

QUESTION AND ANSWER

YEAR 7 EXPERIENCES FROM A YEAR 8 PARENT

HOW DID YOU FIND THE ADMISSIONS PROCESS WHEN APPLYING FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL AND WHAT WAS IMPORTANT TO YOU IN YOUR CHOICE OF POTENTIAL SECONDARY?

I found the admissions process quite stressful. We felt it was a very big decision for our daughter. We needed to collect lots of information about the schools we were considering before we were able to prioritise our choices.

We wanted to find a school that we felt met our daughter's needs. We liked BSFG because of a number of factors:

- *We felt the SEN support was very good and incorporated comprehensively into the school.*
- *We liked that the school is one of the highest performing girl's schools in the borough.*
- *We felt it has a holistic approach to learning. We were very impressed with the value that was given to creative art subjects as well as core disciplines.*
- *We felt that it was positive that GCSEs were studied over 3 years as this would help to embed the subject matter for our daughter.*
- *We found the school to be friendly and welcoming.*
- *We were impressed with the approach of, and personal address made by, the head teacher.*

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO PARENTS CURRENTLY GOING THROUGH THE PROCESS OF APPLYING FOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS?

Go and visit any possible secondary schools in year 5 to get a feel of what you want from a school. Then in year 6 visit your short listed schools with your daughter.

Ask questions that are important to you, either in person or follow up with email.

Make the final decision with your daughter. We found it helpful to write down the pros and cons of the individual schools.

We chose a school that none of our daughter's primary school went to but we were assured there were other girls were in the same situation. We were really impressed with the taster sessions when she got to meet other future year 7 girls. Doing activities like the full school performance in the first term also really helped.

WHAT IN YOUR VIEW ARE THE STRENGTHS OF BRENTFORD SCHOOL FOR GIRLS SO FAR?

Excellent communication from subject teachers, form tutor and SENCO.

Good awareness of all aspects of a girl's development i.e. academic, emotional, social needs. For example, well-being afternoons during home learning.

Good support for parents via online meetings etc.

On the whole learning is well tailored to our daughter's needs.

High expectations of the girls.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE BRENTFORD SCHOOL FOR GIRLS FOR YOUR DAUGHTER OVER OTHER LOCAL SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN YOUR AREA?

For the SEN support and SEN integration throughout the school; great academic track record; that GCSEs are taught over 3 years and English literature is taken at the end of year 10 so there are less exams to sit in year 11; the value given to the creative subjects (that our daughter excelled in); the friendliness of the school and the head teachers approach.

DID YOU HAVE ANY CONCERNS ABOUT YOUR DAUGHTER GOING TO A GIRLS ONLY SCHOOL INITIALLY?

Yes, that aspect was the main drawback for us as we had wanted a mixed school. But I had read that girls did better academically in a single sex environment. We felt as our daughter had a brother and attended other activities outside of school she would still get to spend time and build confidence with boys. We also felt that there wouldn't be restrictive stereotypes about what were girls and boys subjects. That she could be confident in all lessons.

HOW DID YOU FIND THE SUPPORT YOU RECEIVED FROM BRENTFORD SCHOOL FOR GIRLS ON THE IMPORTANT TRANSITION PROCESS FROM PRIMARY TO SECONDARY SCHOOL?

Very good. There was lots put on for the year 6 girls. We especially liked the taster workshops.

YOUR DAUGHTER IS ABOUT TO START HER SECOND YEAR AT BRENTFORD WHAT HAS BEEN THE HIGHLIGHTS OF HER FIRST YEAR HERE AND HOW HAS SHE SETTLED IN?

Highlights are the encouragement from the teachers for my daughter e.g. postcards sent home praising her achievements. And little gift bags sent out to all the girls.

The fantastic academic achievements our daughter has made especially in maths.

Some inspirational and encouraging teachers.

WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON THE LEADERSHIP OF THE SCHOOL AND HOW MUCH IMPACT DO YOU THINK THE LEADERSHIP VISION HAS ON THE PROGRESS AND DEVELOPMENT OF YOUR DAUGHTER?

We're very impressed with the leadership at the school. They seem to be strong, coordinated and make sensible decisions that benefit the girls.

ARE THERE ANY OTHER THOUGHTS OR COMMENTS YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE ABOUT YOUR EXPERIENCES SO FAR WITH BRENTFORD SCHOOL FOR GIRLS?

We have been very impressed with BSFG. Overall the support has been excellent. We feel BSFG is a nurturing environment that allows our daughter to strive towards her potential.