



WELCOME

Welcome to our school. At Thomas Keble, we have much to celebrate and are keen to demonstrate our work to you, as we know how important the choice of secondary school can be for every parent and child. For this reason, in addition to welcoming you to our Open Evening and Open Morning events, we are always pleased to offer individual or small group tours of the school so that you can see us at work. If you would like to take advantage of this offer, please phone my PA, Amanda Oxberry, to book a convenient time for you.

We are justifiably proud of the excellent outcomes we see year after year for all our young people - a full and detailed breakdown of all our examination results is included in the back of this prospectus. We know that Thomas Keble already adds clear value to the achievements of all students, whatever their ability, and we are determined to raise standards even further. Statistics tell only part of an important story – it is the individual children and their successes that provide a stronger narrative of success. We rate the achievements of all, whether they have left us with a dozen or more 7-9 grades or have achieved results not considered 'possible' when they joined our school community. We are proud of all our students.

At Thomas Keble, we believe that every child can achieve beyond their initial expectations. We believe every child's success is worthy of celebration. We have demonstrated the ability to achieve highly consistently, year on year. We do not seek to inflate our position in performance tables through experimenting with students' examination entries. Instead we focus on the individual, tailoring a programme of study and a programme of pastoral support to enable students to leave us as confident, articulate and empowered young adults. We look forward to welcoming your child into our community and working with you to achieve these aims.



Steven P Shaw, Headteacher

We look forward to seeing you.



OUR SCHOOL

Thomas Keble School is a mixed comprehensive school for 11-16 year old students of all abilities. We are situated in beautiful surroundings on the edge of the Cotswolds and serve families over a wide area.



Thomas Keble School is a mixed comprehensive school for 11-16 year old students of all abilities. We are situated in beautiful surroundings on the edge of the Cotswolds and serve families over a wide area. Pupil numbers have increased rapidly in response to the school's many achievements and its distinctive atmosphere, and our total number is now about 690. Year after year, we have celebrated record results at GCSE as well as many other significant achievements. Independent analysis of our results over many years has established us as one of the most successful schools within Gloucestershire. At Thomas Keble, children are at the centre of all that we do. We pride ourselves on following traditional educational values rather than the vagaries of educational fashion.

We believe every child can achieve and so every pupil is valued for themselves. Our aim is to build upon the strong foundations established at home and in our partner primary schools to help our students emerge as confident, responsible and well-qualified citizens of the twenty-first century world. We value contact with parents and are proud of our strong partnerships, which have been highlighted by our OFSTED reports and through our regular self-evaluation surveys.



In partnership with parents and pupils we aim to:

- Ensure maximum academic achievement for every child.
- Provide a rich and broad curriculum designed to engage all learners.
- Work with other appropriate agencies to protect children and establish a safe environment to learn.
- Encourage all students to adopt healthy lifestyles.
- Prepare students to be confident and able to participate in their world, by embracing fully the international dimension.



HIGH QUALITY PASTORAL CARE

At Thomas Keble School, we provide a secure, safe and well-ordered environment, in which students can live, work and thrive in order to achieve their full potential as individuals.

On entry to the school, students are placed in a tutor group under the care of a form tutor who will get to know the student well, and help him/her to make the best use of the opportunities available at Thomas Keble School.

The tutor will be the first point of contact for staff and parents wishing to discuss any aspect of their child's progress. As a general rule, a student will keep the same tutor throughout the five years at school, providing them and their parents with a contact who can respond to their needs.

The tutor will review each student's progress regularly as part of the Academic Tutoring scheme. Tutor and student will consider strengths and weaknesses, and draw up individualised academic targets.

Tutors are supported by a Head of Year, who is available to see parents should the need arise. Parents should contact the school office to arrange an appointment.

OFSTED reported that: *"Pastoral care is good...Students receive good support on transition to the school and when leaving it".*

New students are involved in a carefully prepared and extensive introduction programme. Obviously, some children are apprehensive about transferring to a secondary school and we aim to make the transition from primary to secondary school as seamless as possible.

Staff from Thomas Keble have established links with our primary schools and work with them on occasions so that children will know at least some of the staff before coming here. Staff also visit students in their primary school during the summer term and an Induction Day is held in the summer term to help children become familiar with Thomas Keble School, and a meeting for "new" parents is held at that time.

New students can be accepted into other years in the school if places are available. If you would like to enquire about in-year admissions please contact our admissions officer on 01452 770301.



'My daughter's achievements with her learning have surpassed what we thought possible when she joined you. The value that has added to her life so far is something we will always be grateful for.'

THE CURRICULUM

Thomas Keble School believes in the need for all students to have a broad and balanced curriculum. The development of independent learning skills, both to advance immediate objectives and to establish the basis for life-long learning is central to our work.

OFSTED (2009) rated the curriculum as “good” and described the extra-curricular programme as “impressive”, and since that report the level of provision in all aspects of our work has been further enhanced.

In Key Stage 3 all National Curriculum core and foundation subjects are studied, together with Drama, ICT and an additional foreign language. In nearly all subjects children are setted according to ability to allow for every child to work at an appropriate pace.

In Key Stage 4 as well as the compulsory core of subjects, which all children study (English, Maths, Science, PE, and RE) there is a wide range of subjects for students to choose from. For most students this will lead to ten GCSE qualifications but different pathways have been developed to meet needs of individual students, including a number of vocational subjects. We encourage as much free choice as possible to maximise the engagement of all students.

The school is proud to have won the International Award six times. This award acknowledges the work being done in school to extend and enhance our students’ knowledge of the world. We are the only school in the country to have achieved this.

Aspects of the international dimension occur in many subjects, and form an essential part of our work.

Our students also undertake a programme of Careers Education and Guidance so that our pupils can

- Understand themselves, their strengths and weaknesses, attitudes and preferences, and how to develop their potential.
- Explore careers and opportunities, understand the options available to them at 14+, 16+ and beyond, learn about the world of work, and how to be independent seekers of information.
- Make effective choices and decisions, recognising their consequences and being able to make changes in new situations.

OFSTED found that

“care, guidance and support for students are good”



Our learning support arrangements are flexible so that all children have access to special help if they need it.

Support is given across the curriculum by individual tuition, small teaching groups and additional support within the classroom by a teacher or Learning Support worker; and our Learning Support Department has close supportive working relationships with the parents of children who have special needs.





'I just wanted to say thanks to all the staff at TK for the support our son has received over the last five years. I think TK are very good at getting the students themselves to understand the need to achieve their best – this motivated him and he was personally proud of what he achieved.'

ENRICHMENT

We want all our students to enjoy their time at school – it is, after all, a major part of their childhood.

In addition, we support them in developing the skills and knowledge that will help them become well-rounded and impressive young adults, and our extensive enrichment programme of clubs, awards, trips and other activities underpins this. We encourage every child to take full advantage of the clubs and enrichment opportunities on offer, as we know that successful students are often those with the greatest level of participation.

A wide variety of activities is available to students during the lunch break and after school, and specific details are included in the back of this booklet. While opportunities vary from term to term and year to year, a flavour of recent opportunities includes clubs for drama, airfix modelling, ukulele, keyboards, homework catch-up, card games and film club. In music, we have an orchestra, senior ensemble and the TK vocal group. Each year, we have a school production as well as two concerts a year that include dance, drama and music. We currently offer individual or small group lessons on flute, clarinet, oboe, saxophone, bassoon, trumpet, trombone, horn, piano, violin, guitar and drums as well as singing lessons.

Popular sports clubs have included gymnastics, football (girls' and boys'), netball, hockey, rounders, tennis, athletics, cross-country, cricket, table tennis, basketball, volleyball, dance, ski club, rugby, karate, fitness club, outdoor pursuits and cheerleading. Thomas Keble has a full range of sports teams for both boys and girls and we successfully compete at local, regional and national level. Again, specific details of our recent achievements are included in the back of the booklet.

The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme is very popular and goes from strength to strength. Students have to complete four sections – Service, Skills, Physical Recreation and Expedition. Recently the expedition section involved them training at South Cerney, and a 15-mile overnight hike took place during the year. In a typical year, up to 65 Year 9 students achieve the Bronze Awards with up to 25 students progressing to Silver in Year 11.

A range of residentials and local trips take place, catering for all students, including some specifically designed to stretch and challenge our most able students.



Residentials have included:

Activity holiday at French Chateau (Yr 7)

**European Ski trip (Yrs 8 – 11)
every two years.**

**Football and netball tour to Spain
(Yrs 9 – 11) every two years.**

Duke of Edinburgh Award expeditions

**History trip to the World War
I battlefields**

Swanage fieldwork for Geography GCSE

When pupils join the school, they also join our house system. Our houses are Whittle, Mercia, Lee, Carpenter and Jenner. Throughout their time at school, pupils participate in a variety of house competitions, and can gain points for their house through their own good work and high attendance.





'I recently had the pleasure of acting as a guide to the Battlefields trip last week. The students were a credit to themselves, their families, their school and their country.'





WORKING WITH PARENTS

At Thomas Keble, we do all we can to work in partnership with parents, and we know that positive and supportive relationships between school, parents and children are very important.

Research shows that the interest and involvement of parents in their child's education are more important than anything else in helping your child achieve their full potential. We continue to work with you on this throughout your child's time at Thomas Keble. Up-to-date achievement data is included in detailed regular reports on your child. We encourage you to contact the school to speak to your child's tutor or Head of Year if you need any further information, and we will be happy to help.

For information about the school calendar, letters home, and other specific information relevant to your child we have the parents' information platform (PiP) that can be accessed via our website. To gain access to our PiP, login details can be obtained by sending your email address together with the name and tutor group of your child to our data team.

We welcome feedback from parents as we continually strive to improve our provision. This can be through our regular parental surveys, via our Parent Governors or via our parental forums which convene to discuss specific issues. We also have a dedicated email address for parents to use: feedback@thomaskeble.gloucs.sch.uk





'I would like to praise the incredible caring attitude of the staff and their knowledge of the children. Both my children have developed in confidence since being at the school - TK has been very good at drawing out their core qualities.'

THOMAS
 **KEBLE**
SCHOOL

Thomas Keble School,
Eastcombe,
Stroud,
Gloucestershire.
GL6 7DY
Tel: 01452 770301
Fax: 01452 770093
email: admin@thomaskeble.gloucs.sch.uk

Thomas Keble School -
Thomas Keble is committed to safeguarding the welfare of children, with
enhanced DBS checks fully in place for staff as appropriate.

Thomas Keble School - a company limited by guarantee registered in
England and Wales under number 7698037;
Registered office: Eastcombe, Stroud, Gloucestershire GL6 7DY

