

MAGDALEN COLLEGE SCHOOL BRACKLEY



SCHOOL
PROSPECTUS
2025

EXCEPTIONAL EDUCATION FOR ALL



Our Admissions process is run by West Northants Council for new Year 7s and any in-year applications. Applications to the Sixth Form are covered in the Sixth Form Prospectus.

WELCOME

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to Magdalen College School, Brackley. I know that preparing your daughter or son to move to a new school is a big step, and a significant event in your life and theirs. This online prospectus will give you a first introduction to our school.

At Magdalen you will find a busy, welcoming community where young people learn, grow and develop. You are most welcome to come and visit us during the school day - this really is the best way of seeing our 'people-focused' school come alive. I look forward to meeting you in person.

Tom Hollis
Headteacher



OUR ETHOS



For over 475 years Magdalen College School has provided education for the young people of Brackley and the surrounding villages. That duty remains at the heart of our ethos today: we are committed to providing the best possible education to the young people here. That education is the combination of their academic learning, qualifications, experiences, qualities and character.

We believe that education is a fundamentally human, in-person experience. We learn from each other every day and celebrate all that we have in common.

Our school is a community of people. As individuals we come together for the common good. We are all reminded to behave in ways that help ourselves and help others.

CURRICULUM



Every student at Magdalen is entitled to experience the full breadth and depth of the curriculum. In Years 7, 8 and 9 this means every student builds their knowledge, understanding and skills across every subject of the National Curriculum. Each subject follows its own pathway that increases challenge as students learn more. Through tutor time and PCSHE students also engage in our Personal Development Curriculum.

From the start of Year 10 students follow a curriculum that leads to 10 GCSE level qualifications. Four of these qualifications are 'options' that allow students to engage in subjects that particularly engage or enthuse them. All courses are available to all students and we are proud of success in all its forms. Personal Development in these years is an essential element - including Work Experience and planning for next steps.

Our Sixth Form curriculum is detailed in a separate prospectus. As in the rest of the school, the academic elements are complemented by a strong range of Personal Development opportunities and taught PCSHE. Our Sixth Form provision includes opportunities to work in partnership with MCS Oxford and Brackley Town FC.



PASTORAL

We are passionate about everyone becoming the 'best possible version of themselves'. Our pastoral work is dedicated to helping every student learn and grow throughout their time at Magdalen. Every student is a member of a form Group who meet with their tutor twice a day. The Form Tutor will get to know your daughter or son really well and be best-placed to advise and support them.

The Form Tutors are supported in their work by a 'Leader of Learning' (Head of Year) and a Pastoral Support Assistant. These amazing colleagues are based in 'Student Services' - the go-to hub for support, help and advice for all our young people.

Our students are growing up in a world that can present new challenges and risks for them to navigate. Ensuring that every young person knows how to keep themselves safe and where to get help is an essential part of our work.



A photograph of several children in a hallway, with one child in the foreground reaching out towards the camera. The children are wearing dark clothing. The hallway has a blue carpet and a white pillar in the background.

GOING BEYOND



The years spent at Magdalen shape our young people - through what they learn and the people they share time with, but also through the activities they experience and the memories they create.

Enrichment activities run most afternoons after school. Almost all of these are free of charge and based around the interests of students and staff. During the course of a year a range of activities are offered from food to art; from debating to gardening. Sport and the performing arts feature highly, of course - we have a huge range of inter-school fixtures, an annual school production and lots of chances to make music together.

We provide a range of opportunities to visit places beyond school, most of which are additional activities. Seeing an orchestra play live; watching Shakespeare in performance; completing Duke of Edinburgh expeditions with your friends, or travelling abroad are the experiences that inspire and shape futures.

OUR HERITAGE

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MAGDALEN
SCHOOL

HEADMASTERS

THE REV. F. B. FALKNER
THE REV. T. RUSSELL M.
THE REV. F. S. TAYLOR M.
THE REV. J. W. BOYD M.
THE REV. I. WODHAMS
THE REV. W. W. HOLDGAT
REV. P. E. ASHWIN



Our St John's site (on the High Street in Brackley) was originally the Hospital of St James and St John, founded around 1150 by Robert le Bossu, Earl of Leicester. In 1484 it was given to Magdalen College, Oxford who began to use the site as school by 1548 (originally to allow the masters and boys from MCS Oxford to escape the plague).

Several of the buildings are listed, including the school Chapel that includes a late 12th-century doorway. We are proud that our chapel is the oldest school chapel still in use in England. It provides a wonderful venue for assemblies, celebrations, concerts, meetings and even Art lessons!

With such a long history we have a series of 'famous names' associated with the school - many of them former 'Masters'. Several have become the names of our student houses; several more can be found in street names around the town.

In January 2013 the school became an Academy. One outcome of this was a strengthening of our relationship with Magdalen College and MCS Oxford. The College are represented on our Academy Trust and Board of Governors. Another was the ability for us to continue developing our sites. Our newest classroom block opened in September 2021 at the Waynflete Avenue site.

A photograph of two students in a kitchen setting. The student on the left is a girl with brown hair and glasses, wearing a dark blue sweater over a white collared shirt and a dark blue apron. She is stirring a pot with a wooden spoon. The student on the right is a boy with curly dark hair, wearing a dark blue sweater over a white collared shirt and a dark blue apron. He is also stirring a pot with a wooden spoon. In the background, another student is visible, and there are kitchen tables and chairs. The word 'TIMINGS' is written vertically in large yellow letters on the left side of the image.

TIMINGS

We have four 75-minute-long lessons every day. Students in Years 7 to 11 see their tutor in the morning, and the afternoon. We have a staggered lunch break to ensure there is space for students to access the canteen and social spaces.



CANTEEN

Students can buy food before school and at both morning break and lunchtime. A great choice of options is available every day. Students can sit together and enjoy their food, or opt for 'grab and go' snacks so they have more time outside. Discounted food is also available at the end of every day to fuel students on their way home.

DRESS CODE

We choose to have a 'dress code' rather than a single uniform for students in Year 7 to Year 11. This is intended to:

- Ensure that students are comfortable with their clothes and appearance for school
- Allow a degree of choice and flexibility for students to express their own character and identity
- Provide a consistency across our community that supports a sense of belonging and common identity
- Minimise costs to parents, carers and families through flexibility and reducing compulsory branded items



LIBRARY

Our school library is open from 8am every morning until 4pm (note different on a Friday). Students can use the Library at break and at lunchtime too - for reading, online research, board games and more.

HOMEWORK

We set homework across all year groups which is intended to embed and consolidate content covered in lessons. Some homework is completed in students' usual class books while many subjects use online resources. We recommend that every student has access to a suitable internet-enabled device with a keyboard so that they can complete these tasks.

INCLUSION

Where students need some additional support or have an identified Special Educational Need our Inclusion team are a fantastic resource. Teachers and LSAs work with small groups in and outside the main curriculum.

Our SEND Offer is detailed on the website. As with the rest of the school one of the team will always be happy to call or meet with you to discuss any questions or concerns.

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