encouraged by inter-school and inter-house competitions. Bungay students have played at County level in a variety of sports. Public speaking has a strong tradition in the school and teams have been very successful in regional and national competitions.

Pastoral Care

The school is currently organised on a Year basis with each Learning Leader being supported with a Student Support Worker. The role of mentors is becoming increasingly important and individual academic target-setting is developing well. The house system supports sporting activities by

offering an increased opportunity to participate. We have an Aspiration Coach who ensures students have opportunities to access a wide range of career experience.

From 2012, the school will be organised on a House basis, with four Heads of House each being responsibly for approximately 250 students in 10 vertical tutor groups.

Staffing and Budget

There are 65 teachers in the school assisted by a strong team of administrative and support staff. Professional development of all staff is valued. The 2011 Ofsted inspection judged teaching to be at least good in more than 80% of lessons. The report stated that the quality of teaching was a major strength of the school.

The delegated budget for 2011/2012 is £4.7 million. The Governors are actively involved in the school budget management through the finance committee and additional monies are raised through bids to trusts, the LSC and sponsorship from national companies.

Parent and Community/Business Links

The school feels that ‘partnership’ between students, parents and teachers is a vital part of a successful education. The Parent Teacher Association, called ‘Friends of Bungay High’, works to foster the full co-operation and participation of parents in school life. Events are organised throughout the year for parents, students and staff. A typical programme would include social, fund-raising and educational events. Attendance is not huge but those who support the committee are very dedicated.

Links with local businesses have been enhanced through post-16 vocational courses, pre- and post-16 work experience and projects such as prize-winning developments in conjunction with the Science College.

The Governing Body

The Governing Body are the employers of staff at this school. We became an Academy on 1st August 2011. As before, members of the Governing Body play an active part in the work of the school through working parties and committees such as the pastoral and curriculum working parties and the budget-management (LMS) committee. Some governors also have individual whole-school responsibilities such as special educational needs and links with individual faculties. The Governing Body is a very supportive and active group of people who want to help the school deliver the best opportunities they can for the youth of today. We are very lucky to have such a hard working body of people.

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