

"One of the most important features of what we offer is the partnership between Home and School. When your son or daughter joins us at Bloxham you, too, will join our community. When you visit you will always be made most welcome, and we will always listen to your views and to those of your child – for you both are very important to us."

welcome

Bloxham is a friendly and flourishing boarding and day School of around 400 pupils situated in a beautiful conservation village in the heart of rural North Oxfordshire. Fully co-educational, we have a widely-recognised reputation for the excellence of our pastoral care, and for our success in developing balanced, thoughtful and successful young people. We stretch the most able pupils whilst supporting and encouraging all.

Pupils normally join us at the age of 11, 13 or 16 from a wide variety of schools. We have a Lower School and six senior houses in which boarders and day pupils are fully integrated. All pupils participate in the wide range of societies, clubs, sport, music and drama we offer.

Bloxham is a small School with a great spirit! Our size means all pupils are known well as individuals and although we have all the advantages of a small School, our facilities and the range of subjects and activities on offer are impressive. We would be delighted to welcome you to the School and are confident that you will find Bloxham as special as we do.

As a Woodard School we put considerable emphasis on both Christian teaching and excellent pastoral care. Your children will benefit from a strong moral and ethical framework that helps them and the other pupils grow up with a clear sense of values. They will learn to respect others and also themselves and to engage in the world around them. Our Chaplain plays a major role in our community, acting as a guide for both pupils and staff.

Our values are based on the assumption that we must do the best for every member of the School, academically and pastorally. Our philosophy is to recognise and reward effort and achievement, and to be pro-active in helping pupils overcome any problems they might face.

Bloxham expects its pupils to behave appropriately, to respect its rules and exhibit good manners. Hence, the disciplinary structure is clear and firm, but fair.

values

"My role as Chaplain at Bloxham is to ensure everyone is and feels valued for who they are and what they can give. I lead the formal worship in chapel each week where our chapel services reflect our sense of thankfulness and our determination to care for others, both within our own community and throughout the wider world. I also spend a lot of time with pupils in their activities and in their Houses. In this respect I am one of a large team of adults helping the children find their feet at School and preparing them for their own journey through life."

spirit

Opportunity, Hope,
Ambitions, University, Scholarship,
Expeditions, Trust, Faith,
Sharing, Rugby and Hockey Tours,
Learning, Careers, Theatre, Fencing,
Performance, Fulfilment,
CCF, Shooting, Polo, Young Enterprise,
Fun, Excitement, Growth,
Oxford Trust Design and Technology,
Equestrian, Friendship, Netball,
Freedom, Imagination,
Creativity, Effort, Discipline,
Young Musician of the Year Competition,
Charity Fund Raising, Innovation,
Inspiration, Achievement.

At Bloxham we are committed to bringing out your children's qualities in every area of life. We believe that all girls and boys have great potential, but understand that they develop at different rates. Your children will be cared for by people who believe in them, have faith in their ability and an understanding of how to develop it. Everything we do is designed to identify and nurture talent; we also develop self-awareness, self-respect and confidence.

Your children will be encouraged to achieve their full potential in academic work and in sport, drama, music and art. They will be challenged to reflect carefully on the world around them and the issues they face. We trust them and even if they make mistakes we never stop believing in them.

learning

Bloxham is genuinely co-educational to the great benefit of all. Dedicated, enthusiastic staff are reflective, self-critical and forward-looking.

We are determined to ensure that every aspect of what we provide for our pupils is right up to date. We resist fads and hold on to what is good about our own traditions, but we employ the latest technologies and the latest understanding of how children learn. This is of immeasurable help for your son or daughter in getting the best possible benefit from their education. Our teachers themselves undergo regular and thorough appraisal for their own professional development. Bloxham is, at every level, a learning organisation.

We run an excellent Dyslexia Course which caters for the small number of bright boys and girls with special needs in this area. We maintain high academic standards but also value contributions in sport, art, music and drama. However, we judge ourselves on how well we do for each and every pupil who joins us.

"Our daughter joined Bloxham as a conscientious but rather quiet child, sometimes a little anxious about new challenges and new people. She left as a mature, self-confident adult looking forward to the future and willing and able to make a contribution in the wider world. The School not only taught her to pass exams, which it did very well, but also enabled her to become herself. The staff were always kind and supportive, even when we worried about her. Their understanding was accurate and their faith well-placed. We have been delighted with the School."

"Our children are coming to the end of their time at the School and we are absolutely delighted with what the School has done and how they have done it. The relationship between us and the Teachers, Housemaster and Headmaster has grown over the years and we have become good friends both with them and with the other parents we have met here. After all, there is nothing more important than your child's education and the staff at Bloxham genuinely do work with parents throughout the process."

community

Life at Bloxham is based on an understanding that a well-ordered, happy, purposeful community results in the fulfilment of the children and adults who belong to it. Though we live, work and develop in a Christian ethos, we welcome all faiths. Our spiritual life is not limited to Chapel but it is evident in the good relationships throughout the community. These relationships are based on trust and mutual respect. The education we offer is based upon an optimism about the young and a sense of hope for the future.

While we believe it is essential that individuals develop their own qualities, it is also important that all pupils develop the ability to work together. This ability will be fostered both in the classrooms and in the Houses or Lower School. As parents you too are highly valued members of our community and you will always be welcome to discuss your children's progress and development with us.

Animation, Archery, Art, Film Club, Astronomy,
Badminton, Bell-Ringing, Cercle Français, CCF,
Chapel Serving, Charity Committee, Chess, Choir,

progressive

Clay Shooting, Climbing, Computing, Confirmation,
Community Service, Cricket Nets, Debating, Design
and Technology, Duke of Edinburgh's Award,
Electronics, Ensembles, Fencing, Fives, Folk Music,
Football, Forum, French, Go Club, Golf, House Drama,
House Sacristan, JCR Committee, JSU, Karate,
Library, Life-saving, Lighting, Literary Society,
Maths, Music Society, Music Technology, Orchestra,
PaperBlox, Photography, Polo, Rock Bands,
Shooting, Squash, Stage Crew, Swimming,
Swing Band, Wargaming, Young Enterprise.

Bloxham has a distinguished history and many fine traditions, but what interests us most is the future – your children's future. We seek to prepare our pupils for the world they will find when they leave us. They will learn how to work hard and to learn effectively, how to relate to people, how to approach challenging situations with confidence, maturity and some style.

We are forward-looking and embrace worthwhile change. Open to new ideas and confident in facing challenges, we enjoy helping pupils prepare for their future. The School already has excellent facilities for teaching, boarding, design and technology, sport, art, drama and music but your child will also benefit from new developments, which include a new library at the very heart of the School. This will enable pupils readily to access the resources and information they need. They benefit from using their laptops anywhere in our wireless networked campus and reap the rewards of our investment in staff training and development. We are committed to preparing pupils to thrive in the knowledge-based economy.

Bloxham School

I very much hope that you have enjoyed reading this prospectus and have perhaps had the opportunity to view our interactive DVD which partners this brochure.

Both are merely appetisers aimed at ensuring that we are at the top of any list of schools that you will visit as you wrestle with the all-important decision which faces you.

We are confident in our ability to convince you when you visit and also in our promise to exceed your expectations once your children have joined us. We do this through partnership with you and look forward to commencing that partnership here at Bloxham in the very near future, when we can discuss your children's individual needs and aspirations.

During your initial visit you will have a chance to look around our School in the company of a member of staff, will meet other teachers and see many of our pupils at work and to discuss with me your children's future. You will see a very happy School and one in which every pupil is given a golden opportunity to find success and fulfilment.

I look forward to welcoming you to Bloxham
– The Small School with the Great Spirit.

Mark Allbrook
Headmaster

invitation