

FIND YOUR EXCEPTIONAL

TAUNTON SCHOOL SENIOR



TAUNTON
— SCHOOL —

AN INDEPENDENT DAY & BOARDING
SCHOOL FOR AGES 0 - 18

“Down-to-earth, diverse and caring, this is a top-notch all-rounder school where youngsters can get stuck into their studies, sport, the performing arts and all manner of co-curricular pursuits.”

THE GOOD SCHOOLS GUIDE, 2023



A WARM WELCOME TO TAUNTON SCHOOL

Whilst we are proudly ambitious for all of our students, their wellbeing is at the heart of everything that we do. We care for each and every child, fostering a sense of belonging. From this position of security, we can then encourage the children in our care to aim high, take risks, learn from failure and develop the resilience they need for a successful life.

As an IB World School, we are innovative, forward thinking, global in outlook and down to earth in our approach. We recognise that a balanced education is vital in developing global citizens who will make a positive contribution far beyond Taunton.

We want our students to work hard and fulfil their academic potential, but we also want them to be people who will contribute to whatever community they

join in the future with humility, genuine engagement and kindness towards others. Throughout their lives our children will work closely with people from across the globe. Where better to learn an appreciation for this diversity than in a school with over 50 nationalities?

Inspirational teaching gives our students a love of learning which we hope will stay with them throughout their lives. Our pastoral care gives them a sense of place and the breadth and challenge of our co-curricular activities allows them to find talents and resolve that might otherwise have remained dormant.

Please do come and see us to find out more about what we offer.

James Johnson
Headmaster

“Parent: He is achieving because he knows everyone at Taunton believes in him.”

THE GOOD SCHOOLS GUIDE, 2023

A CULTURE OF AMBITION

At Taunton School, we understand that each student has unique strengths and needs. That’s why we tailor our educational approach to suit the individual child and offer a choice of different pathways to success.

Taunton’s culture of ambition encourages all students to strive for academic excellence. Our breadth of curriculum provides a wealth of opportunities for talents to be explored and passions to be developed. Our focus is on unearthing potential and we want every child to be intellectually challenged.

Our beautiful 56-acre site provides an inspirational setting for students to thrive. There is space to learn and play, and freedom to explore and grow. And with more than 50 different nationalities, Taunton School’s students have an extraordinary opportunity to become global citizens.

We encourage all our students to develop a thirst for knowledge, laying the foundations for a lifelong love of learning. We hold our students to high standards across the curriculum, but we expect a sense of humility too, celebrating each other’s successes, fostering a wonderful community spirit and a pride in our school’s achievements.





“Students have excellent attitudes to their learning.”

INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS INSPECTORATE

ACADEMIC PROGRAMME

YEAR 9

At Taunton School we do things differently. Our innovative approach to Year 9 ensures that all our students make a smooth transition to Senior School whilst developing the skills and the confidence they will need for the years ahead.

Taunton's outstanding teachers are passionate about their subjects. They understand, too, the challenges of Year 9 for students moving from both Prep and State Schools to Senior School.

The Taunton Curriculum provides a bespoke pathway for each student from day one. Each child is given careers guidance to help them understand the relevance of their education and to support them when it comes to applying for courses at top universities or a degree apprenticeship.

With expert teacher support, students are encouraged to have a global outlook, think about their futures and take charge of their own educational journeys.

It is a combination of high expectations, a curriculum matched to every student's unique talents and interests and excellent pastoral support which enables students to quickly get into their stride at Senior School.

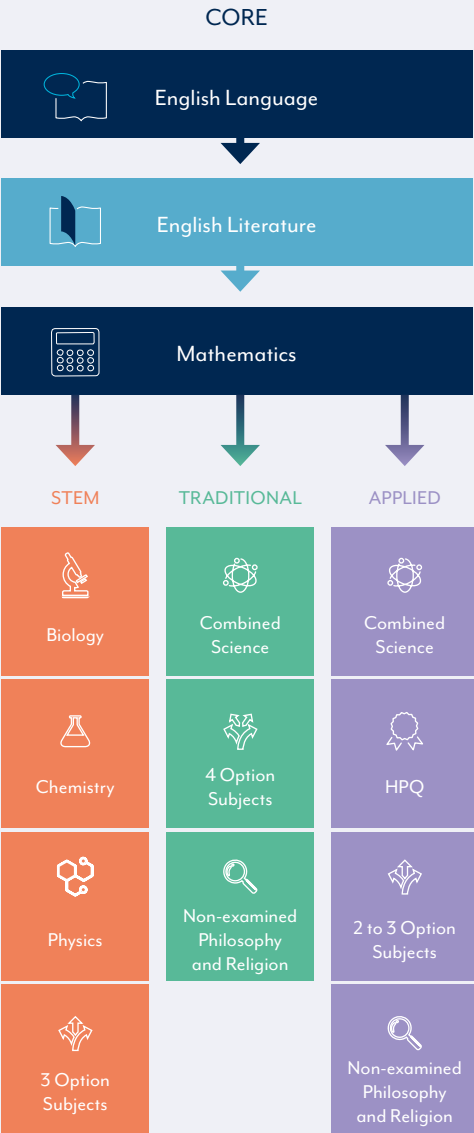
All Year 9 students study English, Maths, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, History, Geography, Computing, PE, Religious Studies, Art and PSHEE as well as French, German or Spanish.

Students also choose two subjects from the following options: Classical Civilisation, Drama, Music, Greek, Latin, Design and Technology and Key Skills. Students whose first language is not English have the option of specialist English tuition to ensure language skills are brought up to speed for academic study.

ACADEMIC PROGRAMME

YEAR 10/11

CURRICULUM PATHWAYS



When it comes to GCSEs, we pride ourselves on supporting every child to find the academic pathway which suits them best.

Most of our students will take a maximum of nine GCSEs. We believe that quality and depth of education deliver not only the best results but also a greater enjoyment of the subjects chosen. Our breadth of curriculum allows students to choose subjects which really inspire them. The core GCSEs taken by all students are English Language, English Literature, Maths and Science.

As a school with a global outlook we strongly recommend that all students choose a modern language – either French, German or Spanish. However, we recognise that in exceptional circumstances, this might not be suitable for all candidates.

To complement these core GCSEs our students are then encouraged to choose at least one Humanities subject, such as Geography or History, and at least one Creative Arts subject, such as Art, Drama, Music or Design Technology.

Other GCSE options include Business Studies, Classical Civilisation, Latin, Computing and ICT, Economics, PE and Religious Studies.

See our [GCSE options booklet](#) for more information.



“Students and parents wax lyrical about the place - and it’s easy to see why.”

THE GOOD SCHOOLS GUIDE, 2023



CARRINGTON LIBRARY

The well stocked Carrington Library, opened in September 2022, provides a quiet working atmosphere for private study and leisure reading for all Senior students. Holding approximately 14,000 volumes and 7,500 catalogued journal articles, the Library also hosts a number of online and digital resources to support research and learning across the school.

A special collection of books boasting the title “The Wow Factor” encourages academically ambitious students to ‘read themselves interesting’ by exploring World and English literature and works of popular science and humanities subjects.

TEACHING & LEARNING

Our job is to prepare students for their lives after Taunton School. Whether it’s navigating the digital world or needing additional specialist support we make sure our students have the skills they need to thrive beyond the classroom.

Digital technology will be a key feature of everything our students do in the future. Knowing how to navigate the digital world safely and effectively is a cornerstone of any education today.

Our streamlined digital strategy in the classroom has four strands:

- All Year 9 students study ICT in our excellent computing facilities run by dedicated teachers, with the option of furthering study at GCSE and sixth-form level.
- We use the Microsoft suite for education allowing teachers to access the full functionality of OneNote to personalise learning.
- Homework, known as prep, is set via Teams allowing students to organise their learning and receive a wide range of feedback from their teachers.
- Guidance is given on online reading, referencing and research with safe and trusted platforms such as Britannica School available to every student.

ENGLISH AS AN ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE (EAL)

Our EAL Department offers comprehensive support to international students of all ages in a friendly and social environment. Years 9 to 11 are given expert tuition in small classes to ensure they fully understand the language and key terms required for the successful study of mainstream subjects across the curriculum.

Whether it is providing in-class help with an area of study or a specific piece of work, our EAL teachers excel in educational and pastoral care for overseas students.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS DEPARTMENT

Students who require it are given dedicated support throughout their time with us. Our expert team of teachers identifies and provides the relevant assistance to address students’ individual education needs and to ensure they achieve their full potential.

Support is offered on a short and long-term basis with staff continuously assessing a child’s progress to make sure the correct targeted assistance is being provided – and to inform parents of their child’s progress.



ACADEMIC RESULTS

GCSE	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Percentage of grades 9-4 (A* - C)	93%	97%	97%	92%	95%	92%	95%
Percentage of grades 9-7 (A*/A)	43%	49%	52%	43%	52%	42%	53%

A-Level	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Overall Pass Rate	98%	100%	100%	98%	97%	98%	100%
of which grades A*, A and B	61%	87%	75%	66%	61%	52%	69%

IB Diploma	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Average Diploma Points (World average: 30 points out of a total of 45)	32	36	36	34	32	34	33
of which HL grade 7,6 and 5	72%	77%	93%	85%	73%	76%	85%

BTEC Extended Diploma Sports and Exercise Science and BTEC Business**	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Percentage of grades distinction*/distinction (D* - D)	72%	77%	93%	85%	61%	81%	84%



“Students demonstrate high levels of self-understanding for their age and make more intelligent and thoughtful choices”

INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS INSPECTORATE

A MINDSET FOR LIFE

At Taunton School we help students to develop the characteristics they need to become the best versions of themselves. We instil self-confidence and resilience but also a sense of humility which prepares students for life beyond school, enabling them to become valuable members of their communities.

We want our students to excel in their own unique way, to aim high but to know how to overcome setbacks when they arise. A focus on developing leadership skills gives our students the capability they need to achieve, but also to deal effectively with life's challenges.

We value authenticity and a lack of pretence, laying the foundations for successful future professional and personal relationships. Our school's pioneering heritage means that we champion curiosity and self-direction, developing enquiring minds and independent spirits.

Our students embrace opportunities and recognise the importance of individual contributions without any hint of arrogance. Integrity and honesty are at the heart of a Taunton School education. Tauntonians learn the importance of standing up for what is right – even when that might be difficult.

CO-CURRICULAR



A myriad of opportunities are on offer outside the classroom at Taunton School. Running alongside our outstanding provision for Sport, our extensive co-curricular offering, known as the Horizons Programme, inspires students to take ownership of their own educational experience through a genuine commitment to a range of artistic, cultural, intellectual and sporting opportunities.

Wellbeing and fulfilment are at the heart of the Horizons Programme, with students able to connect with like-minded peers, explore new interests and, ultimately, broaden their horizons.

The Programme features more than 150 different clubs. Whether you are passionate about art, sport or music, dance or debating, there is something for everyone.

Development of leadership skills is positively encouraged – and is central to clubs such as Model United Nations, Greenpower, Amnesty International, Fashion Club and Young Enterprise.

We firmly believe skills and attitudes developed away from the classroom improve students' academic performance within it. Our co-curricular offering is a central part of our holistic, inclusive approach to preparing young people for the world beyond school.

It is the hallmark of a Taunton School education, an experience which prepares our students for a life where they make a positive and lasting contribution.



“The wide choice of activities within the co-curricular programme is a very positive factor in developing students’ sense of self-worth”

INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS INSPECTORATE

“Make no bones about it, this is a very sporty school, with a host of awards, prizes and sporting achievements to its name over the years.”

THE GOOD SCHOOLS GUIDE, 2023



WE WANT ALL OUR STUDENTS TO DEVELOP A LIFELONG ENJOYMENT OF SPORT AND EXERCISE, BUT WE ALSO HAVE SPECIALIST TAILORED SUPPORT FOR THOSE ON TRACK TO BECOME AN ELITE SPORTS PERSON.

SPORT

We foster an ambitious, engaging, and challenging environment where every student, regardless of experience, is given the opportunity to maximise their potential on and off the pitch.

There is no doubt that we are a sporty school. We have more than 120 teams competing across 18 different disciplines.

Our students perform at county, regional, national and international levels with many choosing to continue with high performance sport at university, often receiving scholarships to support their studies.

But sport is for everyone at Taunton School – not just the elite. Our sports department has an inclusive approach which ensures that all students can engage with sport – and feel valued.

We know that the core skills learned on the pitch or in the pool can be transferred far beyond the sporting arena and impact positively on all areas of a student's life.

We encourage our students to recognise that perseverance and passion lead to achievement of ambitious long-term goals. Our ethos is best articulated through the acronym 'GRIT': students who are grounded, resilient, have integrity and tenacity.

These characteristics are explored throughout the school year in both individual and team sports. And they pay off. Our teams consistently pick up titles in a variety of sports.

We are proud to embrace a multisport philosophy, providing a varied and exciting range of sporting opportunities to all students. Our outstanding staff aim to create ignition moments where students are inspired to engage and develop, aspiring to and achieving their personal best.



For those who are looking to become elite sportspeople, we provide high-quality, carefully-tailored support. Our Performance Programme is delivered by our team of outstanding coaches and includes:

- **Athletic Development**
- **Specialist skills workshops including one-to-one or small unit sessions**
- **Rehabilitation**
- **Weekly Sports Scholars' lectures, often featuring guest speakers, on the following topics: Movement, Mindset, Nutrition, Recovery and Sleep.**

OUR SPORTS FACILITIES

Taunton School has extensive sporting facilities across our 56-acre campus. As well as our sports pitches for cricket, rugby, football and hockey we have three sports halls, two indoor swimming pools, a well-equipped fitness suite, eight netball courts, two multi-purpose floodlit AstroTurf pitches, a dance studio, an athletics area, two squash courts and an indoor climbing wall.

SPORTS OFFERED AT TAUNTON SCHOOL

Competitive sports include Rugby, Hockey, Netball, Cricket, Tennis, Swimming, Athletics, Football, Cross Country, Basketball, Badminton, Squash, Table Tennis, Pistol Shooting, Equestrian, Golf, Rowing, Volleyball, and Waterpolo.

Non-competitive sports include Athletic Development, Long Distance Swimming, Yoga, Indoor Climbing, Dance, Sailing, Boxing, Paleo Fitness, and Orienteering.





TOM ABELL OT 1995

“I had so many incredible memories here. It was always my dream to play cricket and I don’t think that would have been possible without the opportunities I had here at Taunton School. The school were incredibly helpful in terms of me managing my time. Playing at school was some of the happiest times of my life, some of the greatest memories that I’ve got.

Coming to a school like this, the opportunities are immense. The values that you can learn through playing different sports and working in teams, translate to any walk of life. I had some of the best times in my life through my school career, and I’m so grateful for all the opportunities. I think the school has moulded me into the cricketer and the person I am today.”

DRAMA

Drama is an integral part of co-curricular life at Taunton School. Our inclusive approach means that taking part in productions is for everyone. We believe drama is of great benefit to all students, playing a pivotal role in developing social skills and self-confidence at all ages.

Our lively drama department has a 160-seater theatre space and separate studio as well as a full-time Performing Arts Manager. We produce a number of plays each year which are open to all and allow students to experience what it is like to be part of a full-scale production in front a large audience.

In recent years, our productions have included *The Crucible*, *Antigone*, *The 39 Steps*, *Midsummer Night's Dream* and *A Christmas Carol*.

Specifically for Years 9 and 10 the department runs Drama For Fun workshops which provide younger students with an introduction to acting. There is TS Thespians, the school's Drama Society, which puts on small-scale pieces where students can audition to act, direct, produce, set design, whilst learning about stage management. We also offer carefully-tailored support for those wishing to pursue acting at conservatoire or as a career. The Theatre Production Club gives students the opportunity to go behind the scenes, learning about lighting, sound and set design while the Costume Club focuses on costume production and stage make-up.

Academic options include an IGCSE in Drama as well as AS and A-level Theatre Studies in Years 12 and 13. Our Drama Scholars' sessions take place once a week and are open to all, allowing students to join in with workshops, talks and improvised pieces.

Many of our students have gone on to join courses at leading drama schools and universities, including Bristol Old Vic, the Birmingham Conservatoire and the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama.

In recent years students have had the opportunity to work regularly with local theatre companies. We also run regular trips to see productions in Bristol, Bath and London's West End.





MUSIC

“The music offer is extensive, with students performing in everything from chamber music ensembles to big musicals.”

THE GOOD SCHOOLS GUIDE, 2023

Music plays a crucial role in the daily life of Taunton School. With an extraordinary range of opportunities on offer, we are proud of our reputation for musical excellence.

Our busy music department seeks to meet the interests and needs of all students, ensuring that there are performance and ensemble opportunities for musicians of all standards, styles and instruments.

While our extensive co-curricular music programme provides a platform for students to develop their talents across a huge variety of ensembles, our academic musicians can study GCSE, A-Level and IB courses. Taunton School students frequently gain places at leading universities and conservatoires, often with prestigious scholarships.

We also offer specialist pathways for musicians who want an in-depth programme of study with substantial practise time, accompaniment sessions and individual opportunities to perform. For students creating their own music, there are personalised composition workshops and recording sessions.

Our state-of-the-art department has access to numerous pianos, both grand and upright, a full Apple Mac suite and a recording studio. Performance venues include our beautiful Chapel, the intimate Gwyn Williams Room, the wood-panelled Old Library and the newly-built Sixth Form Centre. Our Director of Music heads up a team of five full-time music teachers and more than 20 peripatetic staff who provide tuition across a whole range of musical instruments.

Opportunities abound for our musicians to take part in regular performances: we have four choirs, a Symphony orchestra, separate bands for dance, wind and funk, a weekly jazz workshop, ensembles for both brass and percussion as well as several rock bands and an extensive Chamber Music provision.

Our students regularly gain places in the National Children's Choir of Great Britain and the Somerset County Youth Orchestra and Brass Band. Our musicians have also had outstanding success in the Taunton Young Musician of the Year competition, the Taunton Festival of the Arts and the Two Moors Festival.

The Department runs a packed calendar of musical performances. There are regular Evening Recitals, Teatime Concerts, Evensong Services, Contemporary Music Evenings, Masterclasses and concert trips. Musicians perform each week in our beautiful Chapel building for morning services. In addition, we host a large-scale Choral Concert, a Concerto Competition, an outdoor Summer Concert as well as full-scale musical productions with tours both in the UK and overseas.

DEBATING & PUBLIC SPEAKING

The Burke Debating and Public Speaking Society has a long history at Taunton School and remains a popular and thriving choice for students today.

Taunton's oldest society is open to all year groups and aims to equip students with the necessary skills and knowledge to become effective speakers and debaters in the future.

For those new to debating there are informal lunchtime debates, progressing to formal debates for more confident and experienced speakers. There are also lots of opportunities to compete locally, nationally and internationally.

Taunton School is a founding member of the World Individual Debating and Public Speaking Championships - an international competition which we send students to every year.

Our debaters are also regular participants in a range of debating competitions run by the English Speaking Union as well as the Oxford Union.

The Debating Society allows students to develop a deeper understanding of complex issues and diverse perspectives, as well as providing the perfect opportunity to hone listening and critical thinking skills.

MODEL UNITED NATIONS

This club offers Taunton School students the opportunity to simulate the workings of the United Nations. Although overseen by a member of staff, it is student leaders – known as Secretary Generals – who organise meetings and coordinate activities.

Anyone from the Senior School can join the MUN Club, but it usually attracts students who are interested in international relations and diplomacy as well as public speaking and critical thinking. It is a valuable addition to University applications and a stepping stone towards future leadership roles.

Local and regional conferences allow students to participate in larger United Nations simulations with other schools. Here students have the opportunity to represent a country, draft resolutions and negotiate with other delegates.





“The art department is vibrant and exciting”

THE GOOD SCHOOLS GUIDE, 2023

ART & PHOTOGRAPHY

AN INSPIRATIONAL PLACE WHICH INVITES EVERYBODY TO GET INVOLVED.

With five bright studios, two darkrooms, and numerous vibrant artworks displayed throughout, the Art & Photography Department at Taunton School inspires our students to explore and communicate their creative spirit through a range of artistic opportunities.

Many of our students secure places at prestigious art institutions with high quality portfolios. We offer Fine Art at GCSE and A-level, Photography at A-level as well an IB option choice in Visual Arts.

Alongside our academic offerings, a range of Art and Photography Clubs run each term creating a creative hub for everyone after the school day has finished. Students can challenge themselves creatively and advance their technical skills, or simply take advantage of a chance to unwind.

With excellent facilities and outstanding staff, the Art Department provides a diverse and exciting range of activities tailored to each students' individual interests.

OUTDOOR EDUCATION

Outdoor Education at Taunton School gives students the opportunity to engage in challenging activities which build physical strength and mental resilience.



Fun and adventure outside of the classroom rarely feel like education, but leave a lasting impression. Our activities in the great outdoors, both locally and further afield, allow our students to experience and enjoy new challenges, often taking them out of their comfort zone.

We want our students to acquire a lifelong passion for a healthy and active lifestyle as well as learning to respect our natural environment. Working as a team, learning how to communicate effectively with one another, having empathy for fellow students as well as becoming more self-reliant are just some of the benefits of a rigorous outdoor education programme.

For Taunton School students, it's easy to get outdoors. Our school is on a 56-acre site, a stone's throw from the beautiful Quantock Hills and a short drive from some of the most rugged landscape in the UK – Exmoor, Dartmoor and the Brecon Beacons. The coastlines of Devon and Dorset are also on our doorstep.

The Duke of Edinburgh award is widely taken up by our students. We have excellent equipment that students can use and preparation for the assessed DoE expeditions are organised by our highly experienced and qualified leaders. Bronze level expeditions take place in the Quantocks whilst Silver and Gold take our students to Exmoor, Dartmoor and the Brecon Beacons.

The Ten Tors Challenge is extremely popular with Taunton School students. Each year, 400 teams of six from schools across the South-West attempt to navigate routes of 35, 45 or 55 miles over the northern half of Dartmoor, visiting ten nominated tors in under two days. Run by the Army, it is a gruelling endurance challenge. A robust training programme prepares students during the Spring Term, with fierce competition for places in the final teams.

Closer to home we have our own climbing wall and a weekly rock climbing club. Students can progress through the accredited levels of the National Indoor Climbing Award Scheme under the guidance of our qualified instructors. On weekends there are plenty of opportunities for students to get outdoors with organised surfing and mountain biking trips.



Taunton School's Combined Cadet Force is the largest in the South West and is made up of Army and Royal Navy sections.

COMBINED CADET FORCE (CCF)



Becoming a cadet helps students develop a range of skills including leadership, self-reliance and endurance. Perhaps most of all, students discover a sense of service to the community.

CCF at Taunton School means following a structured training programme which teaches functional skills in challenging environments. Training takes place weekly with overnight field training exercises in the Autumn and Spring terms. Junior cadets complete their training at our week-long Annual Camp in the Summer term.

All Year 10 students are active CCF participants with many continuing into Year 11. At the end of that year, cadets are eligible for promotion, on merit, as Non-Commissioned Officers where they take on more leadership responsibilities.

By Year 12, the Junior NCO Cadre are put through a teacher training programme enabling them to train up junior cadets. As a Senior NCO in Year 13, students lead their own sections and take full responsibility for administering more than 250 cadets on parade and setting high standards.

“Students’ personal development is greatly enhanced by the school’s international environment, in line with the school’s aim to be a global community.”

INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS INSPECTORATE

A GLOBAL COMMUNITY

At Taunton School, we provide an inspiring learning environment that fosters a sense of community and inclusiveness.

Our students are taught to respect themselves as well as others, and with over 50 nationalities represented across the year groups, they are encouraged to embrace a global mindset. As an IB World School, we celebrate and champion diversity in all its forms, recognising that our collective differences make us stronger. Our culture of inclusion builds a sense of empathy and understanding, allowing us to support the personal and academic growth of every student.

Moreover, our sense of global reach continues long after students leave through our alumni association, which is a global network of thousands of people of all ages. Members take an active part in enriching the experiences of students at the school. This connection beyond the classroom reinforces our commitment to community and our shared values.





ASSISTED PLACES AND SCHOLARSHIPS

We believe that every child should have access to a life changing education. At Taunton School, we offer Assisted Places and Scholarships so that every child has the opportunity to reach their full potential.

We know that for many parents, the dream of sending their child to a top independent school is out of reach financially. You may also have concerns that your son or daughter will struggle to fit in socially and academically. This is a fear we hope that any visit to the school will dispel. One of the School's most important aims is to do all it can to provide education for able and committed students, whatever the financial circumstances of the student's family.

Scholarships are not means-tested and are recognition of excellence and outstanding ability. Assisted Places are means-tested financial support and all offers are subject to assessment, with students demonstrating ability in one or more areas.

We offer 13+, 16+ and IB scholarships, for more information please visit www.tauntonschool.co.uk/scholarships





Our school is on the edge of Taunton, Somerset's county town located in the South West of England and only a 1 hour and 45 minute train journey from London. It is a quintessentially British town with excellent amenities and is home to the renowned Somerset County Cricket Club. Everything Taunton has to offer is just a short walk from our 56-acre site. The region enjoys good weather and, nearby, there are many Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty as well as the gorgeous coast lines of North Devon and to the South, Lyme Regis and the Jurassic Coast. The cities of Exeter and Bristol are less than an hour's drive away, with both cities' airports just 40 minutes away.

London's Heathrow Airport is 2 hours 30 minutes away and Gatwick Airport is 3 hours 30 minutes.

TRANSPORT

Our fleet of three coaches and 11 minibuses provide a safe and efficient network to transport day students to school. We cover a wide catchment area with convenient pick-up points from Exeter to Glastonbury and Weston-Super-Mare. All of our drivers are employed by Taunton School. They are fully vetted, DBS checked and trained in fire and first aid skills.

A HOME AWAY FROM HOME

FACILITIES & CAMPUS

A dynamic fusion of beautiful, traditional buildings and state-of-the-art facilities make Taunton School a very special place to study.

While our Grade II listed, 19th Century, main school, complete with iconic Gothic tower, exudes historical charm, our £3.6 million dining hall, vibrant classrooms and a new Sixth Form centre are at the cutting edge of modern design.

Our campus reflects not only the pride we have in our long history, but also our progressive outlook – a hallmark of a Taunton School education since the school was founded in 1847. Specialist Art, Music, Drama, Science and Design and Technology spaces provide students with an exceptional learning experience. We have an on-site health centre which is open 24-hours a day and with a 56-acre site, green spaces abound for our students to relax in and enjoy.

Our recently developed 'Green Heart' links our family of schools in an eco-friendly pedestrianised zone with lots of plants and seating to promote student wellbeing. Taunton School's sports fields, Astro pitches and pavilions are used all-year round and we have two indoor swimming pools. Our large sports halls have indoor cricket practice facilities, squash courts, a climbing wall, fitness suite and dance studios.

Our Dining Hall, opened by Princess Anne in 2020, provides nutritious home-cooked food, prepared by our highly qualified catering staff. We are one of the only schools in the region not to outsource catering.



“Of all the school’s attributes, pastoral care stands first and foremost.”

THE GOOD SCHOOLS GUIDE, 2023



A SENSE OF BELONGING

At Taunton School, we are one inclusive family in which many communities come together to create one greater collective.

From Nursery through to Sixth Form, the journey is seamless. We are a school that is built on inclusivity, where everybody belongs, whatever their story or background.

We believe that students should feel safe, supported, and able to thrive. That’s why we’ve built an outstanding pastoral care system that creates positive connections and community, rooted in kindness and compassion. This culture of kindness and respect ensures that our students can flourish.

Furthermore, our school provides the freedom for students to be themselves. Whether inside the classroom or out, they are encouraged to discover their passions and be authentic. This approach allows for students to develop a sense of individuality and self-expression, promoting a fulfilling and enjoyable learning experience.



HOUSES

Our House system is at the heart of the exceptional pastoral care we provide here at Taunton School creating a sense of belonging for each individual student.

A House is a home at Taunton School. Every child belongs to a House for their whole educational journey with us. As well as having a Housemaster or Housemistress each child is allocated a tutor group. The tutor who heads up each small group sees your child on a daily basis and gets to know them well. Tutors are always available to offer support, advice and guidance both academically and pastorally. This consistency provides students with security in the care of a family-style environment. In turn, this security allows students to thrive during their time with us – and it means peace of mind for you.

Older students also play a key role in our pastoral system, becoming role models for the younger children in a House. Under our Peer Monitoring system students are trained to listen and support younger students, providing another layer of familial support. Belonging to a House at Taunton School encourages a sense of pride and camaraderie as well as an infectious team spirit. This is fiercely demonstrated during in-house competitions and school events.

That sense of being part of a particular House lives on long after students leave Taunton School. It's often the first question an Old Tauntonian will ask - which House did you belong to?



BOARDING

Our five boarding Houses provide a home-from-home for students aged 13 to 18. We offer full or flexible boarding in separate Houses for boys and girls.



Friendships formed in Taunton's thriving boarding community last a lifetime. Our Houses lie right at the centre of the Taunton School campus, a stone's throw from each other. They are cosy and cosmopolitan – and a hive of activity where friendships flourish and connections are made for life.

Fairwater, Wills East and Wills West care for the boys while Weirfield and Woodyer are the girls' boarding Houses. Each House has its own distinctive identity, legendary characters and colourful history. However, all have similar pastoral structures, a common ethos and modern facilities, including spacious bedrooms, recreational areas, lounges and ICT suites.

Each House has a resident Housemistress or Housemaster and Assistant who oversee a team of tutors, matrons and cleaners – all of whom will get to know and care for your child. They also work with our outstanding Health Centre which is open 24 hours a day to ensure the best possible care is given to every child.

Our boarders have a packed programme of weekend and evening activities, including trips to the cinema, surfing at the beach or paintballing. There are visits to nearby towns like Exeter and Bath, shopping trips, conservation work as well as a myriad of sporting and recreation options on offer.



MILITARY FAMILIES

Children from military backgrounds enjoy the stability of an uninterrupted education that is provided by a full boarding experience at Taunton School.

Children receive a high level of pastoral care from our hugely experienced tutors and staff. And by buddying up with our mentors, new students learn the ropes quickly and settle in very easily to school life.

We can offer significant financial support to military families in receipt of CEA.

Email registrar@tauntonschool.co.uk for more information.

TUTORING & PASTORAL CARE

The wellbeing and happiness of every child is at the heart of everything we do.

We feel our pastoral care is second to none. And this isn't us boasting. It is what parents tell us time and again. We strive hard to maintain our reputation, delivering high standards of care for every student who joins us.

Our dedicated staff understand the importance of developing supportive relationships within the House, in the classroom and in all aspects of school life. We work hard to know each student as an individual, balancing support and challenge through the often-turbulent teenage years, so that they grow more independent, resilient and compassionate.

Just as important is the school's relationship with you – the parents, carers and guardians. We communicate regularly with parents about the progress students are making, so that successes can be highlighted and any issues addressed in a timely manner.

Parents can expect frequent contact via email or telephone with their child's tutor and House staff about day-to-day pastoral matters. Parent-teacher consultations take place once a year. The schedule of reports and meetings is sent out at the beginning of each academic year.

MEDICAL CARE

Our Health Centre on site is staffed 24 hours a day. The medical team is made up of qualified nurses, two mental health nurses, a counsellor, a medical assistant and a chartered physiotherapist. Doctors visit the school four times a week to hold routine surgeries for students.

If students have a problem, they can, in the first instance, contact their Housemaster/mistress, House tutor or teacher at any time and they will make sure the student gets the right help.

Our mental health nurses have more than 30 years of experience and between them they have helped to transform the care we offer. Our students get direct and immediate access to the best support.

"In 20 years of visiting schools this writer had never heard so many plaudits about the quality of care."

THE GOOD SCHOOLS GUIDE, 2023





MOVING ON

The majority of our students stay on for Sixth Form to study either A-Levels, the International Baccalaureate (IB) or BTECs.

Transition into the Sixth Form for our students is easy and very smooth. Knowing the school and staff already gives students a huge head start for these post-16 courses.

Our choice of pathways to higher education or employment means that students will be guided to the courses which best suit their strengths. Sixth-formers have their own Centre where they can be more independent, socialise together, and work collaboratively.

As a World IB school – one of only a few in the region – we are an experienced provider of the International Baccalaureate Diploma and our results are consistently excellent.

The large majority of our students progress to university study at a wide variety of destinations including Oxford and Cambridge, Russell Group Universities, and leading international destinations.

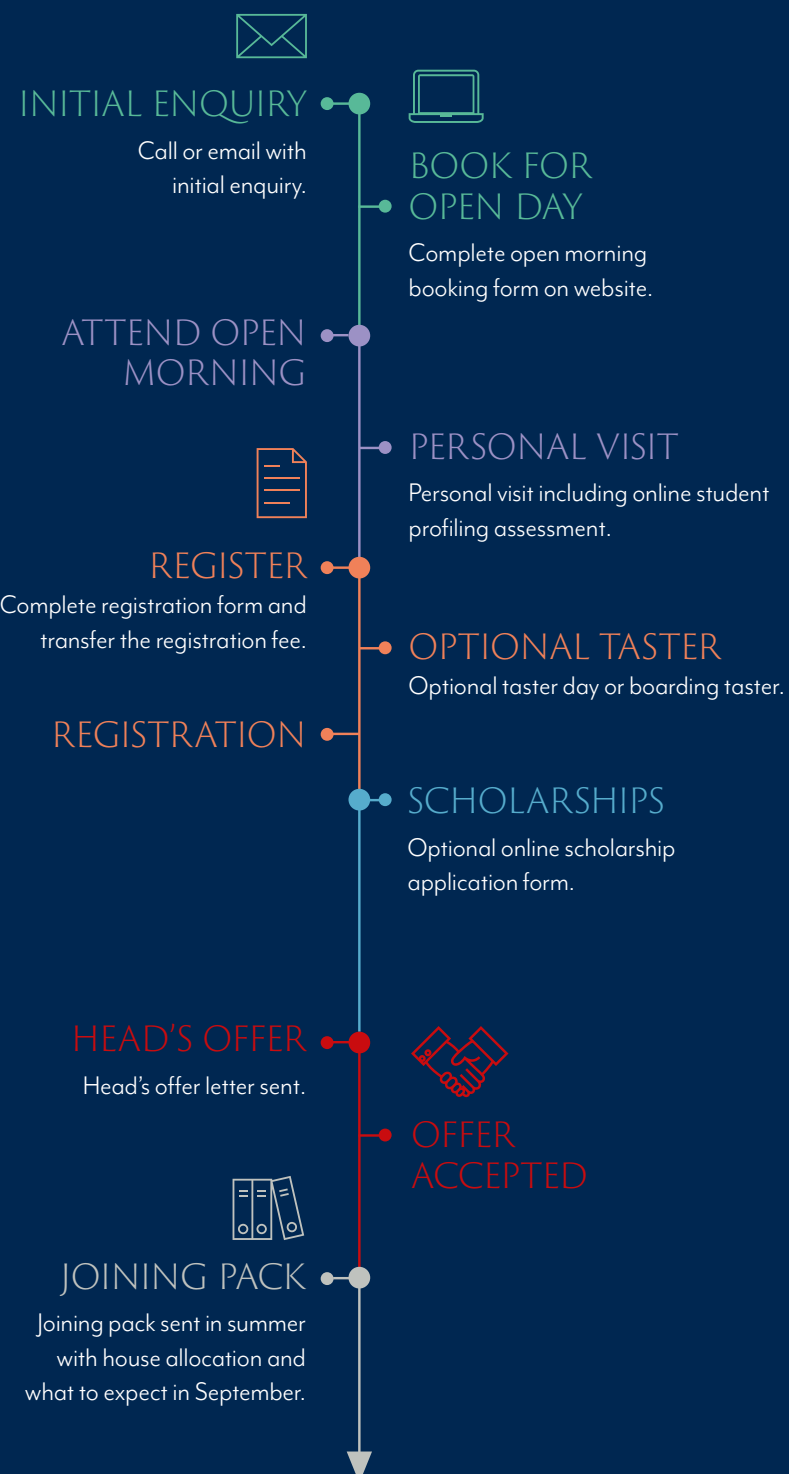
ADMISSIONS

The only way to truly appreciate what makes our school so unique is to come and visit. That way you'll discover the amazing academic and co-curricular opportunities on offer to all Senior School students, as well as meet the teachers who help them to reach their full potential.

Most students join the Senior School at the start of Year 9 or Sixth Form. Entry into year 10 is also possible. For pupils in the British school system, Admission is based on an interview and online student profiling assessment along with a report and reference. Admission may also be gained via Scholarship entry.

Our admissions process is straightforward. We will invite you to attend an open morning and then visit us to have a more detailed look around our campus and meet the Head. An online student profiling assessment will take place during the visit. Following receipt of a completed registration form and with permission, we will request current school reports and a reference. After this, you may like us to arrange a taster day or boarding taster. Once these steps have been completed, the Head will be able to offer a place.

NB Not all scholarship entrants will visit the school prior to assessments.



Scan to view our admissions page on our website.

EXCEPTIONAL
TOGETHER



TAUNTON
— SCHOOL —

Taunton School, Staplegrove Road, Taunton, Somerset TA2 6AD

Telephone: +44 (0) 1823 703703 **Email:** registrar@tauntonschool.co.uk

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