



Denmark Road High School

General Information

The High School was founded in 1883 from the funds of a Gloucester charity, "Gloucester United Schools". It benefits, along with the three other Gloucester city grammar schools, from the income of the Charity's investments. It moved to its present building, a grade II listed building, in a pleasant residential part of the city of Gloucester, in 1909. The school is within walking distance of Gloucester Cathedral and the city centre. The School became a Foundation School in February 2010 and an Academy in April 2011.

In the 1990's the school grew to become a four form entry girls' grammar school and from September 2017 will increase to five forms of entry. Student numbers are now 820, of whom 195 are in the mixed Sixth Form. There are 57 full-time staff and 31 part-time. A fully qualified chartered librarian is employed to run the Learning Resource Centre. Technical support is offered in the school by Laboratory, Design and Technology, Art, Art Textiles and Information Technology technicians. The school has totally embraced the proposals for reducing the administrative burden on teachers by the appointment of additional support staff.

Places in the school are allocated according to the LA selection procedure, on the basis of academic ability and parental demand. The majority of our students live in Gloucester and the immediate surroundings, but more and more girls are choosing to travel in from more distant parts of the county, from rural areas in the Forest of Dean, in one direction, and Cheltenham and beyond, in the other. This has now resulted in a significant proportion of our students being bussed to school.

A dedicated and expert staff motivate all students to achieve their full potential; standards and expectations are high. Results in public examinations are consistently among the best in the county. Music, sport and the arts are fundamental to the general education of all our students, and the school has a high reputation in all these areas.

The pastoral system is that of a traditional grammar school, in which students relate first and foremost to their Form Tutor. The majority of our full-time staff and some part-time colleagues are Form Tutors; this is seen as an important responsibility in the wider life of the school. Our pastoral care is outstanding. Houses exist, not so much as pastoral units, but as vehicles for co-curricular activity. The House system has been significantly developed this academic year. Orchestras, choirs, art, drama, a variety of clubs, sporting and non-sporting, and the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, at bronze, silver and gold levels, provide for wide-ranging interests. There are regular trips and expeditions at home and abroad, including trips to Iceland and New York.

In the last fifteen years major improvements have been made to our accommodation: the original Edwardian building which is kept in an excellent state of décor by our skilled maintenance team, has been complemented by a Humanities block, completed in 1995, and then by a new Science block, extended gymnasium, new dining hall and more extensive Sixth Form facilities in a £1.3 million project which was completed in 1997. Since then we have added further classrooms, and a new pavilion on one of our sports fields to complement the 6 new tennis/netball courts and extended the study facilities in our learning resource centre. In more recent years we have focused on the refurbishment of several areas of the school as well as making a huge investment in ICT.

In April 2014 we were successful in obtaining £1.8 million from the Education Funding Agency for a new English and Performing Arts Centre, which was finished in September 2015. 5 of our 'temporary' classrooms were demolished as a result. The school has also completed a capital fundraising campaign in the last 2 years in order to build a new Drama Studio and extension to the dining room. The extension to the dining hall has been completed as a result of the generosity of staff, governors, parents and former Headteachers. The building of the drama studio will occur once we secure all the money that has been pledged. The removal of the temporary classrooms has enabled us to re-landscape the area at the back of the school.

As part of our various projects we have created work areas for each subject so that most colleagues now have easy access to a quiet work area which has computer links to our network. The main staffroom has a small associated work-room with networked PCs.

ICT facilities have been upgraded in the last few years and we have two dedicated ICT suites and sets of laptops and iPads in further areas around the site. Post-16 students also have a small additional area off the Sixth Form Centre equipped with PCs, a set of laptops and iPads for use in the Sixth Form area. Study facilities in the learning resource centre are excellent both for main school and the Sixth Form. A completely new network and servers were installed over the summer of 2014.

We now use googlemail for our emails and documents. This has enabled staff and students to have access not only to their emails but to documentation on the google site, from home. This has improved not only effective communication with parents, but has also enabled work to be set for students on the appropriate sites. This has revolutionised learning within the school.

In 2014-15 we introduced SISRA as the school's monitoring and tracking software so that staff have easy access to data.