



Welcome Pack

2021



Unlock Your Potential



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Welcome from the Head of School

I am often asked why our school is different to others? My answer is always the same - the children. Of course, all schools have children, but Brookes UK students are nurtured and loved within a unique family environment which allows them to develop in their own special way.

A personalised approach underpins all that we do, so we follow the child, supporting every step, unlocking their potential and guiding them so that they achieve their best and become members of society who stands out from the crowd. Brookes UK children have the courage to be themselves.

I do hope you enjoy discovering more about our school, our ethos and philosophy. Come and meet our Brookes UK children, see our beautiful setting and experience the family atmosphere that makes us so unique. I would be delighted to show you around.

Yours sincerely,

Natalie Taylor
Head of School

EARLY YEARS (Nursery and Reception)



Early Years

The Montessori philosophy underpins our Early Years experience here at Brookes. We place a strong emphasis on the 'favourable environment' which facilitates your child's development and supports them as active learners. We respect your child's inner motivation to develop their own interests by ensuring that the environment has something to engage them. We encourage them to be responsible for their own choices, by teaching them that, with freedom comes accountability. Children develop their independence in thought and action, which will become embedded in their whole lives.

Woven together with the Montessori philosophy, we plan a wide variety of half termly topics based on seasonal themes which link strongly to different cultures around the world, including cooking food, learning dances, dressing up in traditional costumes and learning about the lives of the people who live there. Throughout these topics we study both fiction and non-fiction books, which offer many opportunities for drama and role play. We also link an artist to each of our topics. We offer a wide array of activities throughout the course of the week including Forest School, French, music, ballet, tennis, P.E. and swimming, alongside activities which take place in the classroom.

Pre-care for Early Years children starts at 7:30 am with breakfast club, at 9:00 am the children are officially registered and then the Montessori 'work cycle' begins. The children are encouraged to take part in short carpet sessions where books are read and discussed or acted out and counting songs, rhymes and Maths activities are presented. The children are then free to choose from the shelves, both inside and outside, any activity they have been presented. The practitioners work individually with the children, either on planned activities to support their learning or following the child's natural path to develop their understanding further in a certain area.

At 11:45 am the work cycle ends and the children have lunch, followed by playtime outside on the field or on the playground with bikes and scooters. In the afternoon the children take part in all the extra activities we have on offer. The school day officially ends at 4:00 pm whereupon those not going home can stay in aftercare until 5:30 pm.



LOWER SCHOOL (YEAR 1-6)



Lower School

The Lower School comprises of Years 1-6. Our curriculum follows the National Curriculum skills as a guideline but is unique to our school as we have designed an approach which allows children to make links between subjects. This gives our children a more holistic approach to their learning and development. We follow the needs of each individual child, building on their natural inquisitiveness and desire to learn. Children work in groups, pairs, individually or as a whole class depending on the area of learning.

Key Stage 1 (Years 1 and 2): The majority of subjects are taught by the class teacher with Sport, French and Music taught by specialist teachers.

Key Stage 2 (Years 3 to 6): The form teacher teaches English, Maths, Humanities and PSHE with Art, Sport, French, Science, Computing and Music taught by specialist teachers.



SENIOR SCHOOL (YEAR 7-11)



Senior School

At Brookes UK, we want every Senior pupil to flourish and give their best. We want students to challenge ideas, connect knowledge and be confident in themselves.

Through our unique ethos, we inspire a love of learning through creativity and imagination. The combination of small class sizes and specialist teachers provides the catalyst for students to flourish and unlock their natural talents.

We prepare students for the rigour of GCSE and IGCSE examinations. We ready students to take on the world, to be independent thinkers, to be open-minded and principled global citizens.

Supported by teachers who are passionate about their subjects, who care and have fun too, we want students to thrive and develop a love of learning that will continue into adulthood. Our Senior School sees pupils explore a rich and varied curriculum that provides every individual with an exceptional learning experience.

We tailor our teaching to each pupil, harness their interests and strengths to aid their progression. This approach does not stop at the classroom door, where we offer a wealth of extra-curricular activities to develop pupils in the round.



IGCSE in Brookes UK

The International GCSE (IGCSE) has content and assessment designed specifically for international learners. Designed to be engaging, appropriate and of equivalent standard to the GCSE, IGCSEs provide students with the skills and knowledge they will need to successfully progress to the final stages of Senior School, through to university and on into employment. They are linear qualifications, meaning that students take all of the exams at the end of the course. The IGCSE courses are structured such that transferable skills are supported throughout the qualifications, providing students with the opportunity to gain a wider set of skills ready to progress in study, work and life.

The Curriculum Structure in Years 10 and 11

Compulsory Subjects

- IGCSE English First Language
- IGCSE English Literature
- IGCSE Mathematics
- IGCSE Science Double Award*
- IGCSE French
- iDEA Inspiring Digital Enterprise Award
- PSHE & Citizenship
- Sport

Optional Subjects

- IGCSE Geography
- IGCSE History
- IGCSE Art & Design
- IGCSE Music
- IGCSE Information & Communications Technology
- IGCSE Physical Education

Option Subjects

Students should make their choices after discussions with their parents and their subject teachers. Taster sessions will be held for these option subjects to enable students to experience the subjects before they make their final choices.

Some students may be advised to study fewer subjects than the maximum on offer. For these students, supervised study time will be made available to support other subjects. For students joining the school in Year 10, option choices will be discussed with the Head.*triple award science is available to students meeting the requirements of the course.



UPPER SCHOOL SUBJECT GUIDE

English

English lessons at Brookes aim to inspire in students a life-long love of literature, to nurture their creativity, and to support them in becoming competent and versatile readers and writers. Communication skills are essential in today's rapidly changing world, and our diverse curriculum equips students with the skills to flourish into confident, proficient communicators. Their critical-thinking skills are sharpened and they are encouraged to become engaged, perceptive speakers and active, sensitive listeners.

Brookes is committed to developing students who are thoughtful, ambitious readers and by studying a range of ancient and modern works, this literature becomes a pathway to discussing topics of personal, national, and global importance. Throughout their secondary education, students explore a wide breadth of novels, literary non-fiction, poems and plays; by studying canonical and non-canonical authors, students read works from both long-established and contemporary voices, representing a variety of cultures and experiences. This enables them to appreciate the historical growth of literary genres and the diverse richness of world literature.

Modern Languages

Senior language learning is perhaps most characterised by the key study skills which pupils develop in order to overcome the frequent challenges it presents. Learning by discovery becomes of real importance; spotting patterns, deducing and explaining why things are the way they are mean that pupils continuously unlock new aspects of the language. Pupils study a range of subjects, from all about themselves and those around them to global issues such as poverty and the environment, and learn the value of consistent and rigorous self-study in order to build vocabulary in order to discuss these topics. By tackling grammar in such depth language learners also find themselves much more well-equipped to broach the finer points of their mother tongue, and with universities so favourable towards those who can master a second language, it is more often than not only the starting point in a lifelong study of dialects and cultures.



Art

The students are introduced to many techniques, backed by a rich understanding of Art history which underpins them. Exploring a wide range of themes, techniques and approaches whilst challenged to learn the vocabulary of the artist. The children are encouraged to be adventurous and to take important learning risks. Such risk-taking is at the heart of creativity and can be harnessed if accompanied with focus on growing confidence of the learner. Thereafter, anything is possible and as a student matures with confidence they can truly explore the boundaries of their subject. Such confidence in their creativity assists them in other subjects as well, and indeed in the adventure of life. Developing transferable skills in critical thinking, discussion, problem solving and analysis.

Drama

In Key Stage 3 Drama, the students perform scripted works as well as working on their own plays which may contain some improvisation or are more lengthy pieces for which they have to choose the subject of and the characters and focus particularly on character development. In addition to the writing and performing students will have to work on the direction and production, set and costume design and most challenging of all do this as a team.

Geography

The geography curriculum at Brookes is designed to give students a wide understanding of our planet, how it works and how as humans we interact with our environment. There is a balance between physical and human geography at key stages.

We start this amazing journey in year seven with a unit called amazing places where we look in detail at a number of unique environments including Coral reefs and the Himalayas. We then go on to investigate rivers and flooding and finish the year looking at the tropical rainforest.

In year eight we start the journey with sustainability and how we can design sustainable homes and communities. We then look at population followed by weather after that we look at fashion as a global industry and finish the year study in coasts.

Your nine start with the unit called Food for thought where we look at global food supplies. We then go on to look at development as a topic and this is followed by natural hazards and then we look at globalisation and migration in preparation for GCSE.

History

Key Stage 3

In Key Stage 3 history, your child will study local, British and world history. This will include learning about significant events, people and changes from the recent and more distant past. Students approach topics from a variety of perspectives, including political, religious, social, cultural, aesthetic, economic, technological and scientific. In the new curriculum, lessons focus more on themes and the international relevance of historical events. This prepares the student for their study at Key Stage 4.

Key Stage 4

Students follow the Pearson Edexcel International GCSE course. In Key Stage 4 students have to take two depth studies: Germany: development of dictatorship, 1918–45 and A divided union: civil rights in the USA, 1945–74. This makes up 50% of their total GCSE with a 1 hour and 30 minute exam paper. As well as the two depth studies students have to take one historical investigation and one breadth study: The USA, 1918–41 and Changes in medicine, c1848–c1948. This makes up 50% of their total GCSE with a 1 hour and 30 minute exam paper.

Whenever possible, students take part in trips, as we firmly believe in the importance of experiential learning. This year history trips include the Old Operating theatre London, Norwich Castle.

Music

Students learn about a variety of musical genres and styles. Topics include: film music, vocal skills, the Blues, West African drumming, keyboard skills, Britpop and electronic dance music. Through performance, composition, listening and appraisal, students learn about the elements of music and characteristics of different styles whilst developing their notation and instrument specific skills.



UPPER SCHOOL SUBJECT GUIDE



Maths

Our aim in mathematics lessons at Brookes is to develop students' knowledge, skills and understanding. The mathematics curriculum is divided into the subject areas – Algebra, Data, Number and Geometry. These subject areas are taught over the key stages with increasing levels of difficulty and variety to help improve retention and deepen understanding. Mathematical concepts learnt will be incorporated into real life and current events as they happen, where relevant, to motivate and increase student engagement. This will serve to stress the importance of mathematics in our daily lives whether used directly or indirectly. Students in Key Stage 4 will aim to complete past papers to obtain a good amount of experience in tackling exam style questions. They will sit the IGCSE Pearson Edexcel exams.

Computing / ICT

Computing and ICT learning centres on six primary areas: Computational Thinking, App Development, Data and the CPU, PYTHON as an introduction to programming, Information Technology and Creative Communication. Each area is developed as students progress through the school continually checking their ability to solve increasingly more complex problems. The ICT coursework relates to 'real-world' problems and solutions.



Combined Science

The science curriculum at Brookes is designed to develop an inquiring mind and spark an interest in the subject as well as covering all the key concepts of biology, chemistry and physics to give a firm foundation for the requirements of Key Stage 4 and beyond. During Key Stage 3 students build on their scientific knowledge and understanding and make connections between different areas of science. They use scientific ideas and models to explain phenomena and events, and to understand a range of familiar applications of science as well as thinking about the positive and negative effects of scientific and technological developments on the environment and in other contexts. All of this is done with a practical approach that enables connections to be made with how scientific ideas can explain many things that happen in everyday life.



Sports

The PE curriculum and the Sports programme in the senior school cover a wide range of activities which include some new sports including basketball and golf. An important aim is to foster a love of sport and exercise which will continue into adulthood. The students learn about the four aspects of performance development: technical, tactical, physical and mental and investigate how they can improve in each and how they can help their peers to make progress. At the heart of the programme is teaching and learning of 'good people skills'. This is achieved in lessons through activities and reflective discussions on building character and embedding moral values e.g. kindness; integrity,

patience and compassion. Health and well-being are also a large part of the learning where topics such as sleep; rest; relaxation; and reducing stress are all explored. In each lesson students are supported and challenged in the cognitive domain through engaging in analysis and evaluation of performance; comparison; problem solving and divergent thinking. The overall objective is to have students who have a lifelong love of sport and exercise and who are confident and competent in their performances and who have developed into good young people.

PSHE / Citizenship

At Brookes, our PSHE and Citizenship curriculum promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of students at the school and within the wider society. It aims to prepare students for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life. Within the subject students are taught how to keep themselves healthy and safe, and the subject prepares them for life and work in modern Britain. As well as separate lessons for these many elements are picked up in other curriculum areas. At Brookes we believe that our society is becoming more diverse. We need to become a more tolerant society which understands the different religious communities; this subject gives all students an opportunity to become more rounded citizens. It provides an excellent opportunity for students to engage with contentious issues, developing an awareness of social justice, democracy, government and how laws are made. It allows students to develop a social, moral, political and philosophical awareness.

EXTRA CURRICULAR



Extra Curricular Activities and Clubs

We offer a wide range of activities for our children to pursue at the end of the school day. We also have many opportunities to enhance our curriculum through trips and visits which also include residential.

Performances

- Early Years - Nativity Play
- Christmas Festival: Music & drama by individuals, rock band, choir.
- BFest Summer Musical
- Choir & rock band collaboration with musicians from West Suffolk College



Previous School Trips

- Lackford Lakes
- Linton Zoo
- Bury St Edmunds Abbey Gardens and Cathedral
- Cambridge University
- King's College Chapel and the Fitzwilliam Museum
- Colchester Zoo
- Flatford Mill Artist Residential
- Darley Stud and Newmarket Racecourse
- London Imperial War Museum
- Duxford Air Museum
- Oxford University and Stratford on Avon (Shakespeare's Birthplace)
- Warwick Castle London
- The London Eye
- Houses of Parliament
- Buckingham Palace
- The Natural History Museum
- The National Gallery
- The Tate Modern
- Oxford Street and Covent Garden
- Windsor Castle

Future School Trips

- Hampton Court Palace
- Winter Ski Trip
- London Residential - West End Theatre visit



Clubs

- Sport Practice
- Science (STEM)
- Rock Band
- Art Portfolio
- Creative Writing
- Lego Club
- Film Club
- Maths Club
- Crafty Makers
- Netball
- Environmental
- Cricket
- Yearbook Team
- Running and Fitness Club
- Indoor Games

We also have visiting teachers who offer the chance for your child to have individually graded musical tuition and LAMDA (Drama) opportunities.

Students' personal interests can be catered for by joining local clubs.

BOARDING



Boarding Program

Gryphon House is a newly built, state-of-the-art residence. Spacious bedrooms can accommodate between one and six students, and every room has private en-suite facilities.

Furnishings are all new and include wardrobes, desks, lamps, beds and bedside units. There is WiFi throughout the school, and each floor has its own lounge with large screen television, DVD player and kitchenette.

We run the house as a family unit - this is a home away from home, and much more than just a place to sleep. Colour schemes are in warm tones, and emphasis is given to providing a modern, relaxed and sophisticated setting where boarders can study, socialise and live together. Boarders are able to use the school facilities in the evenings and on weekends.



Brookes offers a full range of boarding options including, full, weekly and flexi boarding. This allows boarders the opportunity to maximize the educational and co-curricular offerings during term time if they wish.

Boarders have full flexibility with regard to arrangements to return home to their families/guardians, though it is typical for full boarders to remain in the house most weekends, and for weekly boarders to go home or to guardians most weekends. International Boarders have the option to stay in boarding throughout the school breaks and undertake activities and visits. Please speak to our Admissions staff for further information about bespoke boarding options for your child.



School Structure, Assessment and Grade Levels

Brookes UK follows the school organization that is common in the UK. This can be confusing for some international families especially those from the Southern Hemisphere who operate a different school year or from countries that use different terminology or semesters. These are the important terms used:

Nursery and Kindergarten	Children aged from 2 to 4	Early Years	Pre Pre K
Reception Class	Children aged 5	Early Years	Pre K
Year 1 and Year 2	Children aged 6 and 7	Key Stage 1	K and 1st Grade
Year 3 and Year 4	Children aged 8 and 9	Key Stage 2	2nd and 3rd Grades
Year 5 and Year 6	Children aged 10 and 11	Key Stage 2	4th and 5th Grades
Year 7, Year 8 and Year 9	Children aged from 12 to 14	Key Stage 3	6th to 8th Grades
Year 10 and Year 11	Children aged 15 and 16	Key Stage 4	9th and 10th Grades

Students start a 2-year GCSE (standardized General Certificate of Secondary Education) programme in Year 10 which consists of up to 9 subjects. They are examined at the end of Year 11.

Assessment: Courses are not simply 'Pass' or 'Fail' neither is it normal to expect a student to repeat a year or to be placed out of year group according to age. Grading is given against GCSE criteria and also for Approaches to Learning.

The School year at Brookes UK

Autumn Term 2021

Sunday, September 5, 2021 - Boarders Return
Monday, September 6, 2021 - Autumn Term Starts
Monday, October 18 to Friday, October 29, 2021 - Half-Term
Sunday, October 31, 2021 - Boarders Return
Monday, November 1, 2021 - Autumn Term Continues
December 10, 2021 - Autumn Term Ends (No Aftercare)

Spring Term 2022

Tuesday, January 4, 2022 - Boarders Return
Wednesday, January 5, 2022 - Spring Term Starts
Monday, February 21 to Friday, February 25, 2022 - Half-Term
Sunday, February 20, 2022 - Boarders Return
Monday, February 21, 2022 - Spring Term Continues
Friday, April 1, 2022 - Spring Term Ends (No Aftercare)

Summer Term 2022

Monday, April 25, 2022 - Boarders Return
Tuesday, April 26, 2022 - Summer Term Starts
Monday, May 2, 2022 - May Day Bank Holiday
Monday, May 30 to Friday, June 3, 2022 - Half-Term
Sunday, June 5, 2022 - Boarders Return
Monday, June 6, 2022 - Summer Term Continues
Wednesday, July 6, 2022 - Summer Term Ends (No Aftercare)



Brookes UK and COVID-19

Brookes UK is located in a rural area of eastern England surrounded by trees and fields. Rates of COVID-19 infection in the area are very low and contact with urban centres is currently restricted with normal measures. International boarding students have simple access to the UK provided that:

- The student is, or was on 1st September 2020, under the age of 18.
- The student is travelling to the UK for the purposes of receiving education at an accredited boarding school in England at which education and accommodation is provided for them.

Before travelling, all boarding school students must:

- Take a coronavirus (COVID-19) test and get a negative result during the 3 days before they travel.
- Book and pay for a travel test package, which will include COVID-19 tests to be taken on day 2 and day 8 of their quarantine.
- Complete a passenger locator form before arrival, with details of where they will quarantine, when they will arrive and the travel test package booking reference number.
- Brookes UK is a safe environment with all measures in place to protect students from infection including: careful quarantining of students; regular sanitizing of all rooms, door handles, furniture and equipment; safe distancing; mask wearing, regular testing and the vaccination of staff. From September 2021, most school routines will return to normal.
- Currently in the UK there are no plans to vaccinate students under the age of 18 but overseas students who have received the vaccine should carry proof of the vaccination dates and the particular vaccine used.
- Supervising and supporting boarding school students during quarantine.

Brookes UK ensures:

- That appropriate information is provided to boarding school students about how they need to behave while in quarantine and how they will access services and can contact staff when help is required.
- That boarding school students follow the guidance on how to quarantine when they arrive in England.
- That boarding school students are supervised such that there is no opportunity to leave their group area, except where carefully supervised to ensure no contact with individuals from outside their group and staff responsible for the supervision and care of the household.
- Arrangements for the oversight of boarding school students in quarantine that protects the safety and welfare of all students and staff, minimizing the school staff who interact with the boarding school students.
- Provides boarding school students with as much information as will be helpful for them to understand the practicalities of being in quarantine such as arrangements for meals, room cleaning, disposing of rubbish, laundry, process for requesting and enjoying outdoor exercise and emergency procedures.



APPLY TODAY!

Admissions Pathway at Brookes UK

We are delighted that you are considering Brookes UK for your child. Our friendly Admissions team will be happy to support and guide you through this important decision.

We accept applications all year-round for entrance when space permits, and students can enter the school from Nursery to Year 11.

We hope that this guide will make the Admissions process smooth and clear. However, if you have any questions, please contact us.

We look forward to working with you through the application process.

The Admissions Process



Step One REGISTER YOUR INTEREST

Contact the school's Admissions team online via our website, through email, in person or over the phone.

After providing us with some basic information about you and your family, we will then send you information about the school as well as answering any queries or concerns you may have.



Step Two BOOK A TOUR

We would be delighted to welcome you to Brookes UK and meet with our Head of School, Natalie Taylor who will show you around the school and introduce you to the staff and children at Brookes.

Our Head of Early Years, Lucy Golland is also available for enquiries relating to our Early Years provision and our Boarding Parents, Freddie and Susie Walton can give you information on Boarding.

Please contact us and we'll find a time that works for you and your family either to visit in person or virtually



Step Three BOOK A TASTER DAY

Taster Days are available for you to let your child experience a day in the life of Brookes with other members of their class of entry. We will be happy to discuss arrangements for your child to come and spend time immersed in the every day life of our school. Please contact the school office for further information.



Step Four REGISTER

Following an offer of Admissions at Brookes for your child, you should complete the registration forms and return them along with the registration fee and deposit.



Step Five WELCOME TO BROOKES

Once the registration process has been completed and the requisite fees and deposits are paid, all necessary information regarding your child's entry to the school will be sent to you. If you have any concerns or require further information about any part of the admissions and registration process, the Admissions staff are on hand to answer any and all questions you may have to make your child's arrival at school as easy as possible.





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