

## A Brief History of Banbury School

- Banbury School as it is now came into being in its present form over 40 years ago in 1967, though its origins lie back in the Middle Ages under the reign of Henry III as the free Grammar School for 16 scholars.
- In 1893 Banbury had its first public secondary school, the Municipal Technical and Secondary School, with initially just 46 boys on roll.
- The school shield (since 1893) shows a sun in glory with the motto, 'Dominus Nobis Sol and Scutum' (The Lord is our Sun and Shield). This Borough Motto and seal dates from 1584.
- 30 years later, the school of 270 moved to the current Stanbridge building in Ruskin Road, renamed Banbury County School. But in 1940 the £30,000 building had to be rebuilt after a disastrous fire.
- 1948 saw girls being admitted for the first time.
- Other schools grew up locally: in 1950 a separate Technical School was established, the existing school becoming Banbury Grammar. Two years later Easington (secondary) Modern School was opened, taking 466 boys by 1962.
- In 1957 Easington School for Girls was opened opposite the boys' school, again with a secondary modern philosophy.
- But it was in 1967 that the four schools came together to create Banbury School: Banbury Grammar School (Stanbridge Hall), Easington Modern School (Wykham Hall), Easington Girls School (Broughton Hall) and Grimsbury School (Grimsbury Hall). Three years later Banbury School had its Sixth Form Centre.
- The first comprehensive intake to the school was in 1968, with selective intakes gradually phased out over the next five years.
- The school celebrated its centenary in 1993, when a time capsule was buried containing objects best portraying school life, and due to be unearthed in 2093. This was transferred to the grounds around New Stanbridge in 2009.
- Today Banbury School is a community of nearly 1400 students, including a Sixth Form of 300 and over 190 teaching and support staff.
- The new Sixth Form Centre building was completed in 2005 at a cost of half a million pounds.
- Students can enjoy the benefits of a large, comfortably furnished social area, a separate computer room, and a learning area which can be opened up to enlarge the common area for visiting speakers.
- Banbury School has been a specialist Humanities College since September 2007 when it also acquired Foundation status. Banbury School became a Trust School in January 2008.
- The new Stanbridge Hall, a £6 million investment, was completed in 2009.
- In September 2009, Banbury School and Dashwood Community Primary School came together in an innovative federation arrangement, where they share a governing body, remaining separate schools.

## **Access**

Banbury School is totally committed to equal access for all students through its greater inclusion of physically disabled students and students with sensory impairments, so that wherever possible their needs can be met effectively in local schools, if that is the parents' preference. To this end, we work in partnership with parents/carers and external agencies to ensure that Banbury School, including planned new buildings, is physically accessible to all, with good access to the curriculum, for students with a range of disabilities.

Banbury School values the full range of its students and continues to seek to ensure that its practices are fully inclusive and aims, within the constraints of resources, for each student to fulfil their potential. Development of the whole person is at the core of our educational programme. To this end, the Student Services staff liaise closely with parents/carers, external agencies and other relevant stakeholders in order to provide a personalised learning programme which is appropriate for each student. In addition, all teaching staff undergo training regarding improved practice in differentiation for all students, including those with disability and employ a full range of teaching and learning styles to ensure that no student is excluded from learning.

Copies of the following policies are available on request:

- Disability Inclusion
- Access to Education for Pupils with Medical Needs
- Personal Care Policy
- Equal Opportunities Policy

## Admissions

Banbury School is a Foundation and Trust School. This means that Banbury School's Governing Body is responsible for all admissions to the school. Parents of students who are in Oxfordshire primary schools in the Banbury area are given the opportunity to express a preference of secondary school in the term of Year 6 through completion of the Common Application Form (CAPF).

Should there be more applications for Banbury School than places, the following over-subscription criteria will be applied:

1. Children with a sibling already at the school.
2. Up to 10% of students selected with respect to their aptitude in drama (which will amount to up to 22 places per year group).
3. Children who have the shortest distance between home and school.
4. Children who currently attend a Banbury Partnership primary school. These include: Bishop Loveday CE School, Dashwood School, Harriers Ground CP School, Queensway School, St Leonard's CE School, St Mary's CE School, The Grange School, Hanwell Fields School, Hardwick School, Hill View School, Orchard Fields School, St John's RC School, St Joseph's RC School and William Morris School.
5. Children of newly appointed staff, after the national offer date, filling a post with a "demonstrable skills shortage for the vacant post" (School Admissions Code 2007.)

NB:

- Disabled children will be given equal consideration of a place with others under the stated criteria for admission, where the school is deemed to be accessible. The definition of disability is that contained within the Disability Discrimination Act (amended).
- Any student going on an extended holiday (more than five weeks) will be taken off Banbury School roll. Parents then requiring a place will have to reapply with all applications subject to Banbury School's over-subscription criteria.
- Choice Advice (commissioned by the LA) is available to support families who need the most help during the admissions round. Choice Advisers are available (through contacting the LA) to assist parents through the decision-making process.

In the event of being refused admission, parents have a right of appeal. Letters should be addressed to:

Clerk to the Appeal Panel  
Chief Executive's Office  
County Hall  
New Road  
Oxford OX1 1ND

Admission into the Sixth Form is by an online open application during the Spring Term before the September start. Please contact the Head of Sixth Form, Mrs Deborah Harris (direct dial: 01295 225222).

Further information on our Admissions Policy can be found on the school website [www.banbury.oxon.sch](http://www.banbury.oxon.sch)

## BANBURY SCHOOL GOVERNORS

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>
Mr A Ingham (Chair of Governors)	Trust Governor
Mr R Robinson (Vice Chair)	Trust Governor
Ms C Smith	Trust Governor
Mr G Whiting	Trust Governor
Mr H Goodman	Local Authority
Dr M Lodge	Local Authority
Mr A Barr	Community Governor
Mrs J Orton	Community Governor
Mr J Freeman	Parent Governor
Mr D Gough	Parent Governor
Mr M Gudge	Parent Governor
Miss K Robins	Parent Governor
Mr E Vikanis	Parent Governor
Mr P Wright	Parent Governor
Mrs S Nowell	Staff Governor - Banbury
Mr G Branner	Staff Governor - Banbury
Ms A Rickard	Staff Governor - Dashwood
Ms N Cummings	Staff Governor - Dashwood
Dr F Hammans (Executive Headteacher)	Staff Governor
Mrs V Russell	Clerk to Governors

## Banbury School Key Staff 2009/2010

### Leadership Team

Fiona Hammans	Principal	FBH
Scott Orchard	Operational Head	FSO
Vicki McLean	Operational Head – Dashwood	VAM
Jane Cartwright	Senior Vice Principal	JC
Mat Hunter	Senior Vice Principal	MTH
Simon Davies	Vice Principal – Curriculum	SRD
Julia Ingham	Vice Principal – School Improvement	JJI
Sharon Nicholls	Assistant Principal – Student Perspectives	STN
Peter Wilkinson	Director of Finance	PSW

### TEACHING

#### Heads of School

Lower School	Lynne Fickling	LPF
Upper School	Martyn Stowe	MDS
Sixth Form	Deborah Harris	DJH

#### Deputy Heads of School

Lower School	Simon Killen	SDK
Upper School	Stephen Reed Elisa Yanez	SAR EJY
Sixth Form	Rachel Smith John McCree	RJS JRM

#### Heads of Faculty

English & Modern Foreign Languages	Sharon Nicholls/Jane Borutan	STN/JB
Maths	Tim Jenkins	TDJ
Science	Simon Davies	SRD
Expressive Arts and Design Technology (Music, Art, Design, Technology, Drama)	Sue Parkinson	SJP
Humanities (History, Geography, Law, Government & Politics, Religious Education)	Emma Sauntson	EJS
ICT	Hywel Luff	HDL
PE & Community Sport	Karl Wade	KTW
Social Sciences (HHC, Psychology, Business, Sociology)	Yvonne Greene	YG
Student Services	Tracy Lucas	TML

#### Other Posts

School Sports Coordinator	Vicky Wallington	VLW
International Education Coordinator	Jean Smith	JES

## **SUPPORT**

### **Leads**

Data	Julia Jackman	JJ
Environment Team	Steve Smith	SS
Exams	Angie Foster	AF
Finance Director	Peter Wilkinson	PSW
ICT Support	David Boscott	DB
Learning Centre	Linda Hawkes	LH
Partnership Librarian	Frances King	FK
Specialism	Wendy Smith	WS
Training School	Sarah Robinson	SR

### **Pastoral Managers**

Year 7	Alison Hatton	
Year 8	Caroline Rouse	
Year 9	Donna Smith	
Year 10	Susan Nowell	
Year 11	Sue Newton	

### **Key Post Holders**

Lower School Office Manager	Gail Grimston	
Upper School Office Manager	Lucy Boother	
Sixth Form Curric & Admin Support Manager	Sheila Boscott	
Principal's Personal Assistant	Rachel Saunders	
Site Manager	Steve Smith	
Exams Officer	Angie Foster	
Systems Manager	Julia Jackman	
Deputy SENCO	Linda Blunt	
Internal Suspension Room Manager	Helen Gardner	
Senior Technician	Janette Hammond	
Learning Centre Manager	Linda Hawkes	
Reprographics Manager	Sandra Southam	
Enterprise & Careers Coordinator	Jo Dring	
Welfare & Attendance Manager	Elaine King	
Income Development Manager	Jane Ablett	

## Careers, Work Experience and Enterprise

***“Students contribute to the wide community in many ways including undertaking a community project in Year 10 as part of their citizenship training. A comprehensive work-related programme provides students with good economic awareness and experience of financial planning.***



***Careers guidance is effectively built into a programme of personal and social education. This provides excellent opportunities for students to make informed choices about their future education.”***

Banbury School is proud to hold the Investors in Careers Award. This is a national award, given after a rigorous assessment of the careers education and guidance provided in school.

The broad aim of Careers, Work Experience and Enterprise Education at Banbury School is for our students to:

- Develop an understanding of themselves including their abilities, potential, personal qualities, attitudes and values
- Develop a knowledge and understanding of education, training and employment opportunities available locally and nationally
- Have the opportunity to take part in practical enterprise activities on and off site and participate in a work experience placement
- Have open access to information on a broad range of careers

Careers computer programmes are networked across the school for students to access as part of their curriculum study or in the Learning Centre at break or lunch times and after school. All students have access to the careers library in the Learning Centre.

A one week work experience placement is compulsory part of the curriculum for all Year 10 and Year 12 students. This forms an important part of the students' work-related and enterprise learning and is greatly valued by both students and the work experience providers.

The school also has very strong links with the local business community which contributes to our enterprise programme through a variety of school based or employer-based activities. Year 9 take part in an enterprise day in the summer term.

## **Training School**

Banbury School has been a Training School since 2000 and we have developed an enviable reputation for the support and training we offer staff at all levels. After being assessed against a number of rigorous criteria we were re-designated in 2007 and are the only Humanities College and Training School in Oxfordshire. For the last five years we have linked up with six universities as part of a Government-sponsored scheme to provide placements for trainee teachers. Last year we trained 30 teachers in a whole range of subjects. There are benefits for Banbury School too, as it encourages even the most experienced teachers to look for fresh inspiration.

Teachers in their first year at Banbury School meet up with newly qualified teachers from other local secondary schools to swap stories and share tips.

We host student undergraduates with an interest in becoming teachers, who can offer advice and encouragement to Banbury School students thinking about further education. We also have many visitors from home and abroad who have an interest in finding out first-hand about working in a busy and forward-thinking urban comprehensive school.

## **Homework**

Homework is an essential and integral part of the curriculum, planned alongside all programmes of learning. We believe that homework is necessary to:

- Consolidate and reinforce the skills developed in lessons, to extend the scope of learning and thus to raise standards.
- Develop students' self-discipline, initiative, confidence, motivation, research and study skills and other skills essential for future employment and economic well-being.
- Help students become independent, autonomous, motivated learners prepared for lifelong learning.

There are many possible types of homework, which may include:

- preparation
- learning or revision
- worksheets or exercises from worksheets
- reading ahead
- writing
- collecting things
- drawing
- research or finding out
- project work
- discussion or interview
- rehearsing or practising something.

Homework is set in accordance with a published homework timetable and recorded in students' planners which should be signed weekly by parents. Parental support regarding the students' completion of homework is encouraged and very much appreciated.

## **The Learning Centre**

The Learning Centre is a hive of activity, sited in the Sixth Form Centre at the heart of the Banbury School campus. With over 17,000 books and 21 networked computers with internet access, there is a huge amount of information available to be accessed by all students in our school.

As well as the many non-fiction books there are 4000 resources in the reading area, stocked with classics, audio cassettes, videos, newspapers, periodicals and popular fiction including the latest titles by favourite authors. The library staff work hard to cater for a wide range of readership from Year 7 to adult. The Learning Centre is open from 8.15 am to 5.00 pm every day, staffed by the Learning Centre Manager and her team. The team includes student assistants who can train from Year 7 to help other students use the Learning Centre and issue books.

There is an After-School Homework Club open to everyone with staff on hand to help and advise.

## Looking after our students



*“Any incidents of bullying are dealt with **swiftly**. Students willingly take on responsibility. Relationships between teachers and students contribute **strongly** to achievement.”*

Improving students' learning and achievement is a core purpose of Banbury School. The school is organised to help each student achieve his or her personal best:

- Each student has a **Tutor** who monitors academic and personal development across subjects
- Each Year Group is overseen by a **Head of School (supported by a deputy/ies)** who is in charge of making sure that every student reaches his or her potential and a **Pastoral Manager** who is in charge of day to day student welfare
- Subject teachers report on individual students on a termly basis. Parents are kept regularly informed about their child's academic progress, homework and behaviour.

A Senior Vice Principal oversees the work of the three Heads of School (Lower, Upper and Sixth Form) and their deputies, the Pastoral Managers and tutors.

Banbury School enjoys working in partnership with parents to promote students' chances of success. Supported by the work of Student Services, the 'pastoral' team monitors every individual in the school and helps them to become highly achieving and rounded citizens. Led by their tutors, all Banbury School students in Years 7 to 11 follow *The Banbury Way*. This programme is designed to help students develop their ability to learn effectively as well as creating a unique ethos and aim for each individual year group. These are as follows:

### Year 7 – **Belonging to Banbury School**

Respecting myself...others and the environment

### Year 8 – **Broadening Understanding**

Thinking for myself...and showing what I have learnt

### Year 9 – **Extending Knowledge**

Knowing myself...and how I can I improve

### Year 10 – **Developing Skills**

Planning for myself...and organising my time

### Year 11 – **Looking Back and Going Forward**

Achieving myself...doing the very best I can

## Rewards and Sanctions

### Rewards

Non-verbal praise

Verbal praise

House points

Commendations

Certificates

Letters home

Awards Evening

### Sanctions

Word of warning

Moved in room/sent out of room

Brief discussion at end of lesson

Discussion at break/lunchtime

Detention after school and parents contacted

Seen by Senior Staff

Serious sanction involving senior staff

## Primary Links

### Buddying

***“Provision starts well before students join the school through a buddy system between Year 10 students and Year 6 pupils in the primary schools.”***



Banbury School recognises that moving from primary to secondary education is a key stage in a student's career so we aim to make the transition as smooth as possible.

Our unique buddying programme links Year 6 pupils with Year 10 students. The programme takes place over five weeks of the summer term, beginning with a training day for Banbury School students to learn how they can help the newcomers feel at home. They learn all about the importance of teamwork and how to help those from Year 6 make the leap from primary to secondary.

The Banbury School buddies make five weekly after-school visits to our local primary schools. During this programme the pupils from the primary schools learn who's who at Banbury School, who can help them, how to find their way around, how to organise themselves and about the facilities that are available.

### Induction Week

Induction Week is another way that we welcome Year 6 to Banbury School. All pupils given a place in Banbury School for Year 7 are invited to spend the final week of the summer term with us.

On the first day of Induction Week, Year 6 primary pupils are the only ones in school. They can get around the campus at their own pace and get to know their tutors and tutor groups. They spend time together and develop friendships. A key part of the week is working through an activities booklet, *“The Big School Book”*, prepares them for school in September.

At the end of the week the pupils fill in a questionnaire about their experiences and Banbury School is delighted to report that the overwhelming majority agree that they are confident about finding their way around and that they have settled well with their new tutor groups.

### Sporting links

Banbury School students coach primary school pupils in a range of activities from soccer and hockey to PE and dance through The Sports Coordinator Programme. The older students develop their own leadership skills, through helping to run cross-phase football and hockey festivals.

# **SCHOOL TERM & HOLIDAY DATES 2009 - 2010**

## **Term One**

- Staff Training Day (Students not in school): Tuesday 1 September
- Wednesday 2 September: Tutor/Student/Parent (TSP) day – students and parents attend a start-of-year interview
- Thursday 3 September (8.50am) – Thursday 22 October (3.05pm)
- Staff Training Day (Students not in school): Friday 2 October
- Autumn Holiday: Friday 23 October – Friday 30 October

## **Term Two**

- Monday 2 November (8.50am) – Thursday 17 December (3.05pm)
- Staff Training Days (Students not in school): Friday 27 November and Friday 18 December
- Christmas Holiday: Monday 21 December – Friday 1 January

## **Term Three**

- Staff Training Day (Students not in school): Monday 4 January
- Tuesday 5 January (8.50am) – Friday 12 February (3.05pm)
- Early Spring Holiday: Monday 15 February – Friday 19 February

## **Term Four**

- Monday 22 February (8.50am) – Thursday 1 April (3.05pm)
- Easter Holiday – Friday 2 April – Friday 16 April

## **Term Five**

- Monday 19 April (8.50am) – Friday 28 May (3.05pm)
- School closed Monday 3 May – May Day Bank Holiday
- Late Spring Holiday: Monday 31 May – Friday 4 June

## **Term Six**

- Monday 7 June (8.50am) – Thursday 22 July (3.05pm)
- Summer Holiday: Friday 23 July – Monday 31 August

## **Teacher Training Days – students not in school:**

- 1 September 2009
- 2 October 2009
- 27 November 2009
- 18 December 2009
- 4 January 2010

## Banbury School Sixth Form

***“The school will go to almost any lengths in order to ensure that its students are able to study their chosen subjects. Sixth Form leaders and managers have a clear vision and a commitment to continual improvement. Sixth Form students provide first-rate support for younger students to the wider community.”***



The Sixth Form at Banbury School caters for most post-sixteen students in the Banbury area and is very successful. The Sixth Form has students who attended Banbury School, Warriner School, North Oxfordshire Academy and Blessed George Napier School, as well as students from further afield. Since 1893, Banbury School has been preparing students for university, a tradition the Sixth Form continues.

Courses are offered at AS/A2, (A Level), Advanced Extension Awards, Applied A Levels, BTEC Vocational courses and GCSE.

In Year 12 students follow a programme which includes enrichment, community service, careers advice and work experience.

All students take part in a daily tutor programme. We also have Conference Days dedicated to Higher Education and ethical and moral topics.

## School Uniform

Banbury School expects all of its students to be smartly and safely dressed.

### **BOYS & GIRLS**

Black blazer with embroidered red school logo with:-

Either:

1. White shirt with school tie
2. Black v-neck jumper
3. Black "school" trousers or skirt
4. Black "school" shoes or boots

Or:

- Black Shalwar Khameez
- Black Scarf
- Black "school" shoes or boots

Additional points:

- Black v-neck jumper may also be worn but must not be instead of the blazer
- Shirts must be able to be buttoned to the neck
- Jeans, jean-like trousers, heavy cotton trousers, "chinos" or any other casual trousers are not acceptable
- Trousers must always be worn over boots
- If socks are visible, they must be plain black or white
- Extremes of fashion footwear are not allowed due to the spread out nature of the site and health and safety considerations
- Trainers are not acceptable except for PE
- No piercings are allowed, other than a pair of earring studs. Please note that these will need to be removed for PE and Technology
- A wristwatch and one ring are the only other jewellery allowed
- Extremes of fashion in hair styles and hair colours, and make-up are not accepted

The school blazer and tie are available from Cross Embroidery and Sew Sublime, but all other items can be bought from any retailer (as well as these two companies).

### Sports Kit

#### **KS3 - BOYS & GIRLS**

- Banbury School Rugby shirt (winter)
- Navy sports shorts
- Navy football socks
- Towel (optional)
- Football boots
- Trainers
- Shin Pads
- Red collared T-shirt (summer)
- Plain navy jogging bottoms.

#### **KS4 – BOYS AND GIRLS**

- Optional GCSE/BTEC collared T-shirt
- \*Optional red fitted poloshirt with school logo and initials (girls)
- \*Optional Banbury School black fleece with school logo and initials
- Banbury School rugby shirt (winter)
- Red collared T-shirt (boys – summer)
- Navy sports shorts
- Plain navy jogging bottoms

- Navy sports socks
- Towel (optional)
- Football boots
- Trainers
- Shin pads

\* Will need to be ordered at Cross Embroidery

NB: Boys and Girls - Trainers and clothes used for PE **MUST NOT** be worn for general school use.

### **Naming of Clothing**

We encourage parents to name all items of clothing with sewn-in name tags or indelible pen.

#### **Please note:**

Banbury School fully endorses the principle that the school's uniform should be affordable for everyone, ensuring that no student or family is socially excluded through inability to buy. Accordingly, the majority of the uniform can be bought 'off the peg' from any high street outlet or supermarket; the only items which need to be purchased from local specialist suppliers, Cross Embroidery or Sew Sublime, being the blazer and tie. The blazer is competitively priced, retailing at around a similar cost to those available from high street outlets and supermarkets (but without the required school badge).

Banbury School is committed to an annual appraisal of the uniform's cost in order to ensure that it continues to be affordable for everyone.

We retain the right to send students home, if not in full school uniform, to return immediately in full uniform.

The Principal, on behalf of the Governing Body, will make the final decision regarding what is permissible in school.

## Special Educational Needs 'Student Services'



***“Care, guidance and support for students are outstanding.”***

The Student Services team co-ordinates the support and learning interventions of students with special educational needs. Ofsted recognised in their 2007 inspection of the school that SEN provision is a strength of Banbury School, with 'care, guidance and support' rated as 'outstanding'. This was previously highlighted by the county's SEN Audit in February 2006 which concluded that many aspects of our current provision are "notably very strong". However, such recognition has not made us complacent and we continue to review and renew the support programmes which we offer to students.

The Student Services staff together with Key Stage 3 and 4 and Post 16 Coordinators (SENCOs), are proactive in identifying students who need to receive additional support in order to access the curriculum. Of the 360 students who are currently on the SEN register, 24 have statements of special educational needs. Our dyslexia screening and assessment process has identified 64 students with dyslexia, who receive support and/or examination Concessions, as appropriate.

Annually we are allocated additional money to provide extra provision for students with moderate learning difficulties. Led by a behaviour specialist teacher we have established a number of dedicated rooms for Key Stage 3 intervention programmes, which are both welcoming and well resourced. At Key Stage 4, students have the opportunity to attend college or work experience for one day a week and alternative programmes include Home Economics, Digital Photography, Key Skills and Construction.

Our Home Tutors provide individual tuition for students who are suffering from long-term medical illness or who are unable to access the curriculum for other reasons.

Qualified School Counsellors continue to run individual programmes of support for our students across the age range and the Attendance Team works actively with students who need support in regularly attending school. The E-motivate programme has been established to target students needing to develop social skills and improve self-esteem.

We continue to extend our working relationships with external agencies, notably the Ethnic Minority Achievement Service (EMAS) and Connexions who are working directly with students in school.

Other external agencies with whom we work in partnership include:

- The Educational Psychology Service
- Educational Social Welfare Service
- Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS)
- Young Carers
- Sensory Impairment Service
- Advisory Service for the Education of Travellers (ASET)
- Youth Service
- School Nurse Service

Banbury School's updated policy on Special Educational Needs, which is in line with the Local Authority's guidelines, is available on request.

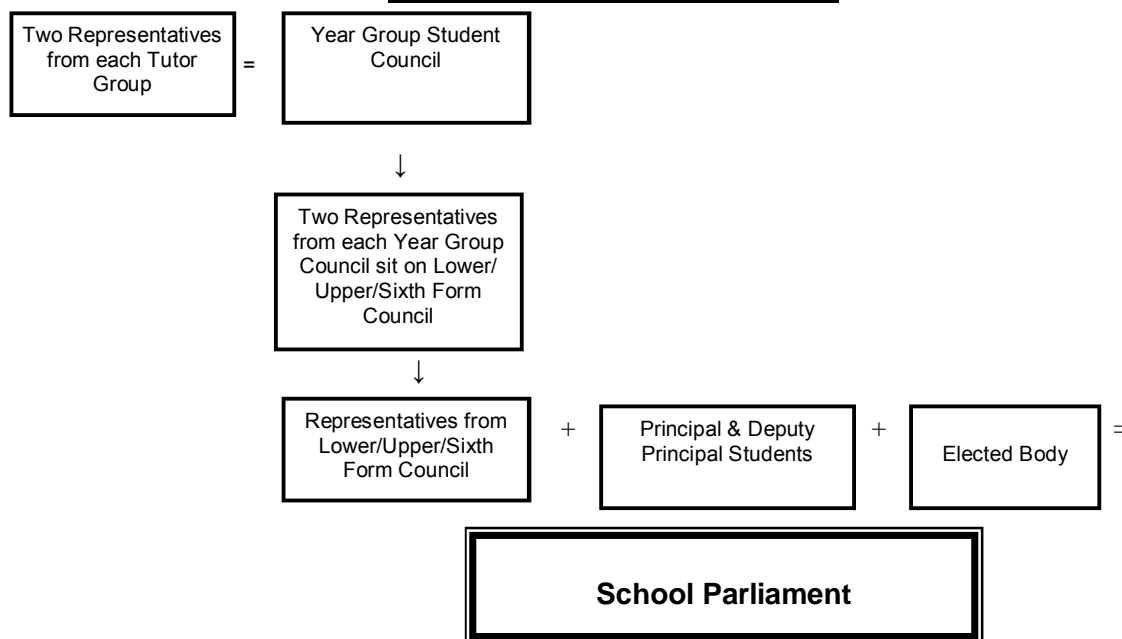
## Listening to our students

***“The School Council raises issues with staff that are of importance to their peers. The school reacts positively to many of these issues.”***



Banbury School is very keen to hear and listen to what the students have to say. We do this in many ways and aim to ensure that the views of the full student body are represented at various points in the academic year. Some of the ways in which students “have their say” include:

### Student Council and School Parliament



All students sitting on Council in Parliament are elected by the Student Body. Meetings take place regularly through the year and students discuss and reach decisions on many issues including those relating to:

- Be healthy
- Stay safe
- Enjoy and achieve
- Make a positive contribution
- Achieve economic well being

**Principal Students** - each key stage has two Principal Students and two Deputy Principal Students. Students know who they are and are able to let them know their views which can then be discussed.

**Student Attitude Survey** - 50% of the school's students complete an annual survey in October about all aspects of school life.

**Student Tracking Groups** - a member of the school's Leadership Team meets regularly on a formal basis with groups of students from each year group in order to gather their views.

**Student Subject Surveys** - Representative groups of students are asked to comment on the quality of teaching and learning in subjects on a cyclical basis.

**Course Evaluations/Questionnaires** - Staff regularly ask students to comment on delivery and content of lessons across subjects and age ranges.

**Induction Week/End of Year 11 surveys** - Students are asked to comment on other aspects of school life including the way in which they have been supported by staff at various stages.

Students are also able to offer their views through various meeting points throughout the academic year. These include:

Tutor Student Parent (TSP) day  
 Parents' Evenings  
 Mentoring  
 Tutor Times  
 SEN Review Meetings

Most importantly, student views are often acted upon. Where dissatisfaction has been identified, students' views are fed into the school's Annual Action Plan.

## The Curriculum

***“The curriculum is good and meets the needs of all students.  
Attendance is good and students enjoy their learning.”***



At Banbury School we aim to provide a curriculum that:

- gives opportunities for all students to learn and to achieve
- promotes students' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development
- prepares all students for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life.

### **Our curriculum objectives**

To achieve these aims we recognise that students have an entitlement to:

- The statutory requirements of the National Curriculum at Key Stage 3 (Years 7 and 8) and Key Stage 4 (Years 9, 10 and 11)
- A broad and balanced range of courses from Key Stage 3 onwards
- Feedback on progress, reports to parents and advice on targets
- Personal, social and health education including careers and work related learning, citizenship, enterprise and sex education
- Learning support, mentoring and careers advice

Our curricular aims and objectives are delivered through seven faculties:

English & MFL

Maths

Science

Expressive Arts and DT

Humanities

PPE (Physical and Personal Education)

Social Sciences

In addition, we encourage our students to participate in a range of extra-curricular opportunities which will support their learning.

### **Teaching times**

The school day starts with a 15 minute tutor time or assembly at 8.50 am and finishes at 3.05 pm.

The timings of the school day are as follows:

Tutor Time	08.50 am	-	09.05 am
Period 1	09.05 am	-	10.05 am
Period 2	10.05 am	-	11.05 am
Break	11.05 am	-	11.25 am
Period 3	11.25 am	-	12.25 pm
Period 4	12.25 pm	-	1.25 pm
Lunch	1.25 pm	-	2.05 pm
Period 5	2.05 pm	-	3.05 pm

There is a total of 25 hours of teaching each week.

## **Educational Visits**

Throughout the year, educational visits are organised to enhance our students' experience.

These are often linked with curriculum courses and include:

- Yr 10 business studies trip to Cadbury World
- Yr 11,12 and 13 business studies trip to Enterprise Conference in London
- Yr 12/13 business studies trip to Cadbury World
- Yr 12/13 Psychology conference in London
- Health and Social Care to Horton Hospital
- Clothes Show trip to the NEC for textile students
- Theatre Workshops and Performances
- Imperial War Museum
- Backstage Theatre tour
- London over night Musical Theatre Experience
- Yr 8 English visit to Warwick Castle
- Geography Field Trips

Parents can be assured that we comply with national and local safety requirements. Educational visits are always documented, insured and staffed in accordance with legally required procedures.

## **Meeting the needs of our Gifted and Talented students**

At Banbury School we recognise that all students have a right to a challenging experience, including those who have a talent or ability in one or more areas. We look beyond cultural, academic and behavioural boundaries and adopt the widest possible view of what it means to be able. We also endeavour to seek out those who are underachieving and those who have potential but are held back by their situation, as well as those who are already heading for success.

Gifted and talented students are identified by a variety of means, and their names added to an regularly up-dated register, to which all our staff have access. Extension and enrichment courses are offered, in addition to subject work and extra curricular activities, as appropriate. The school's Gifted and Talented Coordinator liaises with individual curriculum areas in identification and provision for able students and to arrange enrichment opportunities.

Our most able students are nominated for membership of the prestigious Young, Gifted and Talented Academy. These students (whose eligibility numbers them amongst the top 5% in the country) have access to a huge variety of country-wide activities and events for the gifted and talented. Each year Banbury School runs a special "Gifted and Talented Week", during which the most able students from Years 7 to 10 work together on a series of extremely challenging tasks.

A copy of Banbury School's policy for Gifted and Talented students is available on request.