



# School Prospectus 2010-2011

**Headteacher: Tim Long BA(Oxon), MA Ed, PGCE, NPQH**

**Upper School  
& Appleton College**

Broomfields Road  
Appleton  
Warrington WA4 3AE

**Lower School**

Hall Drive  
Appleton  
Warrington WA4 5JL

Tel: 01925 263919/266973

01925 263814/264879

Fax: 01925 861434

01925 861449

Website: [www.bridgewaterhigh.com](http://www.bridgewaterhigh.com)

e-mail: [sch\\_bridgewater\\_clerical@warrington.gov.uk](mailto:sch_bridgewater_clerical@warrington.gov.uk)

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Full details of all examination results for the academic year 2008/09 and the destinations of school leavers will be published in November 2009, following confirmation of data by the Department for Children, Schools and Families.

# Introduction

**B**ridgewater is a popular and successful 11 to 18 comprehensive school, situated on two attractive sites to the south of Warrington. Pupils at Lower School (Years 7-9) enjoy all the facilities and opportunities of a large school, within a smaller, caring environment, before transferring, at the end of Key Stage 3 of the National Curriculum, to Upper School. There they begin a broad range of courses leading to public examination.

## Our Main Purpose

Our main priority is standards of learning and achievement across the curriculum as a whole for all our students. To achieve this we work in partnership with other local schools and the wider community to share resources and develop good practice. As a Specialist School for the Arts with Science and Maths, we aim to promote an educational climate which is creative and expressive, inclusive, technological, vocational and relevant to the needs of all our students across the ability range.

**We encourage, and are committed to, equality of opportunity for all, and value diversity.**

## Our Aims

- ◆ **Opportunity** - To provide all members of the school community with opportunities to develop their individual potential during and beyond their school years.
- ◆ **Enthusiasm and Success** - To stimulate enthusiasm for learning and for all pupils to experience success.
- ◆ **Curriculum** - To provide each pupil with a broad, balanced and relevant curriculum.
- ◆ **Environment** - To create an environment which encourages and recognises hard work, self-discipline and a sense of personal responsibility.
- ◆ **Care and Support** - To provide a caring school community which supports both pupils and staff.
- ◆ **Values** - To help children to develop their moral and spiritual values.
- ◆ **Respect** - To encourage respect for people of all backgrounds and traditions.
- ◆ **Lifestyle** - To stress the value, benefit and importance of a healthy lifestyle.
- ◆ **Relationships** - To build strong relationships between all members of the school and the larger community we serve.

# Specialist School Status

We are proud that Bridgewater High School was designated as an Arts College under the DCSF's Specialist Schools Initiative from September 1998 and redesignated, for a fourth phase, from January 2009. In 2005 we also gained High Performing Specialist School status including second specialism Science including Mathematics. This has meant that both the school and community benefit from additional government funding to promote and develop, for the benefit of all our pupils, opportunities in the Arts, Science and Mathematics and across other subject areas.

## The benefits

- extra staffing across a number of subject areas
- increased curricular provision; support for minority subjects
- enhanced facilities - music technology suites, recording studio, dance studio, multi-media editing computers, video conferencing and suited Maths computer rooms with interactive whiteboards
- development of creativity and confidence in all our pupils
- opportunity for pupils to work in the wider community

- work with professional artists, scientists and mathematicians
- promotion of opportunities for adults and young people to learn together
- varied extra-curricular activity programme including extension activities for gifted and talented pupils
- use of the performing arts to enrich the learning experience within all subjects of the curriculum

The targets and performance indicators against which success is judged are set out in the School's Specialist Development Plans.

This aims of the Specialist Schools Programme are:

- to extend the range of opportunities available to pupils with an increased uptake of this provision
- to raise standards of teaching and learning in the specialist subjects
- to raise standards of achievement for all pupils of all abilities
- to develop an identity and ethos which reflects the school's aims
- to benefit other schools and the wider community

# General Information About The School

## How to join us

- \* Study our School Prospectus
- \* Attend our Information Evening and Lower School Open Day in October.
- \* Apply to the Local Authority for a place after receiving their Admissions Booklet.
- \* As a prospective Year 7 pupil, experience two full days at Bridgewater during the Summer Term as part of our Induction Programme.
- \* If joining beyond Year 7, contact us for further details about places and procedures.

## Admissions Policy

The Local Authority manages admissions to all Warrington schools. Details are published in a separate booklet entitled:

*Secondary Education: A Guide to Parents on Education Services and School Admission Arrangements.*

This is sent directly to parents of Year 6 pupils and is also available from:

Children's Services Directorate,  
Warrington Borough Council,  
New Town House,  
Buttermarket Street,  
Warrington. WA1 2NJ

Tel: 01925 444400

Bridgewater High School's designated partner primary schools are:

Appleton Thorn Primary  
Broomfields Junior  
Grappenhall Heys Community Primary  
Stretton St. Matthew's CE Primary  
St. Thomas' CE Primary  
Stockton Heath Primary  
Daresbury C E Primary  
Moore Primary

In recent years admission to Year 7 has been over subscribed. Where the school reaches its Planned Admission Limit a formal Appeals Procedure operates and is managed by the Local Authority.

Last academic year the school was oversubscribed.

Applications received naming the school as first preference - 307

Admitted Sept 2009	- 296
Children in public care	- 0
Siblings	- 118
Partner Primary School	- 153
Proximity to School	- 22

Proposed admission limit 2010 - 300

## Subjects Pupils Study

Bridgewater teaches the full National Curriculum. At **Key Stage Three (KS3)** pupils study English, Information and Communication Technology (ICT), one or two Modern Foreign Languages, Mathematics, Science, Religious Studies, Design Technology, PE, History, Geography, Art, Dance, Music, Drama and Citizenship. Our aim throughout is to develop a wide variety of knowledge, skills and understanding as a sound foundation for the future.

At **Key Stage Four (KS4)** pupils continue to study Science, English, Mathematics, Religious Studies, PE, ICT and Citizenship. They choose from a variety of further subjects designed to reflect their own interests and abilities. These include Art, Textiles, French, German, Technology (Product Design, Graphics, Food), Drama, Music, Geography, History, Business Studies, Physical Education, Dance, Information Technology, Child Development, Leisure and Tourism and Performing Arts. Most of these courses lead to GCSE or BTEC qualifications. AS level Drama and Philosophy are available and the new 14-19 Diplomas are also on offer.

At **Key Stage 5 (KS5)** many students choose to remain at Bridgewater, joining the school's sixth form 'college' provision, called Appleton College, where a range of academic and vocational courses are on offer.

Further detail about the sixth form is available in a separately published Prospectus, available from the School. Detailed information about all subject areas is available on the school web site at [www.bridgewaterhigh.com](http://www.bridgewaterhigh.com) and through additional publications (see page 4).

## School policies

**Careers** Education is delivered to all pupils in Citizenship lessons and careers advice is provided for all Y9 to Y13 via the Connexions Partnership. This includes work experience for Y10 pupils, work shadowing in Y12 and Higher Education advice for Y12 and 13 students. **Religious Education** is taught as a foundation subject to all pupils, in all years, unless withdrawn by parental request. **School Assemblies**, which sometimes incorporate collective worship, are held for all year groups unless pupils are withdrawn by parental request. Alternative arrangements may be made for these pupils. **Sex Education** is taught within a moral framework and aims to develop knowledge and understanding. The subject is treated with sensitivity and care as part of our **Health Education Policy**, approved by the governing body. **Citizenship** is also taught to all pupils in all year groups. **Homework** plays an important part in all pupils' development. Regular assignments are set and entered into the Pupil Planner for monitoring by

staff and parents. **Educational Visits** are also arranged for pupils both during and outside of the school day. Costs are regulated by the **Governors' Charging and Remission** policy. The **Special Educational Needs** of pupils are given careful consideration and include pupils with learning difficulties as well as those who may be gifted or talented. We also have a Learning Support Centre, to help those pupils experiencing difficulties adjusting to school life. Particular provision is also made for the full integration of pupils with physical disabilities, in line with The Special Educational Needs and Disability Discrimination Act. The school has a **Disability Equality Scheme**. Our **Equal Opportunities and Social Inclusion Policies** support our commitment to constantly review our provision and equality of treatment of all pupils with any Special Needs.

## **Assessment and Reporting of Pupils' Progress**

Pupils' progress is carefully monitored and assessed. Parents receive termly reports and the opportunity to meet with staff at a parents' evening once a year. Reports highlight pupil progress in relation to their individual ability and previous achievement in the context of the National Curriculum. Additionally, year seven have an extra 'settling-in' parents' evening in the second half of the autumn term.

## **Recording Achievement**

Pupils are encouraged to take an active part in assessing their own achievements. Key Stage 4 students access their own Progress File on line, in which they keep evidence of their personal and academic progress.

## **6<sup>th</sup> Form (Appleton College)**

Our sixth form provision offers a broad range of academic, and some vocational, courses. It enjoys an established level of success in public examinations and the majority of students take up places in Higher Education. College students enjoy all the facilities of a large comprehensive specialist school along with their own social and private study facilities. A major refurbishment took place in 2009, further enhancing sixth form study and seminar facilities. A separate Sixth Form Prospectus is available from the school. Student destinations at the end of year 13 are published annually for all parents via the school's newsletter and website.

## **Teacher Training**

Bridgewater is fully committed to involvement in the training of the next generation of teachers, and has established training partnerships with three local University Education Institutes: Manchester Metropolitan



University, Liverpool John Moores University and Chester University. Trainee Teachers observe and teach lessons while on placement at Bridgewater. They are always closely monitored by class teachers, who retain responsibility for the quality of teaching and learning within the classroom. Overall the training is supervised by a number of trained and experienced school 'mentors'.

## Parental Involvement

We believe strongly in home-school partnership which is clearly expressed in our **Home-School Agreement**, published annually in Pupil Planners. The door is always open and parental opinions and concerns will always be given our full attention. Our **Parent**

**Teacher Association** contributes to the success of the school through parental events and the provision of additional resources.

## Other Publications

- Home-School Agreement
- 14+ Curriculum Booklet (relating to courses on offer in Y10)
- Sixth Form Prospectus
- Public Examinations Entry
- Public Examinations Results
- The Bridge and Reachout Newsletters
- Latest OFSTED report
- School Improvement Plan

All publications are available from the school and most are on the website.

# School Organisation

## Pastoral Organisation

Our pastoral system provides pupils with a happy, secure environment where they can flourish academically and socially. **Tutor groups** normally consist of 30 pupils, each child having a **tutor** who gets to know them individually and is responsible for day to day concerns. Each year group is divided into Stockton and Appleton House. Each House has a **Pastoral and Achievement Leader (PAL)** to

oversee each pupil's welfare in school and they are the first point of contact for parents. In addition there is a **Pastoral and Achievement Manager (PAM)** at Key Stage 3 and at Key Stage 4 who ensure that Pastoral issues are dealt with promptly and oversee the academic progress of pupils across the curriculum. In years 12 and 13 a **personal tutor** system is in place which ensures that students have regular one-to-one meetings with their

tutors, to monitor progress and deal with concerns. Other educational support services available to the school include the Psychology, Welfare and Careers/Connexions services.

## **Lunch and Break Times**

A cafeteria system operates on both sites and pupils may also bring their own packed lunches. Enquiries regarding free school meals may be made to the Children's Services Directorate, New Town House, Buttermarket Street, Warrington WA1 2NJ  
Tel: 01925 442938

Parents whose children are entitled to free school meals are assured that applications are dealt with sensitively and confidentially and are strongly encouraged to take up their entitlement.

## **Transport**

Buses for pupils travelling a distance from school are provided and managed by both Warrington and Halton Borough Transport. Contact details are available from the Transport Departments. The school has a safe cycle policy

## **Medical Matters**

Pupils who are ill during the school day are sent to the school office and, after consultation with their

Pastoral and Achievement Leader may either be returned to lessons or sent home, following contact with parents.

## **Attendance**

The school has a statutory responsibility to record and monitor the attendance of all pupils. All absences should be notified by phone on the first day followed by a *written note* (letter or in planner) from a parent or guardian on return to school. If pupils need to attend appointments outside school for medical or other reasons, they bring a note to their **form tutor** and **sign out** of school at the appropriate time. Absence from school without permission is recorded as unauthorised on a pupil's record. In cases of prolonged or frequent absence, a medical certificate may be required and reference made to the **Education Welfare Officer**. The school very strongly discourages absence due to holidays taken during term time, for which written permission from the Headteacher must always be sought.

## **Absence Statistics 2008/9**

No. on roll of compulsory age 1516  
Authorised Absence 5.1%  
Unauthorised Absence 0.4%

## Holiday Dates 2010/11

Holidays 2010/2011	Closure Date	Staff Training Days	Re-opening Date Pupils
Training Day		Thurs 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sept	
Training Day		Fri 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sept	Mon 6 <sup>th</sup> Sept
Autumn Half Term 2010	Fri 22 <sup>nd</sup> Oct		Mon 1 <sup>st</sup> Nov
Christmas 2010	Fri 17 <sup>th</sup> Dec		Tue 4 <sup>th</sup> Jan
Spring Half Term 2011	Fri 11 <sup>th</sup> Feb		Mon 21 <sup>st</sup> Feb
Easter 2011	Fri 1 <sup>st</sup> April		Mon 18 <sup>th</sup> April
Easter Weekend 2011	Thurs 21 <sup>st</sup> April		Tues 26 <sup>th</sup> April
May Day Bank Holiday 2011	Fri 29 <sup>th</sup> April		Tue 3 <sup>rd</sup> May
Whitsun Half Term 2011	Fri 27 <sup>th</sup> May		Mon 6 <sup>th</sup> June
Training Day	Thur 30 <sup>th</sup> June	Fri 1 <sup>st</sup> July	Mon 4 <sup>th</sup> July
Summer 2011	Fri 22 <sup>nd</sup> July		

## School Uniform

School Uniform is an important statement of our school standards and must be worn to school everyday.

Boys	Girls
Plain white shirt	Plain white blouse/shirt
Plain mid-grey trousers	Plain, mid-grey skirt, approximately knee-length or the uniform mid-grey trousers
Navy V-neck jumper*	Navy V-neck jumper* or cardigan*
Navy blazer with school badge	Navy blazer with school badge
Black, navy or grey socks	Black, grey, navy or white socks Plain navy/black/opaque/flesh tights
School tie (according to band)	School tie (according to band)
Black shoes (no boots or trainers)	Black shoes (no boots or trainers)

\*Badged version, plus other uniform items, are available from the PTA shop (Upper School) - open Thursday 4.00- 4.45pm during term time.

To maintain standards of uniform we also insist that:

- Pupils must wear suitable shoes with heels of a sensible height. Boots and trainers are not allowed. Trainers should not be worn to and from school.
- Hoodies, track suit tops or sweatshirts are not regarded as top coats. All other top coats are suitable unless conspicuously extreme. eg. slogans etc
- Jewellery is limited to one plain ring and one pair of plain stud earrings.
- Nose, lip, tongue and eyebrow studs and all other visible piercings are strictly forbidden.
- Make-up should not be worn.
- Hairstyles should not be extreme in style or colour. Beaded plaits are not permitted unless they are tied back.

These uniform details and regulations are also available for parents in the Pupil Planner, distributed at the start of each year. It is important that all clothing is clearly marked with the owner's name, preferably with sewn-in labels or indelible marker.

Specialist items of uniform are necessary for Physical Education and Dance and are follows:

<b>Physical Education</b>	
<b>Boys</b>	<b>Girls</b>
Royal blue rugby jersey - badged (reversible red hooped)	Royal blue wrap-over skirt - badged
Royal blue rugby shorts - badged	
Royal blue shorts - badged	Royal blue shorts - badged
White short sleeved polo shirt - badged	White short sleeved polo shirt - badged
Royal blue sweat shirt - badged	Royal blue sweat shirt - badged
Royal blue (red turnover) football socks	Royal blue hockey socks White short socks
Football boots	
Trainers	Trainers
Blue/black swimming trunks (not shorts)	Swimming costume
Royal blue jogging pants (optional)	Royal blue jogging pants (optional)

<b>Dance (boys and girls)</b>	
Black tee shirt with Arts College logo	Plain black trousers or leggings

## Security

The school and Local Authority do not accept responsibility for loss of, or damage to, personal property whilst on or off the school premises. Large amounts of money and valuables such as jewellery should not be brought into school. Pupils may have a locker in which to secure personal items or equipment in school. An annual review of school security is conducted by the Business Manager and reported to the Governors' Buildings & Community Committee. The school is wholly committed to safeguarding children and to this end security is routinely reviewed. In 2009 this included an upgrade to security access systems.

## South African Link

Bridgewater is linked with Forte High School in Dobsonville, Soweto, South Africa. This involves staff and pupil exchange where possible and curriculum projects about the culture and life of South Africa. Our Eco Garden at Upper School is an integral part of this reciprocal, curriculum link.

## Mobile Phone Policy

The security of mobile phones is entirely the responsibility of the owner. Pupils may have phones with them in their bags but they should not be used in school except under exceptional circumstances and only **outside** of the school buildings. **Phones must not be used to take still or moving images.** Failure to comply with this policy will lead to the temporary confiscation of the phone.

## Every Child Matters

Following the Children's Act, 2004, the school is fully committed to the Government's aim for every child to have the support they need to:

- Be healthy
- Stay safe
- Enjoy and achieve
- Make a positive contribution
- Achieve economic well-being

These elements are embedded in the school's policies and provision.

# Extra-Curricular Activities

## Clubs and Visits

We offer a range of **Extra-Curricular** opportunities, including exchange visits to Germany and Martha's Vineyard, residential visits to The Conway Centre on Anglesey and ski and canoe trips abroad. Various Arts and Sports trips go to Spain, Italy America, South Africa and the Caribbean. Others visit France, Iceland, Poland and the rest of Europe.

Extra-curricular **Clubs** are organised at various times and include Art, Dance, Drama, Canoeing, Speech and Drama, Computers, Technical Theatre, Band, Singing, Performing Arts, Rock Climbing, Orienteering, Rugby, Soccer, Hockey, Netball, Cross-country, Basketball, Cricket, Badminton and Athletics. At Lower School we host a Cricket Centre of Excellence and at Upper School, fully utilise our astroturf floodlit tennis courts. Professional coaches are also used to extend and enhance sports provision. We also support the D of E scheme.

**Peripatetic** music lessons are available for all pupils in a range of instruments including drums, piano keyboard, flute, guitar, saxophone, strings, clarinet, voice and brass.

## Arts College

As an **Arts College** there are numerous opportunities for performance, such as the School Play, Christmas and Summer Celebrations, Concerts, X-Factor, Dance and Drama Festivals and Choreography Competition. Various masterclasses are also held for talented artists and performers plus the chance to gain extra qualifications via Trinity College graded Speech and Drama, and Associated Board Music, exams.

There are regular trips organised to the theatre, dance and musical shows. We also organise a number of Performing Arts Summer Schools, during the holiday period. Both visual and performing artists are employed on occasions during the year to give pupils the experience of working with talented professionals.

**Post-16** College students enjoy an extra range of extension activities including Young Enterprise, Service in the Community, First Aid, *Arts and Sports Leaders Awards*, *Self Defence*, *Computing*, *Art*, *Sign Language*, field trips, exchanges, performances and various cultural and educational visits

# School Development Plan

Our last Inspection by Ofsted was in October 2008. It reported that:

*"Students' achievement in Key Stages 3 and 4 is outstanding... with an outstanding curriculum that caters extremely well for students' needs. ...There is a comprehensive and intensive system of support and guidance that helps students to achieve.... The school values inclusion highly ... The impact of specialist status is impressive.... Parents are highly supportive and the*

*school enjoys a justifiably strong local reputation."*

It also went on to comment favourably on the way that we as a school lead, manage and evaluate:

*"The school is well led and managed overall. Self-evaluation overall is outstanding; senior leaders and middle managers know the school extremely well and share a common vision for how the school can improve further"*

We began the next cycle of our School Development Plan in September 2009 and we have identified the following priority areas for development.

**Redesigning the Curriculum**  
**Teaching & Learning**  
**Staff and Pupil Well Being & Development**  
**Engagement Curriculum**  
**Standards & Achievement**  
**Extended Schooling & Community Learning**  
**The Sixth Form**  
**Stakeholder Engagement & Student Leadership**  
**The Learning Environment**  
**Leadership & Management**

Progress on these priorities is reported to the Governing Body twice yearly and a more detailed School Development Plan will be available from the school.

# Outline Summary of Examination Results and School Targets

## KS3 National Curriculum Test Results

Subject	KS3	2006/07		2007/08		2008/09	
		Target	Result	Target	Result	Target	Teacher assessed level
English	Level 5+	92%	91%	91%	90%	93%	95%
	Level 6+	60%	44%	62%	58%	62%	61%
Maths	Level 5+	91%	90%	93%	92%	96%	98%
	Level 6+	78%	79%	81%	81%	87%	88%
Science	Level 5+	92%	89%	92%	92%	95%	92%
	Level 6+	68%	61%	70%	70%	74%	73%

## KS4 GCSE Examination Results

	2006/07		2007/08		2008/09		2009/10
	Target	Result	Target	Result	Target	Result	Target
5+ A*- C grades	80%	84%	84%	88%	84%	86%	-
5+ A*- C grades inc. Eng & Maths	71%	68%	75%	74%	75%	76%	76%
2+ A*-C Science	-	81%	-	86%	-	89%	-

## KS5 GCE Examination Results 2008/09

### AS Level

A Grades 20%	A-E Grades 93%
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### A2 Level

A Grades 22%	A-E Grades 98%
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The 2008/09 results are provisional. Verified examination results will be available by the beginning of December, from both the school and in the performance tables published on the DCSF's website.