



Batley Grammar School

Sixth Form Application Information

2012 entry

Batley Grammar School

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Welcome from the Head

Batley Grammar School has provided a high quality education for all of its students since its doors opened in 1612. During that time the strength of the school has been its ability to adapt to changing external circumstances. During its history the school has been an all boys state grammar school. Then in 1978, due to local reorganisation and to avoid closure, it became a fee paying independent school. It became co-educational and girls were then admitted, firstly into the Sixth Form in 1988 and then throughout the school in 1996.

In 2000 the junior section of the school, Priestley House, opened. It is named after the 18th century theologian Joseph Priestley – a former pupil of the school and the man credited with discovering oxygen.

And now in 2011 the school has taken the exciting step of becoming the first Free School to Open in Yorkshire. This most recent development, returning to the maintained sector, provides the opportunity for many more students in the community to benefit from the educational opportunities here at Batley Grammar School.

We are a school with a Mathematics specialism and our curriculum is designed to place emphasis on core subjects such as Maths, English and the Sciences with a range of options that can be tailored to suit all our students' needs.

Strong academic tradition is complemented by a highly supportive and effective pastoral ethos. Such a pastoral ethos appeals widely across all communities. Our pastoral care system focuses on encouraging and supporting students in a safe and disciplined learning environment.

We have an enviable reputation for our extra curricular programme and promoting learning beyond the classroom. These include the Combined Cadet Force, the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, a wide range of sporting activities, music and drama and numerous clubs and societies.

We are a multi-cultural community and value highly the harmony, tolerance and understanding that we promote. Our most recent school inspection (ISI Feb 2010) highlighted this: "Relationships within this multi-cultural school are very good, the friendliness and respect with which pupils treat each other being very noticeable."

Batley Grammar School is a strong brand and has firm foundations on which it will build as a Free School and maintain, achieve and enable excellence.

In pursuing Free School status, our aim was to return to the maintained sector as an all-age inclusive school that would not have to charge school fees in an area of significant deprivation where many families were clearly unable to afford independent education.

We intend to raise aspirations and improve educational standards in the local area and beyond. Just as the Secretary of State looks forward to Batley Grammar School being a flagship for the Free School programme, so also do we.

We have an excellently qualified staff who are prepared to 'go that extra mile' to benefit the students and motivated pupils keen to do well and be in our disciplined learning environment, so whilst we will continue to focus upon academic excellence, we intend to fully maintain the traditional ethos, the values, the strong discipline, the respect for each other combining these with a contemporary education, fit for purpose in the 21st century.

Brigid Tullie
Head



From the Head of Sixth Form

We believe that our Sixth Form offers a unique educational experience. Large enough to offer a broad range of academic opportunities yet small enough numerically for every student to be known, respected and supported as an individual. Our students are a lively and diverse group of young people.

All new students quickly become integrated into the school community and you will find everyone friendly and willing to support you in every way we can. In return we expect you to respect the school by accepting its rules and disciplines. A sixth-former has privileges not enjoyed by the rest of the school and these come with responsibilities. We expect high standards and a willingness to contribute fully to the life of the school.

The next two years are a bridging point between compulsory schooling and the next stage of your life. As well as enabling you to gain vital academic qualifications which will give you a wide choice of courses and careers, your time in the Sixth Form at Batley Grammar School will give you the opportunity to become more self-reliant and gain valuable transferable personal skills.

We take great pride in our reputation for educational excellence. However, life in the Sixth Form at Batley Grammar School is about more than just academic success.

Our students develop a range of skills and personal qualities through participation in the wider school life, e.g. sporting and enrichment activities. There are some exciting opportunities here to take part in extra curricular activities and extend your interests.

We recognise that the transition to Sixth Form life and then University can be a challenging time. Our pastoral care system based on close tutorial relationships is geared to ensure each student's academic success and well being.

We look forward to welcoming you to the Sixth Form at Batley Gramamr School next September, and to working with you during the next two years.

Tariq Hussain
Head of Sixth Form



Becoming an Independent Learner

The Sixth Form is a vital transitional phase between the middle school and university

Our students are encouraged to develop a strong independent learning ethic and to take responsibility for their own learning. However, we recognise that their eventual success depends upon us providing close academic and pastoral support. Experienced A level subject teachers play an important role in this by identifying and targeting the learning needs of each student. Our tutorial system provides them with a positive and supportive environment that underpins their time in the Sixth Form.

We monitor the progress of students. This is done more formally via regular assessments, reports, feedback on AS and A2 module results and parents' evenings. Our Sixth Form tracking system provides weekly feedback to students in each of their subjects. Informally, we encourage an ongoing dialogue between students, parents, pastoral staff and teachers through ad hoc conversations and meetings, telephone calls and e-mails to maintain a common sense of purpose.

Students with Special Educational Needs are supported by our Learning Support department. We believe that our academic and pastoral systems provide the right level of assistance for students to achieve their aims. Whilst we acknowledge their status as independent young adults, we also recognise that the pressures Sixth Formers face mean they need encouragement and sensitive support from staff who really know them.

Although Sixth Form students do not wear a uniform we expect them to dress smartly, within acceptable guidelines in 'business dress' in order to maintain high standards of appearance.

Pastoral and Tutorial Support

Effective pastoral care should be immediate, personalised and sustained

We regard ensuring our students' happiness and well being as our most important responsibility. The role of the form tutor is absolutely central in this. Normally, students will see their form tutors twice daily at morning and afternoon registration. Tutors provide advice, encouragement and support on a wide range of issues. The Head of Sixth Form and the form tutors work closely to ensure that students maximise the opportunities available to make the most of their talents and realise their ambitions.



Sixth Form Facilities

The Sixth Form Centre is a friendly, welcoming place to be. It comprises a large recently built common room with recreational facilities (e.g. pool table, TV, music centre), a kitchenette and shop, a locker room and a work room with ICT facilities. This is a dedicated work space in which students can prepare for lessons, revise or conduct online research. The Common Room is the focal point for social activity and the atmosphere is good humoured and dynamic.

Sixth Form students have access to the wider resources of the school. These include a well stocked Learning Resource Centre, the Sports Centre and the ICT equipment including projection facilities and interactive whiteboards in classrooms that are used to enhance teaching and learning.

Students also have access to a vast amount of literature and relevant web sites to help them with their university applications. There is a dedicated careers Library for their use. Experienced tutors can offer advice and support through the University application process.

Sixth Form Curriculum

The curriculum in our Sixth Form is designed to allow you to choose from a wide range of subjects. This can promote diversity in terms of your subject selection or allow you to specialise. Flexibility is one of the strengths of our academic provision.

We expect most of our Sixth Form students to follow a programme starting with four AS subjects in Year 12 and continuing with three or four of these subjects at A2 level in Year 13. Many students choose to complete AS and A2 General Studies in Year 13. It is also sometimes possible to study a new subject to AS level in Year 13.

At Batley Grammar School we aim to produce well rounded individuals with a wide range of skills and interests to appeal to future employers. With this in mind and to balance the demands of studying academic subjects, we offer an enrichment programme as well as many useful and enjoyable extra curricular opportunities. Many students take part in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme and are in our Combined Cadet Force.

In partnership with Leeds Metropolitan University we provide Year 12 students with a taught Careers Progression Module (CPM). The CPM is a programme of exploration that encourages you to develop your skills and investigate routes into higher education. When you complete this year long programme you will be awarded 30 UCAS points towards your university application.



Subject Choices

How do I choose my subjects?

Depending upon the number of subjects you wish to study, we would usually expect you to choose four subjects in addition to the Careers Progression Module, so one from each block.

You will find details about the option blocks in the section entitled '**Option Blocks – AS Level 2012/2013**'. For popular subjects, we are able to offer more than one set, which widens the range of combinations available.

If your ideal combination of subjects does not fit our option block system please discuss this with the Head of Sixth Form or a senior member of staff when you have your course discussion meeting in the spring term. If it isn't possible to accommodate your combination of subjects we will make every effort to assist and advise you.

When do I choose my subjects?

In selecting your subjects please remember that you should choose subjects which:

- **You're good at**

Every A level course has its own minimum GCSE grade. Please see the section on '**Course Minimum Requirements by Subject**' for exact details of the minimum course requirements for this year.

- **You enjoy**

Subject enjoyment, interest, involvement and examination success go hand in hand. It is difficult to motivate yourself to do well if you do not enjoy the subjects you are studying.

- **You may need for a certain career or University course**

Although certain subjects may be very 'useful', anything less than a C grade in even the most useful subject loses its value very rapidly so choose wisely.

At the **provisional choices stage** you are not making any final decisions, and you may change your mind later on. We cannot guarantee to accommodate changes of subject but we will always do our best to help and advise you.



Extra Curricular Activities

Sixth Form students are role models for the rest of the school. The House and Prefect system allows plenty of scope for Sixth Form students to develop leadership skills and gain responsibility. Our focus is upon developing well rounded individuals as well as achieving academic results, so we encourage all students to take part in a wide range of extra curricular activities which help them grow into confident, independent young adults. These include:

- **Clubs and societies**

We run a broad range of clubs and societies, which include sporting clubs, music group, Computer Console Club, Photography and Debating. WE also encourage Sixth Form students to run clubs and activities for younger pupils.

- **Outdoor pursuits**

Everyone has the opportunity to undertake residential trips and many students take part in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme.

- **Leadership skills**

Many of our students seek to develop their interpersonal skills. Future employers and universities place high value on this in a student's achievements.

In the setting of our all through 4-18 Free School, there are many opportunities to support younger members of our school community, for example some Sixth Form students help in the Primary Phase or as mentors to younger senior school students.

- **Charities**

The school has played an important part in the local community and beyond via a tradition of fundraising, community placements, work experience and welcoming community groups to the school. Each year our students raise thousands of pounds for charities, both local and national.

- **Combined Cadet Force**

This is one of the most popular activities. The Army and RAF sections are both voluntary and membership is open to students from Year 9 onwards. A field day is held every term and each section attends two camps in the Easter and summer holidays.



Planning beyond the Sixth Form

The vast majority of our students progress onto University courses. The school has good links with professional bodies and higher education establishments to help students make the right choices for the future.

Our curriculum allow flexibility in subject choice, and whilst some students may select complementary subjects (e.g. Maths, Physics, Chemistry and Biology), others may wish to mix complementary and contrasting disciplines (e.g. Maths, French, Chemistry and ICT). Selecting a contrasting subject can be beneficial in that it may demonstrate a wide range of skills and abilities to a potential employer, e.g. scientists who can write long essays and arts students who are fully numerate.

It is worth thinking ahead to what you might want to study at university. Make sure that your subject combination will enable you to meet the requirements of the degree courses in which you are interested.

The specialism at Batley Grammar School is Mathematics; it can be a very useful commodity in a future career.

Some subjects can be studied in the Sixth Form without having previously obtained a GCSE qualification in them (e.g. Business Studies, Psychology, Law, Classical Civilisation and Religious Studies). Similarly it is perfectly possible to start many subjects at University (e.g. Law, Business Studies, Psychology) without an A level in that subject.



Sixth Form Entry Requirements

Entry into the sixth form requires **five** passes at GCSE level, which should be Grade C or above **including English Language and Mathematics. Two** of these should be **at least a B grade**. Individual subjects, however, may require particular grades if the subject is to be continued at AS level. Please refer to the list showing details of individual course requirements.

In September 2012 the agreed admission number for external students is 20 places. However if fewer than 36 of the Free School's own Year 11 pupils transfer from Year 11 into Year 12, additional external pupils will be admitted.

All students, both internal and external, are required to complete a registration form. Internal candidates: Students who are already on roll at Batley Grammar School are entitled to transfer into the sixth form provided that they meet the minimum standards for entry. All students will be offered a course discussion to help them to make the right choices.

Internal transfer forms should be returned to the Registrar in the school office before **4 pm on Friday 20th January 2012** in order to help us to determine the number of places available for external candidates. Transfer forms received after this date will still be accepted, but subject choices may be more limited because some courses may already be full. Offers of places will be conditional upon minimum entry requirements being achieved.

External candidates: Students who do not yet attend Batley Grammar School should submit an external application form as soon as possible. The closing date for receipt of these is **4 pm on Friday 20th January 2012**, however late applications will be considered if places are still available, although subject choices may be limited because some courses may already be full.

Those candidates whose predicted GCSE grades meet the minimum level required will be offered a course discussion. Offers of places will be conditional upon minimum entry requirements being achieved. In the event that a particular course is oversubscribed, places will be allocated according to the agreed admissions criteria. Under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, parents or students have the right to appeal to an independent appeals panel against the decision of an admissions authority not to offer a place at a particular school.

Open Evening: A Sixth Form Open Evening will held be on **Thursday 10th November 2011, 7.00pm – 9.00pm**. Please see the school website for details www.batleygrammar.co.uk or telephone the school office **01924 474980**. There will be an opportunity to talk to subject heads and other senior staff, who will be able to advise you about courses and entry.

Late applications: These will only be considered after those applications received on time. In addition a limited number of places may become available in late August 2011. Please contact the Admissions Secretary then if you are still looking for a place in the sixth form after 23rd August 2012.

Important dates

Open evening	Thursday 10 th November 2011
Closing date for forms to be sent in	Friday 20 th January 2012
Course discussions	Spring Term 2012
Conditional offer letters	Spring Term 2012
GCSE results day	Thursday 23rd August 2012
Sixth Form Information Morning for prospective students	Friday 24 th August 2012



Course minimum requirements by subject

Art	GCSE Grade C or above desirable
Biology	GCSE Grades AB or above required in Core Science and Additional Science or GCSE Grades AB or above in Biology and at least one other science if taking two separate sciences at GCSE GCSE Grades BBB (or equivalent e.g. ABC with at least a grade B in Biology) if taking three separate sciences at GCSE. Mathematics at grade B is required
Business Studies	-
Chemistry	GCSE Grades AB or above required in Core Science and Additional Science or GCSE Grades AB or above in Chemistry and at least one other science if taking two separate sciences at GCSE GCSE Grades BBB (or equivalent e.g. ABC with at least a grade B in Chemistry) if taking three separate sciences at GCSE. Mathematics at grade B is required
Classical Civilisation	-
English Literature	GCSE Grade B or above required
French	GCSE Grade B or above required
Further Mathematics	GCSE Grade A in Mathematics
General Studies	-
Geography	GCSE Geography useful but not required
History	GCSE Grade C History required
Law	-
ICT	GCSE Grade B or above required or a suitably recognised equivalent ICT qualification.
Mathematics	GCSE Grade B or above required
Physical Education	GCSE Grade C is useful but not essential
Physics	GCSE Grades AB or above required in Core Science and Additional Science or GCSE Grades AB or above in Physics and at least one other science if taking two separate sciences at GCSE. GCSE Grades BBB (or equivalent e.g. ABC with at least a grade B in Physics) if taking three separate sciences at GCSE. Mathematics at grade B is required
Psychology	-
Religious Studies	-

Option choices will be discussed and confirmed at individual course discussion meetings. It may be possible to change subject choices once GCSE grades are received but this will be subject to spaces still being available in individual subject groups.



Option Blocks – AS Level 2012/2013

Block 1	Block 2	Block 3	Block 4	Block 5
Psychology	Biology	Law	Business Studies	Geography
Mathematics	Physics	Chemistry	Chemistry	Art
English Literature	Religious Studies	Classical Civilisation	History	Mathematics
Biology	French	ICT	PE	ICT
<i>Careers Progression Module*</i>	Business Studies	English Literature	<i>Careers Progression Module*</i>	<i>Careers Progression Module*</i>
	<i>Careers Progression Module*</i>	<i>Careers Progression Module*</i>		

We will endeavour to run courses for all of the subjects listed in the option blocks, but it may occasionally be necessary to withdraw a given subject should there be insufficient interest from students. It may also be the case that a subject with only a limited number of students will be offered to AS level only.

All Year 12 students follow the Careers Progression Module from one of the option blocks and they choose an Enrichment Option from the Enrichment programme. This programme varies from year to year but includes areas such as Leadership Courses, Community Placements and Work Shadowing, Sporting Activities e.g. 5-a-side Football, Zumba etc..., Cooking for University, Further Mathematics.

General Studies – students have the option to take the General Studies A level.



Applying to the Sixth Form

If you would like to apply for a Sixth Form place, you must submit a 'Sixth Form Registration Form' by the closing date of Friday 20th January 2012. Application received after that date will only be considered if there are still available places.

If you are an external applicant you will need your current school to confirm your predicted GCSE grades which you will fill in on the registration form. Usually the Head of Year 11/Key Stage 4 or even your Form Tutor will confirm these. No written reference or personal statement is required.

In January, all students whose predicted grades meet our minimum entry requirements will be invited to attend a course discussion with a senior teacher. You will receive advice on the suitability of your choices for your future studies or chosen career.

Provisional offers will then normally be made during the spring term, based upon predicted GCSE grades.

Application forms are available from the school website or on request from the school office 01924 474980 or by e-mailing: info@batleygrammar.co.uk

Minimum overall requirements apply to enter the Sixth Form at Batley Grammar School. Details of these and individual subject requirements are contained in this booklet, along with the number of external places available and the closing date for applications.

Important Dates for 2012 entry

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