



Blenheim

Head of Year

SEPTEMBER 2021

Salary Negotiable



www.blenheim.surrey.sch.uk

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Blenheim has been under new leadership since April 2017. The school became Surrey's most improved secondary school in the 2017-18 academic year, was categorised as 'good' in all areas in May 2019 and attained its best GCSE results in the summer of 2019. In the summer of 2020, 5% of departing sixth form students secured places at Oxbridge. In January 2021 Blenheim was confirmed as Surrey's most improved school for the number of first preference Year 7 applications, an increase of 26%. In the recent past a number of comprehensive measures have been put in place that have improved the consistency of teaching, the quality of assessments and the impact of feedback, so that all students now make good or better progress. At the heart of the school's recent successes has been the comprehensive and consistent implementation of formative assessment across the curriculum.

Blenheim is a dynamic, exciting and supportive environment in which to work. The school opened in September 1997 with one year group and has grown to its current size of 1275 students on roll including 200 in the Sixth Form. Blenheim is a mixed comprehensive and our reputation in the community is excellent and as a result the school is very popular. The intake comprises of students from all surrounding areas with ability levels being favourable; over 50% of all students have high prior attainment at the end of Key Stage 2. In recent years the school's popularity has grown significantly, as detailed below:

Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Number of Year 7 Students Recruited	188	209	234	248	248*
Number of 1 st Preference Applications	165	185	154	209	263

* As at 1st March 2021, 132 students are on the waiting list.

Blenheim revolves around a growth mindset where all members of the school community are expected to value and develop the characteristics of hard work, resilience, innovation and improvement. Since April 2017, there has been significant change to the school's structures and systems, including:

- New Headteacher
- New Leadership Team comprising two Deputy Headteachers and nine Assistant Headteachers
- Significant investment in the school's site and infrastructure
- An extended day for Year 11 and Year 13 students to 5pm Monday - Thursday.
- A comprehensive Easter revision programme for students in Years 11, 12 and 13
- A three-year Key Stage 4 and a six-period school day comprising of an increased number of double periods
- Formative assessment becoming embedded across the curriculum ensuring students have a clear understanding of their 'next steps'.
- An alternative pathway for vocational Key Stage 4 learners providing high quality vocational provision
- A Chelsea FC Girls' Sixth Form Football Academy which now competes in the National Football Youth League.
- An extra fortnight's holiday with a two week October half term and a seven week summer holiday.
- From September 2020, a relaunched 'high performers' programme to boost the aspirations, independence and career prospects of our high performing students.

In May 2019, Blenheim was characterised as a 'good' school following a Section 5 Ofsted inspection. Please [click here](#) to read the Ofsted Report. Ofsted commented that the vast majority of the school's previous weaknesses had been rectified and that the school now had excellent capacity to continue improving. The Headteacher, Mr A A Bodell, has made a long term commitment to Blenheim.

Blenheim converted to Academy Status in March 2012 and has developed many community and primary school links. Blenheim is a well-resourced school and is fortunate to have outstanding facilities including large grounds, grass football and rugby pitches and an AstroTurf pitch. The school has a significant capital reserve with complete autonomy to invest. Together with a very supportive governing body the school has moved quickly and invested significantly in several areas, not least in the appointment of high-quality practitioners and site infrastructure. Our buildings are modern and recently received an internal £350,000 face lift. Visitors now comment on the calm, purposeful learning environment that pervades. Blenheim has an iPad for learning scheme through which 98% of students own an iPad. Naturally, teaching staff need to be willing to engage with new technologies and to want to develop themselves.

BLENHEIM GCSE RESULTS

Blenheim's 2020 GCSE results involved all students receiving their centre awarded grades, whilst 2018 and 2019 saw a significant increase in Blenheim's GCSE results. A combination of well-researched teaching and learning practices, rhythmical assessment and feedback, frequent reporting, well - timed interventions and consistent monitoring of student performance has led to increases in almost all areas of GCSE performance. This improved performance compares favourably with both Blenheim's 2016 & 2017 GCSE results and 2018 & 19 National GCSE results.

In 2017, apart from Maths and English, grades were attributed A* - G grades with A* - C being considered 'higher' grades or passes. By 2019, all subjects (bar a minority) were attributed 9 – 1 grades with 9 – 4 being considered 'higher' grades or passes.

2018 & 19 results are an average over both years

	Blenheim 2020	Blenheim 2018 & 19	National 2018 & 19
5 or more + 9 – 4 or A* - C incl. Maths & English	74%	65%	58%
Maths 9 - 4	80%	76%	60%
English Language 9 - 4	85%	75%	62%
English Literature 9 - 4	81%	76%	73%
English 9 – 4 (best of Lang or Lit taken)	84%	79%	75%

9 – 7 and 9 – 4 Grades averaged over 2018 & 19 compared to National average

	Blenheim 2020	Blenheim 2018 & 19	National 2018 & 19
9 – 7 grades	30%	22%	20%
9 – 4 grades	85%	74%	67%

English Baccalaureate results averaged over 2018 & 2019 compared to Blenheim in 2016 & 17

	Blenheim 2020	Blenheim 2018 & 19	Blenheim 2016 & 17
English 9 – 5	66%	63%	65%
Maths 9 – 5	58%	58%	39%
English (best of Lang or Lit taken) 9 – 4	83%	79%	65%
Maths 9 - 4	80%	76%	70%
The English Baccalaureate pass	30%	23%	20%
Combined Science (Double Science) 9 - 4	68%	64%	49%
Biology 9 - 4 or A* - C	100%	92%	86%
Chemistry 9 - 4 or A* - C	100%	91%	83%
Physics 9 - 4 or A* - C	100%	91%	81%
Geography 9 - 4 or A* - C	85%	70%	64%
History 9 - 4 or A* - C	85%	60%	65%
French 9 - 4 or A* - C	100%	84%	72%
German 9 - 4 or A* - C	90%	80%	65%
Spanish 9 - 4 or A* - C	87%	78%	73%
Computing 9 - 4 or A* - C	83%	70%	48%

Progress 8 score for 2019 was +0.08 placing Blenheim 1251/3709 schools and colleges in England

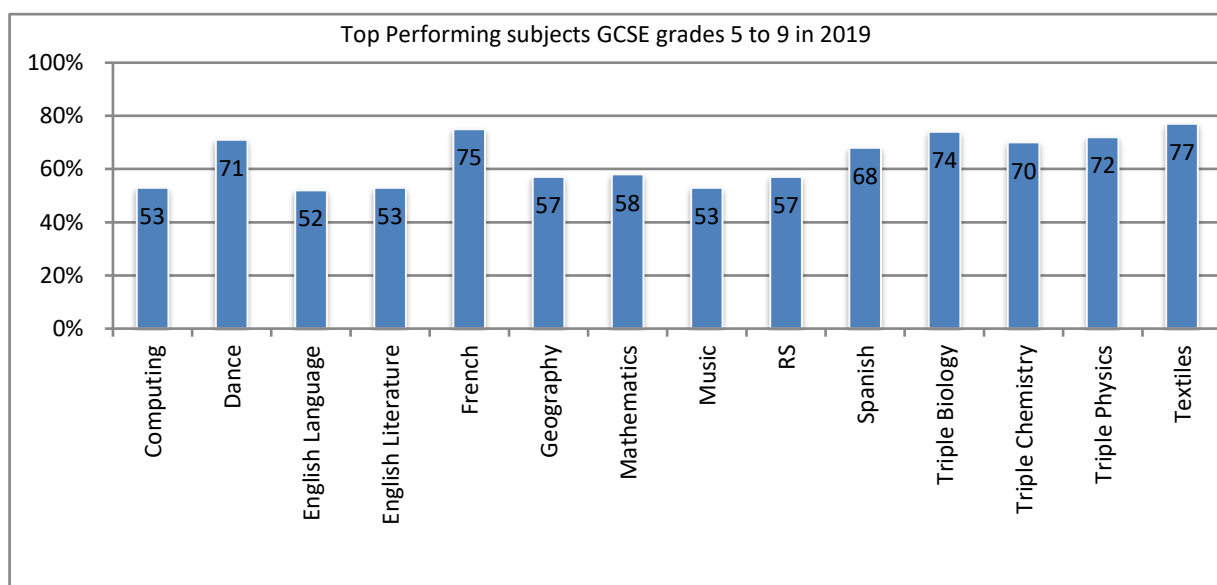
BLENHEIM GCSE RESULTS 2019

Achievement across a range of subjects

Blenheim's 9 – 4 pass rate was 72%. In Computing, Dance, Drama, DT Textiles, English Language & Literature, French, Geography, German, Mathematics, Music, RS, Sciences and Spanish over half of all grades were 9 - 5. In Technical awards, Blenheim achieved a 100% pass rate (Pass to Distinction*) in Level 2 Child Development, Health and Fitness and Travel and Tourism.

English and Mathematics

Results in these core subjects remained well above the national average for Blenheim students in 2019 with 77% gaining the 9 - 4 GCSE grade in Mathematics, 77% in English Language and 74% in English Literature, with 12% of grades being the highest GCSE grade of 9 - 7 in English and 21% in Mathematics.



GCSE grades 7 to 9

17% of all our entries were awarded 9-7 grades, 34 students achieved average grades of 7 or higher, and 7 students achieved an average of grade 8 or higher. Our top performing student secured all grade 9s and a Distinction* in Health & Fitness.

Success in Triple Science

In Biology, Chemistry and Physics over 90% of entries gained a grade 4 or higher with 35% of grades being 9 - 7, 2% higher than in 2018.

Key Measures	Blenheim 2019	Blenheim 2018
5 + 9 – 4 or A* - C incl. Maths & English	65%	64%
9 - 4 English (best)	83%	75%
9 - 4 Mathematics	77%	74%

JOB PROFILE



The Aim

To support, hold to account and develop a team of tutors – focusing on high standards of personal, social and academic development. Maximise the progress that students make across the Curriculum; particularly in the core subjects of Maths, English and Science. The Head of Year will emphasise a Growth Mindset modelling the characteristics of hard work, resilience, innovation and improvement. The head of year is responsible for the pastoral care of the students in their year group, focusing on behaviour, safeguarding and attendance.

Accountable to:

- Assistant Headteacher – Pastoral Lead

Supporting roles

- The Head of Year will be supported by a dedicated pastoral support team including a team of pastoral facilitators, attendance team, form tutors, pastoral administrator and the school secretariat.

Job Purpose in conjunction with the pastoral facilitators:

- To ensure that all students in the year group make maximum progress across the curriculum. This particularly applies to vulnerable students and the successful candidate will work closely with the Assistant Headteacher – Inclusion Lead, in this regard.
- To communicate and empathise with families of students in the year group ensuring they remain engaged with their son/daughter's progress at school.
- To work closely with the pastoral facilitators to help ensure students are supported and challenged as necessary and achieve optimum levels of engagement with school life.
- To help maximise student attendance in conjunction with the attendance officer.

- To role model excellent practices including going 'above and beyond' and intervening with students outside the curriculum so they 'catch up' as quickly as possible.
- To support and challenge Heads of Department so that underachieving students 'catch up', particularly in Maths, English and Science.
- To effectively lead a team of tutors so students are correctly equipped and parents are held to account for providing their son/ daughter with the tools students need to learn effectively.
- To communicate appropriate information to teaching and support staff.
- To contribute to a confidential record of issues affecting the educational progress of students.
- To be highly visible and a point of contact for students.

Safeguarding

- To be familiar with school policies, in particular safeguarding procedures, and promote the welfare of children.
- To be a trained safeguarding officer.

Key responsibilities in conjunction with the pastoral facilitators:

- Help raise the aspirations of vulnerable and pupil premium students.
- Help contribute to high levels of student attendance and punctuality.
- Be a point of contact for students and families when personal matters affect learning and progress.
- Work with agencies in school and beyond to support students and their families, conducting home visits when required.
- Lead and deliver assemblies.
- Ensure school uniform is worn correctly.
- Produce internal and external reports as necessary.
- Work within school systems on safeguarding and communication to inform teaching and non-teaching staff about issues affecting students' progress and wellbeing.
- Work with parents, as necessary, to engage them in their child's education and support their child's achievement.
- Promote positive attitudes to learning and behaviour for learning with vulnerable students.
- Liaise with the SEND Department to ensure the best cohesive support packages are in place for the most vulnerable students.
- To monitor, evaluate and review attitude to learning within the year group, developing and implementing strategies as required in conjunction with Assistant Headteacher- Pastoral Lead.
- Uphold and promote the values and ethos of the school.
- To lead and ensure the smooth running of parents' evening, analysing attendance and impact.
- Supervise students in the reflection room, conduct regular restorative justice and run readmission meetings.
- To attend, contribute and monitor those students on a pastoral support plan.
- To attend and contribute proactively to the Wednesday 8.00am (day subject to change) pastoral meeting.
- To ensure policies and procedures are effectively implemented by the year team.
- To ensure that all students in your year group are arriving promptly, dressed ready to learn by participating in a designated daily morning and afternoon pastoral duties.
- To conduct learning walks with varied foci.
- **The post holder will be expected to run after school, each week, at least one voluntary 60 minute academic 'clinic' on their own subject to a group of KS4 or KS5 students as identified by the Head of Department, Deputy Head (Curriculum) or Headteacher. This clinic will not be part of the role rather it will be part of a wider, whole school, extended day.**

Person Specification

- A willingness to embrace a growth mind set.
- A motivated individual who can inspire.
- The ability to 'absorb' the challenges of the day and still maintain high standards of professionalism.
- A team player putting students first and working with colleagues efficiently and effectively; recognising the 'greater good'.
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills both orally and in writing.
- A genuine interest and enjoyment in working with students, educators, schools and learning.
- Ability to demonstrate flexibility and tenacity.
- Confident, assertive and able to thrive in a challenging environment.
- Ability to motivate pupils through a variety of methods, including competition, rewards, sanctions and the setting of SMART goals.
- Ability to interpret and track student progress through the use of data.
- Ability to successfully encourage students to achieve their academic and recreational potential.
- Commitment to provide a supporting and challenging environment for students, particularly vulnerable students including those with Special Educational Needs.
- Commitment to individual continuous professional development, wanting to 'get better' by building on strengths but also recognising development areas and actively seeking to improve them.

General

- Demonstrate a keen interest in all aspects of school life.
- To show solidarity by supporting school policy, and the leadership team, publicly.
- To challenge school policy, and the leadership team, privately.



THE APPLICATION PROCESS

Please complete the school's application form including a Statement of Application outlining achievements to date and detailing why you are the right person for the role given the candidate brief. Please ensure this is no more than two sides of A4.

Please email your completed application to recruitment@blenheim.surrey.sch.uk. Applications should be received by **12.00pm (noon) Tuesday 13th April 2021** and interviews will be shortly afterwards. The school reserves the right to interview and appoint this position ahead of any advised application closing date should an appropriate candidate be found. Therefore, it is advisable to submit applications as early as possible.

Please be reminded that you are liable to prosecution if you are included in the Disclosure and Barring Service's/Disclosure Scotland's Children's Barred List and engage, or seek or offer to engage, in work which either involves contact with children or provides opportunities for contact with children.

