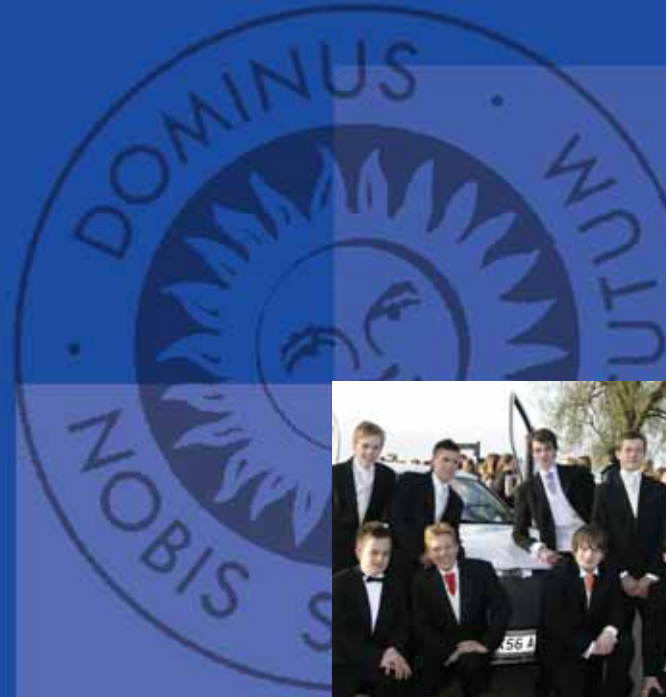


BANBURY SCHOOL

A Specialist Humanities College and Training School



From the Principal of Banbury School, Dr Fiona Hammans

I am very pleased to offer you a warm welcome to Banbury School. We are all very proud of our school, but our real pride is in our students and their achievements.

The recent (2007) Ofsted inspection judged us *"good with outstanding care, guidance and support."* Our students – your children, current and prospective – come to a community that works very hard to give each individual the best possible chance for success. Of course we want our students to get the best exam results possible, but we also want them to be confident, healthy and happy young people when they leave, able to make real choices about their future and contribute to work and society.

Banbury School has a very hard-working and enthusiastic staff, a large 14-acre campus with three huge playing fields and good sports facilities. Following a £2.5 million new build in 2002, a further £6 million project of a state-of-the art 26 classroom building started in summer 2007. By 2008 our site and facilities will, without doubt, be the best in the area.

From September 2007 Banbury School is a specialist humanities college and training school – the only school in the region to have two specialisms.

We see this as a bright new time for the school, and from 2007 our students will be wearing a smart new uniform, heralding the changes and setting the tone for our future.

I hope that this prospectus will begin to answer some of your questions, and we will be pleased to see you on our Open Evenings.



Dr Fiona Hammans





Our aims and values

Banbury School is an exciting place in which to learn. We aim for our students to be independent learners, well prepared to take full advantage of the challenges in the world of work or further study and to continue to enjoy learning for the rest of their lives.

We value high achievement and celebrate success, enabling students to take responsibility for their behaviour and in their relationships with others. We take pride in the quality of education and broad range of extra-curricular opportunities we provide. We enjoy a high reputation for the quality of care we offer and the excellent relationships within our school community.

We work in partnership with all of our students and their parents, in the belief that education is about developing and valuing each person in the school. We work hard to match academic challenge and support according to the individual needs of our students.



Banbury School's facilities include:

- A 14 acre campus
- Very well equipped and resourced Learning Centre
- 14 fully equipped specialist computer rooms
- 280 computers for students to use
- Sports fields
- Sports hall
- Two gymnasias
- Astro turf
- Dance studio
- Drama studio
- 15 specialist science laboratories
- Suite of seven technology rooms
- Three food technology rooms

"Banbury School has a great atmosphere, and although I was shy when I first came, I have made lots of friends."

Curriculum

At Key Stage 3 students are offered a broad and balanced curriculum of English, maths, science, design and technology, ICT, history, geography, languages, art, drama, music, PE, RE, HHC – which includes personal, social and health education, citizenship, careers education.

At Key Stage 4 we have a number of 'pathways' providing differentiated and 'personalised' curriculum packages for our different groups of students.

In the Sixth Form, we offer a wide variety of A level and vocational courses.

Whatever their needs at Banbury School we offer our students an enjoyable curriculum that prepares them for work, further study and adult life.

"We get quality teaching and opportunities for personal development. E-tracking gives us the chance to have a personal talk about school to a teacher."



Keeping track of your child's progress

Every term, teachers assess their students' performance in their individual subjects, their behaviour and their homework. These 'WAGs' (Working at Grades) are sent home to inform parents. Students themselves track their progress against their target grades which are set at the beginning of the year. Ofsted says: *"There is an outstanding system of assessment, data collection, target setting and review. The excellent monitoring of the progress of students ensures that all achieve well."*

Teachers analyse the 'WAGs' carefully, in order to praise those working particularly well, and to identify those who are falling behind. We also send full written reports home annually.

Banbury School is the only school in Oxfordshire to gain Humanities College specialism, with a second specialism in Training. Specialist schools usually have one area of excellence, such as science, sport or the arts, and they receive extra funding.

We will be helping all of our students gain better skills and higher qualifications for employment, through focussing on English, Drama, citizenship and numeracy.

Student Services Supporting Special Educational Needs

We believe that each student has individual and unique needs. However, some students require more support than others. A student may have a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of students of the same age, or a disability that makes it hard to access our facilities. Some students may only need a little extra support for a short period to help overcome more temporary needs.

Student Services is at the heart of our school, helping all students, whatever their need, to achieve their best. Our specialist team devotes its energy to finding the best ways of supporting student learning and welfare.

Vocational courses help our students prepare for life in the real world when they leave us. We are a multicultural community celebrating the 14 languages spoken by staff and students, from Polish to Portuguese, from Urdu to Afrikaans.

Students are welcome to pop in for toast and cereal each morning at 'Breakfast Club.' 'Lunchtime Drop-in' is another busy club, offering a quiet haven to play board games and or just a chat.

Also proving popular are E-Motivate groups, helping students grow in confidence and get on with others. School Counsellors are always on hand at Banbury School to offer advice, or just to listen.

"My teachers always offer extra exam support and preparation, helping me to concentrate and succeed."

School Uniform

Banbury School expects all students to be smartly dressed in the correct uniform. Excesses of fashion in hair and clothing styles are unacceptable and jewellery is not permitted.

Reading for pleasure

Banbury School believes reading is one of the most powerful and enjoyable ways of changing lives and we are always finding new ways to encourage our students to read.

There is a termly newsletter with details of all new books and activities within the Learning Centre. At lunchtime the younger students can listen to staff reading from their favourite children's books.



"Design and technology is a real strength of Banbury School, with a specially equipped classroom block, a wide range of tools for woodwork and special graphics tables. Our teachers are keen to help us learn and improve, by encouraging us to analyse work and make it look smarter."



Gifted and Talented

Banbury School is proud to have a truly comprehensive mix of students, amongst whom are some of the most able students in the Banbury area. More than four hundred students (from years 7 to 13) are listed on our Gifted and Talented register, for having exceptional ability in the full range of curriculum subjects. Opportunities for our Gifted and Talented students include extension activities in the classroom, Advanced Extension Awards in English and Maths in the 6th Form, visits to Oxford University for our most able year 9 mathematicians, and a science-based 'University Challenge.'



Our most able students are enrolled in the National Academy of Gifted and Talented Youth (NAGTY, an honour open only to the top 5% of students country-wide) and enjoy a week-long enrichment programme in the summer term.



"What I love the most about Banbury School is the friendliness of both students and teachers, and their willingness to support each other. There is always an activity to get involved with. For example, we raise money for charities, many people contributing to the cause and helping organise events."

"I have developed the confidence to join a School Action Group, which encourages everyone to keep the environment tidy."

Out and about with Banbury School

At Banbury School we strongly believe in the value of offsite and outdoor education for all. Some of these, such as geography and biology field trips are linked directly to the curriculum. Some enable students to experience the culture of France or Germany, some reward good behaviour and extra effort. Students can go to science, humanities, English and language conferences to enhance their examination results and make visits to art galleries and museums, and cathedrals and castles. Other opportunities involve residential or camping experiences: working towards Gold, Silver or Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Awards.

We put a lot of time and effort into organising a safe and successful educational visit. But the rewards are huge. We see students grow in confidence, developing into young adults with a much greater appreciation of the wider world.

Banbury Sixth Form is "a vibrant place to study"

Banbury School Sixth Form is "a successful, vibrant place to study". Ofsted 2007 says: "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."

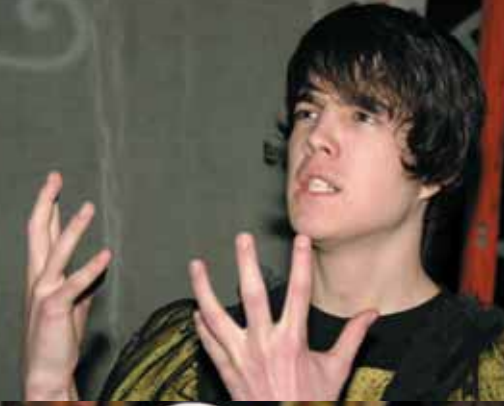
The success of the Sixth Form is demonstrated both by excellent examination results which improve year on year, and the Higher Education and Careers destinations of our students. We offer a wide variety of A Level and vocational courses with friendly well qualified staff and a strong tutorial system.

The impressive new wing of the Sixth Form Centre was officially opened in 2005. The outstanding new facilities available include a state-of-the-art, dedicated ICT suite, a common room area including a widescreen plasma television and a quiet study area equipped with a Higher Education and Careers section for students' use.

Students engage in a variety of activities alongside their academic courses including World Challenge Expeditions, Young Enterprise, Duke of Edinburgh and many sporting activities. They also commit themselves to community activities, developing skills in working with others at the same time as benefiting the community in which they live.

Ofsted adds: "Success is a result of good teaching and high quality care, guidance and support. High retention rates reflect students' commitment and many other students choose to join from elsewhere. Examination results have shown maintained improvement at the higher grades over recent years".

Students from all over the district decide to study at Banbury School Sixth Form because of its reputation for excellence and the continued academic successes of the students.



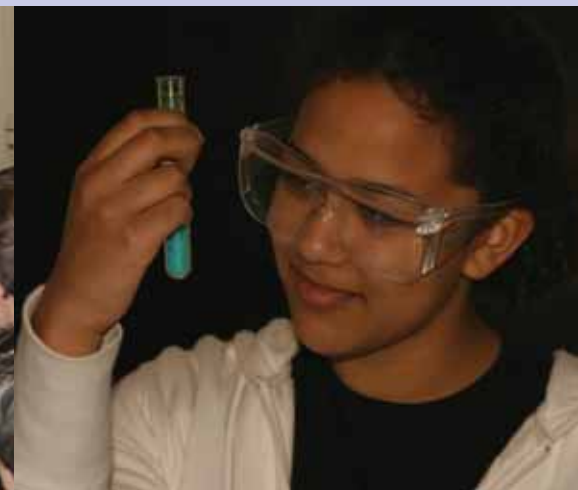
Clubs

Banbury School runs over 100 extra-curricular clubs during the course of the school year. Whether students are interested in PE, music, chess, Warhammer, gardening, film direction, humanities, Masterchef, drama or writing or more traditional sports and PE, there is something for everyone.

International Schools Award

Banbury School is proud to be a leading International School. We have been recognised for our work on the Young Persons' Commission for Africa, our links with Hennef in Germany, our multicultural celebrations and our key role in the Banbury Education Centre (Kashmir) Project. We are now forging close links with schools in central Sweden, with visits in the pipeline for staff and students to learn about each other's culture and traditions.

The Award, made by the British Council and DfES, represents the 'gold standard' of international work, recognising schools with strong and lasting international links and curriculum content.



Arts Mark

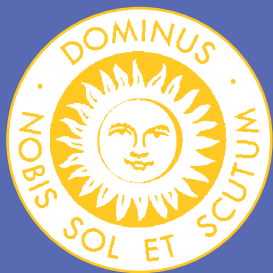
We are privileged to have received the Arts Mark Silver Award in recognition of the school's outstanding commitment to the Arts. This award celebrates the excellent work students produce in this area.

"All my secondary schooling has been at Banbury School, and I made a deliberate choice to stay on here in the Sixth Form. I have been given every opportunity to gain academic success, and to become a rounded individual."

Sportsmark Gold

Banbury School has achieved The Sportsmark Gold Extension Award. The school has been proud of its Sportsmark Gold status for the past four years, and has been awarded this "extension" because of our promotion of the benefits of sport and physical activity.

This significant award recognises the fact that we work extremely hard at Banbury School to provide our students with a range of sporting activities both in and out of school hours.



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All facts contained in this prospectus are correct at the time of publication.
 If you have need of any other help please do not hesitate to contact us.

Principal Dr Fiona Hammans PhD, BSc, NPQH