



Rugby School

Rugby School was founded in 1567 by Lawrence Sheriff, a prosperous London grocer and a citizen of Rugby. The adventures of Tom Brown, the invention of a certain kind of football and an impressive array of nineteenth century buildings continue to give the School a feeling of tradition - but those famous school days were presided over by Dr. Thomas Arnold, one of the important educational innovators of his time, and the Rugby of the 21st Century is much more in accord with Arnold's visionary spirit.

Rugby is an independent boarding school of approximately 800 pupils and 100 full-time members of the teaching staff. Entry for boys and girls is at 13, chiefly from preparatory schools via the Common Entrance or Scholarship Examination. There are 7 boys' boarding and 6 girls' boarding Houses, a boys' day House and a girls' day House. The House is the fundamental social and pastoral unit; it is run by an Hm (Housemaster/Housemistress), assisted by tutors drawn from the teaching staff. Meals for pupils are taken in Houses.

Pupils work for GCSE (normally 10 subjects are taken, mostly in the fifth form) and A-level. Rugby has a strong all-round academic tradition and achieves excellent GCSE and A-level results. In 2008 at A-Level 67.4% A, 88.5% A-B and 96.9% A-C and at GCSE 37.3 A*, 71.3% A*-A, 92.4% A*-B and 98.4% A-C. The School has a good tradition of sending boys and girls to Oxford and Cambridge Universities.

The following A-level subjects are usually offered: Art, Biology, Business Studies, Chemistry, Design, Drama and Theatre Studies, Economics, English, French, Geography, German, Greek, History, History of Art, Information Technology, Latin, Mathematics, Further Mathematics, Music, P.E., Politics, Physics, and Spanish.

A course in Key Skills and Higher Education in the sixth form is designed to manage the transfer to university and we offer Individual and Social Education for the third and fourth form years and for the Lower Sixth. There is a comprehensive general library, supported by Departmental and House libraries, and an impressive IT Centre; and a school wide network of computers. Teaching and learning are underpinned by ICT and the School makes extensive use of Intranet and Internet facilities. All pupils in the Lower School (up to GCSE) possess a laptop with access to the network via radio links. There is a laptop purchase scheme which is available to all pupils. All full-time staff are provided with a laptop and training and technical support are available through the IT Centre and via the academic departments.

The academic standing of the School is further reinforced by a number of Scholarships and Foundationships which provide free and reduced-fee places.

The great majority of leavers go on to university with a growing number taking Gap years to further their experience.

Members of staff are encouraged to organise and contribute to areas of School life which lie outside their academic commitments. This includes tutoring in both an academic and pastoral sense. There is considerable strength in Art, Music and Drama; there is a well-equipped Design Centre with a media studio and fine facilities for art, ceramics, wood and metal work, textiles etc. There is a wide range of clubs and societies, a thriving cadet force, a community service unit and much more. Most sports are played, and to a high standard. Facilities include a Sports Centre with an indoor swimming pool and an all-weather hockey pitch but (as with the whole of the non-academic programme) the main aim is to engage, extend and delight the ordinary boy or girl.

Rugby is a Church of England foundation, and the Chapel and its Services remain an important part of School life. There is a Chaplain, and many other committed Christians on the staff who are involved both in Chapel and in pastoral work within the community.

Rugby is usually able to offer members of staff convenient and comfortable accommodation within the general area of the School. This is owned by the School and let to staff at a nominal rent. The Senior Common Room has a bar and dining room attached. The School is an attractive, friendly and civilised place, and its community an actively welcoming and supportive one.