



# COLYTON GRAMMAR SCHOOL



**EXPECTATION, EXCELLENCE, ENJOYMENT**



## HEAD'S WELCOME



I am delighted to welcome you to the prospectus for Colyton Grammar School. In 1546 our school was established “for the goodly and virtuous education of children forever”. Today, Colyton Grammar School continues to be a non-fee paying, high performing school for academically able boys and girls. Our goal is to create excellence through intellectual curiosity and creativity and to enable our students to thrive as they take their next steps into the world of university and the workplace. Our values and mission have not really altered from those of our Tudor founders in that we want our young men and women to be people of great principle, integrity and character who are equipped to become the future leaders of their community.

The School has a reputation for academic success and the overwhelming majority of our students progress to the most highly selective universities and places of learning in the UK including Oxford, Cambridge and the Royal College of Music. Our success is built on high expectations, hard work and the fact that we are an inclusive school built on meritocracy. We are a school for every academically able child regardless of social-economic background, ethnicity or gender.

Learning is at the heart of our community and through our outstanding teachers and support staff we nurture a hunger for knowledge and

understanding in our learners. We are not satisfied with academic excellence alone but expect our students to make a serious contribution to the extra-curricular programme that is on offer at the school; from success on the sporting field to the delight of winning the National Bar Mock Trial competition. We place significant emphasis on developing the knowledge, skills, principles and values our students need in the 21st Century.

As Headteacher of Colyton Grammar School and also as a teacher of History, I believe that it is important to respect the past, to celebrate the present and to influence the future positively. Our curriculum has always been focused on challenge; on developing the whole person while maintaining rigorous academic and traditional values. Expectations are high and our aim is to be the best school in the country.

I am extremely proud and privileged to be the Headteacher of this great school in the heart of the South West. I hope that you find this prospectus informative and we are happy to welcome visitors to the School.

Mr T Harris, Headteacher

## OUR SCHOOL HISTORY

The school owes its foundation to the public spirited work of a group of local citizens who purchased the freehold of land in Colyton from the Crown in 1546. The Chamber of Feoffees, as this group became known, received recognition in a Royal Charter of Henry VIII, and their first charitable act was to endow a Grammar School ‘for the goodly and virtuous education of children in Colyton forever’.

The school’s first home was a room over the porch of the parish church of St Andrew. Later the Feoffees hired a room in the town. In 1612, the school moved to Church House, which had been enlarged by having another story built onto it.

The first Headteacher on record was William Hull, who came to the school in 1603, at a stipend of £5 a year.

In 1927, the school moved to purpose-built premises on its present day site, in the nearby village of Colyford, one mile from its original home in the centre of Colyton.

G J Gosling, a former student, vividly captured two very significant characteristics of the school when writing its short history, published by the Old Colytonians Association in 1978: its survival over the reign of twenty monarchs and the tradition it has established of excellence in education which was the original vision of the founding Feoffees.



St. Andrews Church, Colyton

To write a book about a school that has been in existence for over four centuries, has had four homes, known twenty of our monarchs, all our Prime Ministers, has been through countless wars, two of them global, yet throughout the changes down the centuries has continued to send its children out into and around the world the better equipped to face it because of having been there, is no easy task, and could not have been undertaken lightly.

It has not been so. Colyton Grammar School has done its best for its children. If this child has done his best for the School with this history, it is because of his having been there.

G J GOSLING



## SUPPORTING OUR STUDENTS

Our aim is to provide a secure, happy and stimulating environment in which students can flourish to become independent learners and confident young adults.

Meeting individual needs means knowing each student as an individual and with just one hundred and fifty five students in each year group, the school has a strong sense of community.

Each student is linked to one of five Houses - Ash, Beech, Cedar, Elm and Oak. In the main school, the form tutor is attached to the same House and many extra-curricular activities and events linked with the House system help to build strong bonds and identity.



*Staff at Colyton Grammar School really know their students well and they provide outstanding care, guidance and support for them.*

OFSTED

## HELPING OUR STUDENTS EXCEL

Tutors and subject staff carefully monitor the progress of each individual.

Guidance and support is targeted to meet individual and academic needs. Student Support Co-ordinators provide one to one mentoring for the small number of students who would benefit from it.

## OUR CAMPUS

The school has an attractive campus. As well as being committed to providing the best possible educational facilities, the Board of Trustees also believe that students benefit from an environment which is aesthetically pleasing. The students' response is seen in an absence of litter or damage.

Over the next 12 months the school is set to improve the site even further with a planned expansion and refurbishment programme.





## SPORTS

Students enjoy extensive playing fields, a flood-lit all-weather pitch, purpose built netball courts and a sports hall. These excellent facilities allow students to make the most of activities from across the whole sports spectrum.

## SCIENCE AND ARTS

Major building programmes have ensured excellent provision in all areas of the curriculum ranging from Science through to performing and expressive arts.

Digital learning provision is excellent. The school enjoys a site wide wireless system, and teaching and learning is supported by the use of one-to-one devices.

The school has a dedicated language block, video conferencing area and purpose built Music Centre.

The laboratories at the school, have been recently refurbished to a very high standard.

All classrooms have interactive whiteboards or digital screens.

Our Art Centre provides beautifully designed studios, with plentiful natural light and air conditioning.



## LIBRARY AND RESOURCES

There is a significant investment in Library facilities to promote the development of independent study and learning. The Library is comprehensively stocked to support all curriculum subjects, as well as to promote reading for pleasure. Stock includes books, magazines, periodicals, newspapers and audio visual resources.

The school has access to a wealth of digital academic resources such as JSTOR.



*There are so many fun activities in and out of lessons  
- every minute is memorable.*



**STUDENT**



## LINKS WITH PRIMARY SCHOOLS AND PARENTS

The school has excellent links with primary schools. Children are usually visited at their primary school in the summer term preceding transfer and, soon after, spend a full day with us.

The early part of the tutorial programme ensures that children quickly make new friends and settle into secondary education. This includes team building at an adventure centre, which for many is the highlight of Year 7.

The close partnership with parents is a vital element in the achievement of our students. Parents will receive three progress reports each

year covering all subjects together with a progress review meeting.

At the end of each Key Stage there are additional meetings to help parents support the decisions their child will make about choices for the next stage in their education.

Weekly newsletters, Parent Apps, a regularly updated website and emails keep parents fully informed about the many different aspects of school life. The school is delighted to also have a thriving and very active Parents' Association.



*High expectations are the norm and students respond with determination and pride in what they do.*



OFSTED



## ACADEMIC PROGRESS

The National Curriculum is designed for the full ability range. Students at Colyton comfortably complete Key Stage 3 in two years (Years 7 and 8). This means that they gain a greater breadth and depth during the exam years. Our GCSE courses are taught over three years (Years 9, 10 and 11) and our Year 12 and 13 students follow a focused two year Sixth Form programme.

Latest figures from the Department for Education (DfE) show that Colyton Grammar School is the best performing co-educational secondary school in England, and the highest scoring school in the South West - Devon, Cornwall, Somerset and Dorset.

We achieved a Progress 8 score of 1.01 placing the school in the top 1% of secondary schools in the country.

Progress 8 benchmark is a DfE accountability measure that is used to gauge the level of progress from Year 6 to Year 11. We add over one grade to every student - EXPECTATION, EXCELLENCE, ENJOYMENT.

Our students are prepared for their next steps at University and the work place.

Colyton Grammar School is constantly in the top ten schools with students progressing to Oxbridge and the most selective universities.

There is a strong emphasis on equipping students to become independent learners through teaching study and critical thinking skills. This investment not only results in high academic performance but also prepares students for the demands of Higher Education.

Lessons and assessments are planned to provide stimulating challenge for all. The school has a national reputation for its 'Gifted and Talented' provision.





“  
*I joined the school in the sixth form.  
Colyton is very open to students. There  
is acceptance.*  
”

STUDENT



## Careers

Careers is provided throughout the school supported by independent careers advisors.

Students attend 'Inspire' lectures (a programme of vibrant and stimulating talks by inspirational speakers).

Students undertake Work Experience placements in Years 11 and 12.

Tutorial activities link with universities, including residential visits to ensure that students are guided and supported in applying for Higher Education.



## TEACHING AT COLYTON

### 11+ Curriculum

In Key Stage 3, students follow a full and dynamic range of curriculum subjects: English with Drama, Mathematics, Science, Modern Foreign Languages, Art, Geography, History, Computing, Music, Physical Education, Religious Education and PSHE.

Students in Year 7 can opt to study French, Spanish or Mandarin. Additional support is provided for the small number of students who want to study two languages in Year 8 including German.

Year 7 study Biology, Chemistry and Physics as separate sciences rather than a combined programme of Key Stage 3 Science.

The final element of our Key Stage 3 programme is the Extension carousel. All students in Year 8, apart from the dual linguists, will complete extension work in subjects such as:

- a) Art and culture
- b) Latin
- c) Mental well-being
- d) Physical well-being
- e) Film studies
- f) Science in society

### 13+ Curriculum

At Key Stage 4 (GCSE), there is sufficient flexibility of choice to meet individual interests whilst maintaining a balanced curriculum.

All students study for nine core GCSEs in English Language and Literature, a Modern Foreign Language (presently French, German, Mandarin and Spanish), Mathematics, Science (taught as Physics, Chemistry and Biology), a Humanities subject (History or Geography), and Religious Education. In addition, students choose two additional GCSE options from: Art, Business, Computing, Drama, French, Geography, German, History, Mandarin, Music and Spanish.

Two additional subjects, Physical Education and PSHE, are taught as non-exam courses.

### 16+ Curriculum

Beyond GCSE, most students study three subjects to A-Level together with the Extended Project. However, there is an option for those who particularly want to study a fourth A-Level such as Further Maths.

The following courses are offered at A-Level:

Art  
Biology  
Chemistry  
Drama  
Economics  
English Literature  
French  
Geography  
German  
Government and Politics  
History  
Mathematics  
Further Mathematics  
Music  
Physical Education  
Physics  
Psychology  
Religion Philosophy and Ethics  
Spanish

All courses now follow the linear model of examinations.

Students also have allocated lessons for Sixth Form with sport and exercise as well as a programme of PSHE and careers lessons.

Some students interested in Politics and Human Rights issues can undertake United Nations work, culminating in a trip to the UN in Geneva.

Our students are expected to participate in sporting activities and community service.



## Inspire

As part of our 'Inspire' programme, school assemblies regularly feature talks from speakers who have had inspirational career journeys.

Employers from across the region also deliver presentations to interested groups of students about routes into a broad range of professions, businesses and industries. We encourage our students to remain open minded in their careers planning, but to nevertheless show curiosity and aim high. In a fast changing world of work, adaptability and resilience are key qualities.





## BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

### Success Through Sport

The school has an outstanding record of success in sport and there are ample opportunities for all students to participate in both school and House competitions.

Specialist coaching is available in many sports and our teams compete successfully in local, regional and national tournaments across athletics, football, rugby, cricket, netball, hockey, tennis, badminton, rounders, basketball, gymnastics, dance and golf to name but a few.

Many students gain regional county honours, and in recent years students have achieved international recognition in hockey, cricket, sailing and gymnastics.

### Excellence in The Arts

Music, drama and art make an important contribution to the cultural life of the school.

There are a number of public drama productions each year and workshops are a regular event. There are several well supported clubs providing a

range of opportunities to develop skills and perform.

There is an extensive co and extra curricular provision in music including choirs, bands, orchestra, chamber choirs and an annual programme with regular opportunities for musicians to perform.

The senior choir has an outstanding reputation and in recent years has sung in the cathedrals of Exeter, Bristol, Wells, Liverpool and Chester. The Choir has toured Europe, singing in Belgium and Malta, as well as in the cathedrals of Chartres and Notre-Dame in France.

The outstanding art work produced by students is often exhibited across the region and throughout the school.

“

*The school places great emphasis on mutual respect and acceptance between its students and staff.*

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TEACHER

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*Enthusiasm for school is reflected in high rates of attendance and participation in the wide range of extra curricular clubs.*

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OFSTED

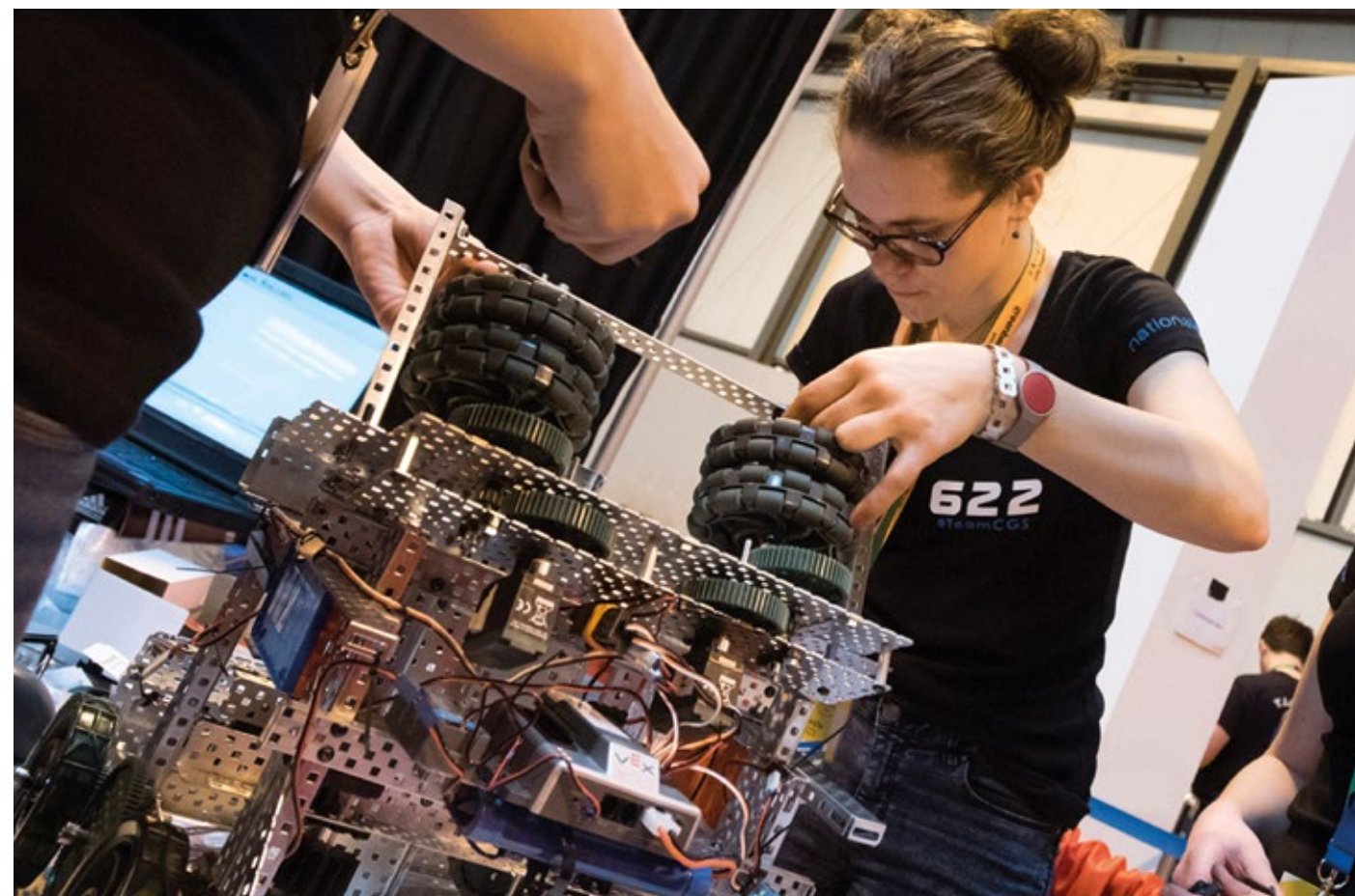


## CLUBS

The many activities offered to the students are too numerous to list. Here are just some of the clubs that help contribute to developing our well-rounded and confident individuals:

- Junior, Senior, Chamber and Jazz Choirs
- Sixth Form Literary Group
- Art Clubs
- Astronomy Club
- Biology, Chemistry and Physics
- Olympiad
- Chess Club
- Christian Union
- Computing Club
- Creative Writing Club
- Cryptic Crossword Club
- Dance Club
- Debating Society
- Duke of Edinburgh
- F1 in Schools
- Film Club
- Great Book Club
- Green Society
- Junior and Senior Drama Clubs
- Latin Club
- Meteorology Club
- National Bar Mock Trial
- National Magistrates Court Competition
- Orchestra
- Reporters Club
- STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths)
- Student Librarians and Sixth Form Library Ambassadors
- Ten Tors
- The Carnegie Club
- UK Maths Challenge
- VEX Robotics
- Wind, Jazz and Brass Bands
- Young Enterprise and Young Investors

A full range of sports clubs are available weekly. These are set termly and are published on the school website.



## CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

The curriculum is enriched by a varied programme of fieldwork and visits.

Here are but a few examples:

- Fieldwork activities in Biology, Business, Chemistry, and Geography
- A comprehensive programme of theatre visits and visiting theatre groups/authors/practitioners in Drama and English
- Art workshops, artists in residence and visits to galleries in London and across Europe
- European Exchange programmes in France, Germany and Spain
- Visiting practitioners across the field of STEAM. For example, Think Maths and Maths Live. Students have also had the privilege of hearing
- Excursions to sites of historical and cultural interest in Britain and Europe
- Citizenship, Enterprise and Career workshop activities
- Visiting speakers across a number of faiths and visits to accompany classroom studies in Religious Studies
- Students can master computer coding in Digital Learning through the VEX Robotics programme

from Dr Jon Copley, the Senior Scientific adviser of The Blue Planet and Dr Clare Leonard, Global Director of Nutrition and Innovation for Coca Cola

**Full co-curricular activities across all subjects are listed on the school website.**





“  
*We've had fantastic experiences of  
the pastoral care at Colyton. Thank  
you .*  
”  
PARENT





“

*There is such an encouraging atmosphere, you feel you could do anything.*

”

STUDENT

“

*Health and wellbeing is so important at Colyton. My son is benefitting from a large number of activities outside of the classroom. I am delighted to see him developing into such a lovely well rounded individual.*

”

PARENT



Colyton Grammar School  
Whitwell Lane  
Colyford, Colyton  
Devon  
EX24 6HN

 01297 552327

 [admin@colytongrammar.com](mailto:admin@colytongrammar.com)

[www.colytongrammar.com](http://www.colytongrammar.com)

