



Burnham Grammar School

Specialist Science and Maths College
and Specialist Languages College

2011 SCHOOL PROSPECTUS

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Headteacher's message

I hope that you will find our prospectus reflects the pursuit of excellence that Burnham Grammar has vigorously sustained since its establishment in 1960. It is fitting that the prospectus starts by outlining our school aims whose development was led by our students.

active citizens

Students are involved in the decision making processes of the school and are given opportunities for leadership in all key stages. They understand how, and do, make their voices heard in the local, national and global communities.

prepared for their future

Students identify their passions and are assisted in reviewing the opportunities in those fields, whilst developing those wider skills that are essential to achieve in the outside world, but not always required in the exam hall.



Headteacher Dr Andy Gillespie with students

healthy and safe

All students participate in the extraordinary range of extracurricular activities on offer and are equipped with the knowledge and assertiveness to make informed lifestyle choices.

responsible learners

Students are supported to take responsibility for their learning, understand the importance of effort and making mistakes and develop the skills required to become responsible independent learners to fulfil their potential.

caring individuals

All members of our community work hard to support each other, to respect each other and most importantly themselves, whilst celebrating the diversity of our community.

Quite simply Burnham Grammar School is an idyllic learning community where the relationships and teamwork between staff and students is exceptional and provides the support and reassurance for our students to strive to be their very best.



Transition from primary to secondary

So that our students can feel happy, confident, safe and secure and accept the opportunity and challenge of being a Burnham Grammar student from day one, the induction process starts early.

As soon as students are offered places all parents and students are invited in to develop the key relationship with the school.

All new Year 7 students are invited to spend the first week of the summer holidays at *Space Camp*. This gives the students an opportunity to find their way around the school, build relationships with their peers and teachers and get used to the unique blend of academic rigour, challenge and fun that characterises the curriculum at Burnham Grammar. At the end of this week the anxieties of joining a new school have been replaced by an eagerness to get the learning started in earnest.

Throughout Year 7 our trained Year 10 *Student Companions* are attached to each form and provide an additional friendly face for students to approach if they have any problems.



Inter-form sports challenge

Our outstanding and innovative induction programme was highlighted in the 2007 Ofsted report and has been more recently recognised on a national basis.

Learning at Burnham Grammar School

Burnham Grammar School students understand that intelligence is not something that is fixed, but like athletic prowess, is something that develops with effort.

Our curriculum is personalised to provide students with a range of opportunities to develop their academic study skills and understand the importance of effort and making mistakes as key parts of the learning process.

In all lessons, teachers ensure that students understand not just the aims of the lesson and how to judge the level of their success, but guide students through the skills and strategies that they will need to employ to secure success using a common language of learning.

Our precise and detailed tracking and target systems ensure that students, and parents, know exactly how well they are doing in each individual subject against their personal targets. Differentiated success criteria enable students to make and track their progress in every lesson.

Project days also develop the organisational and interpersonal skills that are not tested in exams, but are vital for future success when working in and leading teams.



Participation in lessons



Care, support and personal development

pastoral care

Our tutors and both teaching and non-teaching pastoral staff get to know our students as individuals and ensure that issues are picked up before they develop into problems. When students need some extra support they are able to see the school counsellor.

One of the key ways that we care for and support our students is by listening to them. Through our *Student Voice Programme* and our elected *Student Council* we gain the views and opinions of our students whenever we develop practice within the school.

Our anti-bullying strategies are developed by our students working with senior members of staff and governors and reviewed annually.

academic support

Every student has an individual target level or grade for each subject and our regular progress grades ensure that pupils and parents know exactly how they are doing at any time. Staff take time to ensure that every student understands what they

need to change, develop or do differently to fulfil their potential.

The Special Educational Needs department ensures that students receive individually tailored support and provision where required. The school has a *Special Educational Needs Policy* which is available to parents on request through the *Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator* or pastoral staff.

personal development

In addition to developing study skills, all students at Burnham Grammar School follow a *Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship* programme whose themes are also embedded and highlighted in the wider curriculum. It is through this programme of study that sex and relationships and drugs education are delivered.

Students' work in a variety of fields has led the school to be awarded the *Intermediate International School Award*, the *Silver Eco Schools Award* and the *Gold Democracy Award* from the UK Youth Parliament.



Activity Day challenge

Our broad programme of health related fitness, excellent dining room facilities and personal health education has also gained recognition through the *Healthy Schools Award*.





The school orchestra performing

Beyond the classroom

sport

In addition to the more traditional sports of rowing, rugby, netball, basketball, football, cricket, athletics, hockey, rounders and tennis, we also provide opportunities for boxercise, yoga, golf, table tennis, cheerleading, martial arts and even belly dancing! All Year 7 students take part in at least one extracurricular sporting activity and most continue throughout their time at the school.

The biennial rugby and netball tour to South Africa and for the first time in 2012 to Australia is a highlight of the school calendar. This life changing experience is open to all of our senior students, and provides a wider school focus through our link with a township orphanage and local charities.

music, dance and drama

All students are encouraged to participate in the school's musical life and an increasing variety of opportunities catering for a diversity of tastes. Outside of their timetabled lessons a high number of our students have lessons in guitar, piano, singing, woodwind, brass and strings. Our talented singers and musicians take advantage of the numerous opportunities to perform as soloists or in a range of ensembles and groups.

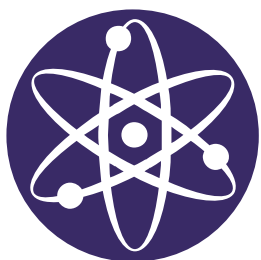
With a dedicated professional dance studio, dance has become a rightly recognised strength of the school. From street dance to ballet and Bangra, boys and girls from every year, including

the first XV rugby team, perform in our dance showcases. The energy and creativity of our dancers and choreographers is boundless.

Drama is rapidly developing with students performing as part of their curriculum lessons, in project days and in the drama club.

The diverse cultures represented in our school community are celebrated in music, dance and drama. Our students are very proud of themselves as individuals, and also eager to give praise and credit to each other. The creative side of the school is a powerful way of expressing our school's identity and ethos.





Science



LANGUAGE
COLLEGES

Specialist status

As a Science and Maths and Language College we use our specialist status to create a challenging environment which raises standards of achievement in science, maths, languages and all subjects for all of our students.

Our links with partners such as Lonza and the Teikyo School enable us to provide a unique range of extracurricular activities for students of all ages which are constantly developing.

Our active partnership with our local family of schools and community enables us to share resources and disseminate good practice in science, maths and languages education. This expertise has been recognised at both a county and national level.



The Liquid Nitrogen Science Show explosions



Sixth form

The sixth form at Burnham Grammar provides the perfect environment for academic success and excellence, as well as ensuring the wider personal development that allows our students to stand out when applying to university and when taking their place in the wider world. We build on the study skills that are developed lower down the school to ensure that our students can fulfil their potential as independent responsible learners, taking advantage of the wide range of A level courses on offer at the school and with our consortium partners.

All sixth form students are involved in the Contribution to the Community programme and are given a variety of roles of increased responsibility to develop and demonstrate their leadership skills. Students working towards careers such as medicine, dentistry, law or veterinary science incorporate essential work experience into their programmes of study.

A carefully designed programme supports the students in making the right individual decisions about their next steps. This programme is supported by an experienced team of tutors who guide and support each individual, ensuring that the sixth form experience is enriching, rewarding and inspirational.

Field trip to Iceland



Open Evening

15 September 2011

Presentations start at 5.40pm
Tours from 6.00 – 9.00pm

Open Day

16 September 2011

Tours from 9.30am – 2.30pm



Open Evening

For entry to Sixth Form

24 November 2011

Presentations and tours
7.00 – 9.00pm

Burnham
Grammar School

Hogfair Lane
Burnham SL1 7HG

01628 604812

fax 01628 663559

info@burnhamgrammar.net

www.bgs.bucks.sch.uk

Headteacher

Dr Andrew Gillespie BSc, PhD

