



Welcome to
our school

2025/26



CHELTENHAM
BOURNSIDE
SCHOOL



A warm welcome

Joining Bournside School means joining a community - one you will be part of throughout your seven-year journey from Year 7 to Year 13. It's a community which is, and has been for generations, central to Cheltenham. In 2022 we celebrated our 50th Anniversary year on this site. That sense of history, of pride, of "being a Bournsider" is what makes Bournside special.

Our school crest contains our historic motto: 'usque ad finem'. It means, 'until the end'. That is as true today as when it was first written. It means we will be with you every step of the way. It means to go to the utmost extreme in pursuit of excellence: to give your all, to travel as far as can be travelled, to do as much as can be done. That's what we promise for our learners. And that's what we expect from each member of our community: the pursuit of utmost excellence every step of the way.

This will be my fifth year leading Bournside. I have been a Headteacher for ten of the 27 years I've worked in education; I've chosen this career for the same reason as the team of inspiring and dedicated professionals I lead: to realise ambition, to open doors, and to build futures. We are, as our motto says: "Inspiring lives through learning."

That is what I see every day: excellent teaching, compassionate pastoral care, and a programme of extracurricular activities which is second to none.

But I've seen something else, too. Something surprising. Before joining Bournside, I'd been impressed by the size of the school. The surprise was that whilst Bournside's size brings undoubted strength, the sense of community is even stronger. Despite our size, our highly developed pastoral support means no one gets lost in the crowd.

I hope these pages, along with our website, will tell you what you'd like to know about our school but we'd also love you to take a look around to see it for yourself. We run regular open mornings throughout the year where a member of the Senior Leadership Team will be happy to give you a guided tour. However, you'd be welcome to visit our school at any time - we'd be delighted to see you.

I look forward to meeting you and welcoming you to your new school.

Steve Jefferies
Headteacher

Our values

At Bournside, we are:

- ★ **Ambitious:** We strive for excellence in all our endeavors, setting high standards for ourselves and always aiming for the very best.
- ★ **Curious:** We foster a culture of curiosity, where we encourage enquiring minds and embrace challenges as opportunities to learn and grow.
- ★ **Proud:** We take pride in every effort and achievement, celebrating the success and hard work of each member of our community.
- ★ **Purposeful:** We are driven by a sense of purpose, persevering through obstacles to achieve our goals and aspirations.
- ★ **Respectful:** We care deeply about one another, upholding values of equality, kindness, and mutual respect in all our interactions.
- ★ **Supportive:** We are committed to making a positive difference in each other's lives, providing encouragement and assistance to help everyone thrive.

Together, these values create an inspiring environment where everyone can achieve their potential.

 **Inspiring lives through learning**



One school, six house communities

Our house system

At Bournside, we focus on understanding every individual's strengths and challenges, so you can quickly and happily feel part of our school community. Key to this, and at the heart of our school, is our house system. When joining our school, every child is placed and belongs to one of six houses:

-  Attenborough
-  Frank
-  Hawking
-  Owens
-  Park
-  Rowling



At Bournside there are amazing staff members and support. Our school is a safe environment and develop all of the children to become even better than they could imagine.

LILY, FRANK HOUSE

Every student and member of staff belongs to a house and this nurtures a sense of family and community. Your school house is your family and brings students of all ages together to use their skills, talents and perseverance to earn house points. We have high expectations for your learning and for behaviour. We want you to try your hardest in lessons, and through our house points system, we'll reward you for outstanding 'attitude to learning' as well as great attendance, joining in, supporting others and your achievements in and outside of school.

Each house is led by a dedicated Head of House and Assistant Head of House (who are key points of contact for parents and carers) and students regularly compete in house events and challenges, earning points for the house and celebrating its achievements, knowing that each individual plays a part in its success.

Our house tutor groups are made up of six students from each year group from year 7 to 11.

This means:

- Students in different year groups are able to build positive, healthy relationships with each other, building an enhanced sense of community

- Younger students are mentored by older students acting as positive role models
- Opportunities to further improve home/school communication.

On your first day with us you will be presented with your house tie. From then on, you will belong and contribute to your house's success.

You can find out more about our Heads of House and our house system on our website, as well as keep track of the current house point tally!



Leaders put the welfare of pupils, as well as academic achievement, at the heart of everything they do.

OFSTED, 2022



Outstanding teaching and facilities

Subject choice

We teach over 45 subjects across our school – reflecting not only our teachers’ wide expertise, but also our students’ interests and curiosity to learn. Throughout your time at Bournside, our experienced teachers and staff will challenge and help you to make progress in line with your expectations and aspirations. Our commitment to our team was recognised in 2023 when we were delighted to be awarded the Gold Award for Professional Development from the Teacher Development Trust - their highest accolade.



State-of-the-art teaching spaces

We continually develop and invest in outstanding facilities and resources to enable our students to be the best they can be. In recent years we have opened a state-of-the-art maths building, new science labs, new English classrooms, a new dance studio, new food technology kitchens and we have created an inspiring green space - our 50th Anniversary Garden - at the heart of the school. We are currently working on an ambitious project to decarbonise our heating system with Ground Source Heat Pumps in line with our sustainability goals.

Sporting opportunity and creative expression

From our high-specification Astro-Turf and fitness suite to our tennis and badminton courts, athletics track, three sports halls and sports fields with amazing views of Leckhampton Hill, we have the training facilities to support the next generation of sporting stars. In the arts, our professional drama studio, music rooms, art and textiles classrooms and dance studio provide all students with plentiful opportunity for creative expression, whilst our library is a popular bright, light and comfortable modern space used for reading, study and group work.



The school has a proven track-record in designing and delivering a high-quality, research-informed programme of CPD, which senior leaders quite rightly take great pride in. It was a great pleasure to speak with a range of staff who clearly feel well supported and appreciative of the developmental opportunities unique to the school.

TDT AUDITOR, 2023



Positive progress

Broad and balanced

We're one of the largest schools in Gloucestershire, which means we can invest in the teachers and facilities to expand your curiosity and learning.

+ Progress 8

We are proud of our positive Progress 8 score, which places us amongst the top 16% of schools in the country. Our Progress 8 score of +0.52* means that students achieve over half a grade higher in each qualification ("Well above average"), compared to similar pupils across the country.

You'll experience a broad and balanced education, which follows the National Curriculum, led by teachers who model excellence and inspire discussion and debate, independent learning, creativity and expression. The knowledge and commitment offered by so many people across the school – both staff and students – means you are encouraged to follow your passions, make discoveries and build your own experience. This could be within the classroom, the school leadership and support structures, at our clubs, on visits to shows, festivals and universities, or during residential trips.

*2023/24



Reading for pleasure is a priority within the school. Many pupils choose to read widely and avidly.

OFSTED, 2022

Curiosity and choice

As you progress to years 10 and 11 and embark on your GCSE studies, we offer the most extensive variety of subjects locally. We introduce you to many courses that may be new to you and in which you could excel, such as sociology, dance, business studies, photography, Mandarin and sports studies.

Aspire to Sixth Form

Our thriving Sixth Form also benefits from the broad range of knowledge and expertise across our teaching staff, offering over 38 subjects. Our aim is to help you develop the confidence, knowledge and skills to achieve excellent outcomes for your life in the modern world. Whatever your future aspirations are, we will encourage and support you to succeed.



All Year 7 students will experience teaching of the four modern foreign languages taught at Bournside: French, German, Mandarin and Spanish.

MR BASS, HEAD OF MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES



Respect and wellbeing

High expectations

People thrive when they are happy and well supported. That's why we have clear and high expectations for our students' behaviour in lessons, around the school site and in the wider area. We are mindful of the wellbeing of everyone in our school community.

Being respectful and supportive are at the heart of our school's values, and we are proud that our students show great commitment to living by these principles. We have an excellent team of dedicated staff who listen to and support children if they

experience anxiety or stress, or have heightened emotional needs. The safety and security of each one of us is the school's priority.

Student leadership

Creating and listening to a strong student voice is an important aspect of our community and we are proud of the work of our students and the positive changes they have made. House Captain and prefect positions provide excellent opportunities to develop leadership skills, to act as a role model and to have influence upon the daily life of the school.



Pupils enjoy school [and there is a] strong sense of community for both staff and pupils.

OFSTED, 2022

Our school dog

Lottie is our much-loved school dog who belongs to our Assistant Headteacher, Mrs Lees. She is a friendly three-year-old black labrador and joined the school when she was just 8 weeks old.

Lottie is a key member of our pastoral team and culture team. She is onsite daily and works with students on an individual basis as well as spending time with as many students as possible during social times.

We believe that animals can have a significant positive impact on mental health and wellbeing, and Lottie is brilliant at putting a smile on the faces of everyone who meets her and helping us to be present in the moment.

Exciting news!

This summer Lottie had 7 puppies! Sadly, we cannot keep them all, but one of the puppies WILL be joining Bournside as our second four-legged member of staff in the Autumn. We cannot wait to meet them!





The Bournside opportunities pledge

Your journey at Bournside School is about more than your time in the classroom. We pledge that all students will have the opportunity to:

1. Give back to the local community
2. Receive a round of applause
3. Experience the world of work
4. Uncover a talent
5. Explore the natural world
6. Visit a University
7. Immerse themselves in culture
8. Meet a role model
9. Sleep under the stars
10. Make friends for life

Every opportunity to grow

Exceptional extra-curricular

Our aim is to provide the biggest, brightest and best extra-curricular clubs offer in the county. A busy calendar of clubs, trips, events and visits is woven into each year's timetable. Students may have the chance attend one of Cheltenham's world-famous Festivals, travel abroad to explore the world, or see Shakespeare on stage as part of their studies. All students enjoy 5 days off timetable during Activities Week.

Art, Music, Dance and Drama

The arts are an important part of school life and there are so many ways to get involved. Our thriving music and drama departments showcase the immense talent we have across the school at wonderful exhibitions, events and concerts throughout the year. We are proud to take part in National Theatre Connections and the Shakespeare Schools Festival. Our School Productions are fantastic and our talented musicians regularly perform - you might have seen them at the Jazz Festival performing alongside the greats!

Sport

From rugby to football, netball and rounders, athletics to badminton, tennis and handball, Bournside is well known across Gloucestershire for great sporting achievements. Our students are encouraged to take part, enjoy and compete, enabling them to support their own health and wellbeing, as well as raise some significant pieces of silverware. Sports Day is a highlight of the academic year, whether students are competing for house points or supporting from the sidelines.

Clubs

We encourage new starters to join at least one club. From our extensive sports, arts and music offer, to chess, crochet, debate, languages, maths, robotics, science and more, we're confident that every student at Cheltenham Bournside School can find a club they enjoy. New clubs this year include Film Club, Climate Club and our Community Gardening Club.

Global adventures

Our brilliant team organise a wide range of UK and overseas trips for students with enormous success. Recent trips have included exploring in Lille, Geneva and Barcelona, hiking in the French Alps and skiing in Andorra. Coming up we have trips to Berlin, New York and South Africa. Students taking part in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award are given a transformative opportunity to develop critical skills that they will benefit from throughout their lives.

Inspire lectures

We regularly welcome speakers from all corners of industry and higher education to deliver inspirational open lectures to students at the school. From studying fine art or medicine, to Artificial Intelligence, working on stage and screen, or reflecting on a professional sporting career, our Inspire Lectures are open to all.



A bright future

Destinations

We're here to inspire bright futures and achieving your full potential at GCSE is the first step. Whether you hope to study at our Sixth Form or you're interested in apprenticeships before gaining a place at university or securing employment, we're here to help. We're delighted that so many of our students choose to stay at Bournside's successful Sixth Form: over 99% of our university applicants secured a place in 2023 and 2024 (please visit our website for further details on our excellent GCSE and A Level results).

Careers advice and employability skills

In each school year, students are encouraged to consider their future careers and the skills and further study that is required. Our Sixth Form open evening and annual careers fairs are a great place to start, but we also support an amazing range of work experience

placements, mock interviews, STEM events and Destination Days as well as regular Inspire Lectures. All of these opportunities help our students understand the vast range of future career opportunities available to them. It's all part of the rounded approach we take to ensure that students can confidently make decisions about their bright future.

Employer links

We are proud of our fantastic network of employers who are very supportive of Bournside and our students. Our professional careers team has excellent connections with employers across a wide range of industry sectors and we are grateful for these strong relationships which benefit our students in so many ways. If you would like to offer your support, the careers team would be delighted to hear from you.

We believe that it's never too soon to start thinking about your future path. We will support you to find whichever path is right for you.



The school curriculum is ambitious. It provides a broad educational platform from which pupils can excel in subjects and aspects of their wider, cultural needs.

OFSTED, 2022



**Inspiring lives
through learning**

We are:

Ambitious

Curious

Proud

Purposeful

Respectful

Supportive

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