




BRENTFORD
SCHOOL FOR GIRLS
PROSPECTUS

A large, leafy green tree stands in front of a two-story school building. A group of girls in pink shirts are sitting on the grass at the base of the tree. The sky is blue with some clouds.

*"THE TEACHERS STICK
TO THE RULES, WHICH
SHOWS THAT THEY CARE AND
SUPPORT US"*

- GRACIA, YEAR 11

*THE BRENTFORD
GIRL OF THE FUTURE
IS HERE.
NOW.*



WELCOME TO OUR SCHOOL

It is with great pleasure that we welcome you to our thriving and successful school. We pride ourselves on providing girls and young women with an excellent quality of education as well as the opportunity to develop the broader skills required to be successful in a changing world. Nationally, statistics tell us that girls' achieve better in an 'All girls' setting, growing confidence and resilience and never being restricted in their ambitions. Brentford School for Girls is one of the most successful state schools in England. In February 2016, the Department for Education placed us in the 'Top 100 non selective state schools' in England for the progress our students make. In 2015 we were awarded the High Aspiration Pupil Premium Award and invited to join the prestigious London Schools Gold Club, an accolade presented to the most successful London state schools.

Our drive at Brentford is to nurture the young woman of our vision, a vision that we hope you will share. As well as academic excellence, your daughter will be encouraged to develop her wider social and personal skills. There are a variety of leadership opportunities, extra-curricular activities, foreign trips and community projects, which all students are encouraged to participate in.

Our most recent Ofsted report (February 2016) stated 'The school's ethos that 'every child counts' permeates the life of the school.' The academic achievement of students at Brentford was identified as a strength, as well as the behaviour and attitudes of the students. The strong leadership of the school, and the highly skilled teachers were also commended.

At the heart of our small and vibrant school is a very strong community. Our parents' continue to be involved in their daughters' education and we work hard to ensure that the triangle of support, your daughter, staff and parents sit at the very centre of what we do. Our students are happy, engaged and want to be at Brentford.

At Brentford our students are encouraged to think 'Big', aspire and have high expectations of themselves. Our vision is to develop a girl into a young women who is ready to embrace the challenges of life and work in the future, whatever that might look like!

I hope that our prospectus will provide you with a flavour of our school community and the enormous opportunities that Brentford could offer to you and your daughter.

MARAIS LEENDERS - HEAD TEACHER



“I FOUND GETTING USED TO SECONDARY SCHOOL CHALLENGING BUT MY FRIENDS HELPED ME TO SETTLE”
JASLEEN, YEAR 9

TRANSITION TO YEAR 7

It is incredibly important that Year 7 students make a smooth transition to secondary education from their primary schools. Helping this to happen is something we pride ourselves on.

We work with a number of our feeder schools from Year 5, telling students about life at secondary school before they make their choices in Year 6. All prospective students are involved in a variety of activities before joining the school in the summer term, including an Induction Day and senior staff interview. Students also have an opportunity to be involved in our summer school. Parents are encouraged to play an active role in the school from the beginning.

The school provides a transition guide and has a dedicated transition website where your questions can be answered before your daughter starts with us in September.

CURRICULUM

Our curriculum is varied and inspiring and we are constantly looking for ways to ensure that it is the right provision for your daughter. In Year 7 and 8, students study a broad and balanced range of subjects including English, Mathematics, Science, Humanities, Art, Drama, Music, Design Technology, ICT, PSHE and PE.

Students at Brentford School for Girls begin GCSE courses a year earlier than many other schools, so that they get more time to achieve success at GCSE and A Level.

In Key Stage 4 (Years 9, 10 and 11), your daughter will pursue an individualised curriculum pathway based around her options choices. This might be an academic English Baccalaureate or a more vocational course, depending upon her abilities, preferences and aspirations. All students take the core subjects of English, Mathematics and Science,

irrespective of their other choices, because we know how important they are to the chances of progression post-16 and beyond.

We encourage our students to stay on into the 6th form to benefit from small class tuition and excellent teaching. Brentford is part of a consortium of schools, so nearly every course a student may wish to follow will be possible either at Brentford or at another school in the consortium.

HIGHLY QUALIFIED STAFF

Our team includes graduates from Oxford and Cambridge and other top universities, teachers with over 20 years experience, as well as newer teachers who bring with them the latest ideas in education. All staff benefit from extensive continuing professional development. Delivered by innovative and inspirational practitioners, education becomes an exciting and engaging journey for our students, leading to outstanding success.

FACILITIES

We run a continuous programme of refurbishments across the school. Each of our classrooms has the most up-to-date ICT equipment and we have several stand-alone ICT suites.

The school has a state-of-the-art, industry specification theatre where students are encouraged to develop their communication skills and become involved in public speaking, debating competitions and the annual school play, as well as learning about 'backstage' and managing events.

We have a modern and well-equipped library, open to students before and after school and during the school day. Our recently refurbished Sixth Form Centre provides outstanding facilities for our older students to work in and socialise with their peers.



IMAGINE THE FUTURE BRENTFORD GIRL...

*SHE THRIVES ON CHALLENGE AND HAS A DESIRE TO FULFIL HER LEARNING POTENTIAL.
SHE IS ABLE TO THINK INDEPENDENTLY AND IS CONFIDENT IN HER SOCIAL AND
ACADEMIC CAPABILITY.*

SHE IS EMOTIONALLY AWARE AND EMOTIONALLY INTELLIGENT.

SHE IS CAPABLE AND DEPENDABLE.

SHE IS RESOURCEFUL AND INQUISITIVE.

*SHE EMBRACES THE TECHNOLOGICAL WORLD AS A GLOBAL VILLAGE AND IS READY TO
INTERACT WITH OTHERS IN THE LOCAL AND WORLDWIDE COMMUNITY.*

SHE ACCEPTS THE WELFARE OF OTHERS AS HER RESPONSIBILITY.

*SHE UNDERSTANDS THE NEED FOR SUSTAINABLE LIVING BOTH LOCALLY AND GLOBALLY.
SHE IS READY FOR LIFE IN THE FUTURE - WHATEVER THAT MAY BE.*

*SHE IS THE CENTRE OF OUR VISION AND WILL REMAIN THE VERY CORE OF
OUR BEING AND PURPOSE.*

AT BRENTFORD SCHOOL FOR GIRLS, WE HAVE 6 LEARNING VALUES.

WE WANT EACH STUDENT TO...

BE AMBITIOUS...

*"I LOVE THE LEADERSHIP
OPPORTUNITIES HERE. I GET THE
CHANCE TO HELP RUN THE SCHOOL AS
A PREFECT"*

- LUCY, YEAR 11



AMBITION

Ambitions can be realised at Brentford, and we encourage every student to reach for the stars, at school and beyond. Students will need focus, commitment, resilience and hard work to get there. However, the steps to achievement are broken down into attainable levels from Key Stage 3 through to Key Stage 5 and we believe everyone can succeed.

ACHIEVEMENT

Every girl at Brentford is encouraged to go beyond her personal best. Our examination results at GCSE and A Level are outstanding. Most of our students continue to our 6th Form before moving to university, apprenticeships or employment.

Students are straight away encouraged to be ambitious and to consider their future. A strong programme of careers advice and guidance is provided both through the curriculum and specific activities, organised to encourage your daughter to think about her personal journey and future university and employment interests.

GIFTED & TALENTED

Challenging our most able students both academically and through extra-curricular activities is important to us. There are many opportunities within the curriculum to accelerate students' progress where we feel that they have the ability to do so. Many of our most able students sit GCSEs early and some have begun A Levels before they are 16! Students have been involved in debating competitions, public speaking events as well as developing their specific area of giftedness or talent through enrichment programmes.

UNIVERSITY

The vast majority of our students choose to enter higher education when they leave school. The school has a number of partnerships with universities in London and the UK. All students in Year 9 visit a university as part of their curriculum programme and there are a range of activities in Years 10 and 11, including university summer schools, which students can choose to be involved in.

The Newnham programme, which runs in the 6th Form, is specifically designed to support students applying to the top universities, including Oxford and Cambridge.

BE CONFIDENT...

"THE TEACHERS AND OLDER STUDENTS HELPED ME SETTLE IN. THEY DIDN'T MAKE ME FEEL LIKE I WAS NEW, THEY JUST TREATED ME THE SAME AS EVERYONE ELSE AND I QUICKLY FELT PART OF THE COMMUNITY"

- SOPHIE, YEAR 10



CONFIDENCE

Confidence allows all students to achieve what they hope for in life, to grasp opportunities, to know what they want and to be daring enough to succeed.

We believe that all students need to be challenged. We will challenge students to work hard and to play hard in order to succeed. All students will have opportunities to do unfamiliar things and face difficult situations that can help them grow as people.

We aim to build the self-esteem of all the students in the school. We will develop academic and social skills, boost physical and creative attributes, so that all our students are ready for the challenges that life holds beyond school.

Our buildings are named after prominent female historical figures and role models, including Charlotte Bronte, Marie Curie, Emmeline Pankhurst and Mother Teresa. Their achievements reflect the values that we want to foster in our students.



SPORT

We offer a variety of sports across the school, including athletics, tennis, netball, football, dance, hockey, yoga and rowing. We encourage all students to participate to the best of their ability.

Brentford girls are regularly amongst the highest achieving sports girls in the borough, with some of our students going on to play sport at national level. We take part in many sports competitions within school and against other schools. We also have strong links with Sky Sports and regularly have Olympic athletes visit our school, helping to develop our students.

THE ARTS

The arts are a strong and vibrant feature at Brentford and students can study Art, Textiles, Drama, Music, Photography and Media throughout the school. Students exhibit their work in school, locally and nationally.

At the end of the academic year, the school runs an Arts Week, where students are able to develop confidence as well as learning new skills and challenges.

BE COURAGEOUS...

*"TEACHERS MAKE
OUR LESSONS FUN, EVEN
THOUGH THE WORK CAN BE
DIFFICULT. THEY ARE ALWAYS
THERE WHEN WE NEED HELP OR
IF WE WANT TO ASK ANYTHING"*

- NADIA, YEAR 11



COURAGE

Courage is a quality we all need in life to face the hurdles each day presents, from completing homework to the very best standard, being well presented and getting to school on time; to facing exams, standing up for what is right, taking responsibility and entering the world of work.

At secondary school, there are many different challenges to face, be they new or unfamiliar subjects, the need to persevere with study, the desire to strive for excellence or sticking up for something in the face of opposition.

At Brentford, we help your daughter to develop the courage to face up to these challenges and many more with confidence and determination.



STUDENT VOICE & STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Having the power to change things means having the courage to speak up. It is crucial that students' voices are heard, so we have a range of forums to make this happen. We regularly listen to and take note of what our students say and write. The students' views are a vital part of the way our school develops.

Words lead to actions and through our Student Leadership Team, Year Council, School Council, House Captains and Prefect system all students have a voice. As your daughter progresses through the school, she will have opportunities to play important roles in the school through our enrichment programmes; supporting in the classroom, helping to run clubs and working with the local community.

Many of our students are involved in accredited leadership programmes including the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, the NCS Challenge and the Jack Petchey Foundation award scheme.

BE FLEXIBLE...

*"I LIKE THE RANGE OF
SUBJECTS TO CHOOSE
FROM AT GCSE"
- SOPHIE, YEAR 8*



FLEXIBILITY

The flexibility to adapt is a skill that can help ensure success in everything our students do. In the lives and careers of our students, there will be demands placed upon them in this fast-changing world - to have a broad skill set, to see the world through others' eyes, to show humility and emotional intelligence and to have the ability to change and grow. By being understanding and flexible, our students will be ready for life beyond school.

THE IMPORTANCE OF LITERACY & NUMERACY

Excellent literacy can open doors to other subjects and forms the backbone of student learning. Students have specific reading lessons twice a week in KS3 and the school has a designated member of staff to lead on developing students' academic writing skills across the school. Numeracy is promoted throughout the curriculum and our Mathematics results are consistently outstanding. Good reading, writing, speaking, listening and numerical skills will help your daughter's achievement in all areas, as well as increasing confidence and self-esteem.

BE INQUISITIVE...

*"I REALLY LIKE THE WAY
THAT BRENTFORD WORKS
HARD TO BE PART OF THE LOCAL
COMMUNITY AND I THINK IT HAS A
REALLY POSITIVE IMPACT"*

- CHELSEA, YEAR 11



INQUISITIVENESS

Asking questions and being inquisitive is the start of all learning. With each subject in our curriculum, your daughter will have an opportunity to make new discoveries.

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Our extensive range of extra-curricular activities engage students beyond the classroom. These include arts and crafts clubs, music, drama and dance, sports clubs, film-making, debating, gardening, science, languages, mathematics and ICT, to name but a few. Trips and visits, including museum visits, residential and foreign excursions are also an important part of wider school life.

COMMUNITY & BUSINESS LINKS

As an outward-facing school we have community links with local primary schools and charities such as Age UK. Our strong business links allow us to provide mentoring and work experience opportunities for students. We also have a strong alumni network, whereby Brentford's past girls contribute to the life of the school through various opportunities. Brentford is also the proud recipient of the highest level of International School Award because of our links with schools around the world including Rwanda, India, Sweden and France.

HOMEWORK AND E-LEARNING

At Brentford, we want learning to continue outside the classroom and homework is a vital way to ensure that this happens. Homework is set regularly in increasing amounts as students move up the school. Our VLE network facilitates the completion of homework and provides a framework, which encourages good understanding of what has been set.

BE REFLECTIVE...

*"I THINK BRENTFORD IS
GREAT, IT HAS A REALLY
LOVELY FAMILY FEEL TO IT. WE
ARE ALL ONE BIG FAMILY"*

- MOLLY, YEAR 13



REFLECTION

Reflecting on our experiences, whether educational or otherwise, is an important part of the learning process. Such reflection is central to our students' development. We encourage them to reflect in many different ways, including through assemblies and in time with their form tutors, as well as by completing homework, and reading their teachers' marking and feedback. School reports encourage our student to reflect on their progress and plan for the future.

Reflecting on learning helps our students make the right decisions about their direction in life, about what they value most and what kind of person they want to be.

WE PROVIDE A PURPOSEFUL & SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT



PASTORAL CARE

Our small, friendly tutor groups have dedicated form tutors and a Head of Year. These tutor groups will help to settle your daughter into life at Brentford School for Girls. The form tutor will monitor academic progress closely and help with any issues, which may arise. We want your daughter to feel at home in their tutor group, confident and relaxed, stimulated and nurtured.

HOUSE SYSTEM

When your daughter comes to Brentford, she will be placed in one of five houses and it will become part of her identity while she is here. The House system is named after our Brenford Learning Values: Reflective, Ambitious, Confident, Flexible and Inquisitive. The house system is used across the school to promote healthy competition and a sense of responsibility and community amongst the students. Students work towards achieving the prestigious house cup, alongside other students, in different year groups but also in their 'house'.

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

The school has outstanding provision for students who have additional needs and many of these students achieve particularly well. Information about this provision can be found on our website. We also run a small autistic unit, specifically for girls with autism within the school. Applications for the unit are made through the local authority.

THE HUB

The Hub team provides support for students who are experiencing social or emotional difficulties. They offer an extensive range of support programmes that are dedicated to promoting personal well-being and to helping students overcome temporary barriers to learning, including matters related to child protection. These programmes include reinforcing positive behaviour strategies, promoting resilience, health related issues and stress management. The team is fully committed to the school's ethos, and works very closely with staff, parents/carers and a range of agencies to help students to achieve their potential.

*"THE TEACHERS HELPED
ME TO SETTLE IN. THEY ARE
APPROACHABLE AND YOU KNOW
THAT YOU CAN TALK TO THEM IF YOU
HAVE A PROBLEM. THE STAFF HAVE
HELPED ME LOTS, THEY REALLY DO
CARE ABOUT YOU"*

- LAUREN, YEAR 11

HOW TO FIND US



BY RAIL

Brentford Station (South West Trains) is about 5 minutes from the school.

BY BUS

Buses: H91, E2, E8, 65, 235, 237, 267

CONTACT US

TO TALK TO US OR TO ARRANGE A TOUR OF THE SCHOOL...

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