



# Prior Park College

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*“Our daughter has flourished and developed whilst being at Prior into a kind and considerate young lady, with a sense of pride and achievement, with a true knowledge of what is right and wrong, just and fair.*

*Prior is like her family, she never pleads to come home early, never moans about Saturday matches and is always up and ready for the bus at 6:30 every morning, five days a week. She has made lifelong friends with her peers. ”*

**College Parent**





## A WELCOME FROM THE HEADMASTER, BEN HORAN

The journey towards adulthood is a search for identity. Every child is searching for a sense of who they are and the sort of adult they want to become. Schools play a role on this journey. Great schools, like Prior Park, help our students to explore who they are and find the adult they wish to be. We do this by providing opportunities. Here, children learn from exceptional teachers in a community where learning is prized and curiosity welcomed. Our young people make friends with others in a school where kindness is central. Our students enjoy a range of cultural and sporting experiences in a community that celebrates success in many arenas. We provide an outstanding, rounded education for each of our students and encourage them to embrace all the opportunities on offer.

These opportunities allow our students to become happy and successful adults. This success takes many forms. Most of our students go on to top universities to achieve excellent degrees, building on their love for learning that began here at Prior Park. Some channel a different sort of passion into a career. This might take the form of excitement for entrepreneurship leading to a career in business. It could be a love of creativity that leads them to a career in the arts. It may be a desire for service that leads to them following their chosen vocation. They could possess a level of sporting talent that they can follow to the top. All of these passions are nurtured at Prior Park and given room to flourish. We are a school that cares and where children can find out what matters to them. Our renowned pastoral system, rooted in our Christian ethos, provides space and support for each of our students to be who they want to be. Giving children this 'room to be me', leads to them leaving us as well rounded young adults.

At Prior Park every child is known, valued and cared for. It is a school where the Christian virtues of family and community sit at the core of what we do. Prior Park is a diverse community where each individual child finds their way towards a fulfilled and successful life. I know it to be an open, friendly and caring place where your family will feel at ease and your children will thrive.

Do come and visit us. Come and meet the young people at Prior. Ask them what they think of our school. They will show you, more clearly than any website, review or league table, that this is a place they are proud to be a part of. We are a school where your family will find a warm welcome and where your children will grow into capable, confident and compassionate adults.

Ben Horan  
Headmaster, Prior Park College





# OUR COMMUNITY

Prior Park College is a Catholic Day and Boarding school with 600 students made up from 450 day and 150 boarding. Set in 57 stunning acres overlooking the World Heritage City of Bath, Prior Park offers an exceptional environment for students to study, play and live.

Dedicated staff and outstanding facilities help to develop as fully as possible the academic and other talents of each boy and girl and we aim to provide pastoral care of an encouraging, supportive and disciplined nature, thus providing an education of the whole person.

We encourage students to embrace all the opportunities on offer at Prior – acting and singing in first class productions, competing for their team, producing impressive works of art and design, leading our charities work and taking a full role in House activities.

All pupils are members of a House and the House System generates a wonderful sense of community as well as providing easy and appropriate channels of communication for pupils and instilling positive values. They are also fun, with a huge variety of House led activities happening throughout the academic year.

Our Junior Houses (ages 11-13) are co-educational whilst Senior are single sex. Each House is run by a Housemaster or Housemistress with a team of tutors, and all offer encouragement and support to each student within their care.

The College has an on-site Health and Wellbeing Centre which provides proactive and holistic care for pupils’ physical, mental and emotional wellbeing. An experienced independent Counsellor works alongside our medical team and House staff and is able to provide one-to-one support to students at a weekly surgery. Our Lay Chaplain is also a source of support and care.

The beautiful Chapel, Our Lady of the Snows, is the focus of our spiritual life. It is the venue for weekly all-school assemblies, musical performances, religious prayer and a peaceful place where one can sit and contemplate in the middle of a busy campus. We welcome pupils from all faith backgrounds and those with no faith into our inclusive community.

Mr Simon Cane-Hardy  
Deputy Head, Pastoral

“*Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all.*”

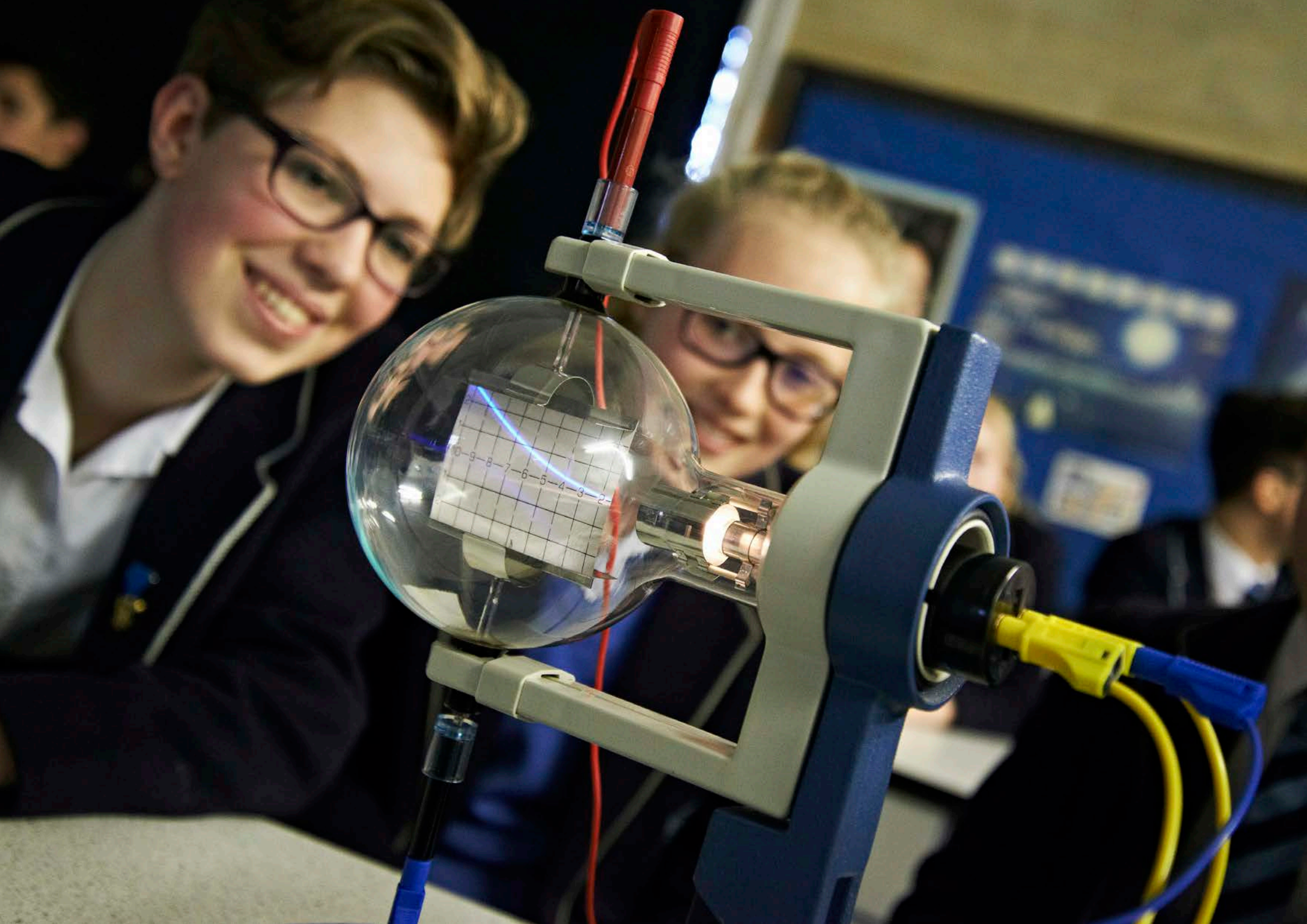
*Aristotle*

## THE PRIOR WAY

- Treat other people as you would like to be treated
- Forgive
- Share
- Be honest
- Listen
- Show good manners
- Be kind and helpful
- Be your best self







## ACADEMIC

Every school's key purpose is to 'educate the child'. At Prior Park College we believe that this is also our remit but that we are educating them for more than just their future earning potential, productivity level and position in the labour force.

Education is about inspiring children, teaching them 'the best that has ever been thought or said in the world'. We need to teach our students to think critically so that they can shape their own future yet also to communicate their ideas in an engaging and coherent way; to inform and educate others. Being a Catholic school does not release us from the quest for academic excellence. Instead it is reinforced because we must ensure a child uses their God-given gifts to the best of their ability.

As a result our curriculum is broad, allowing every child to pursue their interests, but balanced to ensure that we prioritise what they need to access the next level of their education pathway. Students take on average 10 GCSEs. We help students to set targets and measure their success against their own potential. We encourage them to persevere and to be the very best version of themselves every single day. This is reflected in our results where our value added scores are impressive as, year after year, we draw out the best from our students.

Our Prior4Life curriculum in F4 and the Sixth Form seeks to maintain that broad curriculum by educating our students in areas such as politics, finance, ethics, world religions, charity, enterprise, careers, philosophy, first aid and even DIY. We keep some creative opportunities open for those who have had to narrow their subject choices and ensure that all students have some basic life skills to survive what comes next.

Most of our students go on to study at university at their first choice institution, these include Oxford, Cambridge, Russell Group Universities as well as a number of places at medical school. We also encourage students to consider the new modern apprenticeship schemes offered by professional service firms and other more vocational routes through tertiary education.



*“This is teaching at its best: inspiring young people and cultivating their thirst for learning.”*

**Parent**



We have invested resources in ensuring that our curriculum is future proof by building in skills that are welcomed in the workplace. Enterprise education is both explicit and implicitly taught at Prior Park so that students are not afraid to think creatively and work collaboratively in all subjects. We are investing heavily in making sure that our students are digitally literate by utilising the technology available to us. Technology that is used in tertiary institutions and businesses around the globe. We do not want to do away with books, paper, whiteboard, pencil and pen but our classrooms are adaptive and we want to exploit technology in ways that will enable our staff and students to make the best use of it throughout their learning journey.

At A Level the majority of our students take 3 A Level subjects with the most able choosing a fourth and the intellectually curious choosing to study for the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ). Our EPQ results are outstanding with over two thirds of our students gaining an A or A\*. Feedback from universities is that these projects ensure that students understand the importance of research, referencing as well as managing their own time. The very personal choice of subject allows students to spend time becoming an expert on an area that they are not studying formally but for which they have a real passion.

We wish to instil a delight in learning in all our students and there are plenty of opportunities to apply their learning in alternative environments through our programme of educational trips. We organise regular fieldtrips in subjects such as Geography and Biology so that students can complete essential work for their classes, we run an annual language trip rotating through France, Spain and China, but other trips are also on offer such as the Physics trip to CERN, the History trip to Krakow and a Cross Curricular trip to New York - which is, for many of the U6th, the standout memory of their school career.

As a wider part of their character education we try to make sure that students have an opportunity to serve others and understand the importance of playing their part in society. There are trips specifically designed to serve others such as the Lourdes pilgrimage, the Romanian building project with People against Poverty and a fantastic marine biology expedition with Operation Wallacea that encourages students to be aware of the importance of conservation and protecting our beautiful world with trips to Cuba and Dominica.



Overall at Prior, we strive to ensure that every student meets their potential. We stretch but also support our learners. With all the changes in the field of education at the moment we are trying to charter a course that enables students to venture forth to a future that is fulfilling and fruitful

**Mrs Laura Stotesbury**  
Deputy Head, Academic.





# MUSIC

Pupils, parents, staff, even visitors quickly see that music is central to the culture of Prior Park College. In this beautiful place music reaches a different level. Orchestras, bands, choirs, shows, chamber music, jazz, African drums, the music department covers every musical genre.

**From the hundreds of weekly individual lessons, right up to big school musicals and concerts, musicians of every kind find opportunities to develop in our wonderful performing spaces.**

Throughout the academic year, there are scores of opportunities for performance, be it at Sunday Mass, the annual Band Night, House Music competition, School Musical or the weekly Informal Lunchtime Recitals. The College equally has an enviable record in competitions such as the Mid-Somerset Festival and Barnardo's Choir of the Year at the Royal Festival Hall. In all areas of music at Prior Park, from the splendour of our Chapel to the spotlight of the theatre, students find an audience. Under the guidance of an experienced and versatile team of teachers, our musicians find themselves and flourish.

On top of this, Prior students benefit from master classes and workshops with leading soloists and groups visiting the College: The King's Singers, the OAE, King's College London, James Gilchrist, Laurence Cummings, Paul Edmund Davies, Jason Rebello and composition workshops with St George's Academy.

Few schools have the vision and courage to put on operas but this tradition has become a feature in Prior's programme. Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro* was the most recent production, following *Noye's Fludde*, *Don Giovanni*, *Dido and Aeneas* and *Magic Flute*.

Prior students have gone on to study music at Oxbridge as well as in leading UK and US conservatoires, leading to careers with major orchestras, opera companies, film and TV composition and in the West End.

Prior Park has its own music studio with the most up-to-date production software allowing music technology students to develop their skills up to A level and beyond, making careers in and producing music. Studying GCSE, A level and other music courses and exams, students explore, experiment and create, extending their musical scope through arrangement and composition in new styles.

Each academic year ends with our Grand Leavers' Concert. This is always a proud and emotional occasion as our U6 performers hand the baton on to the new, different, younger talent who have been waiting their turn.

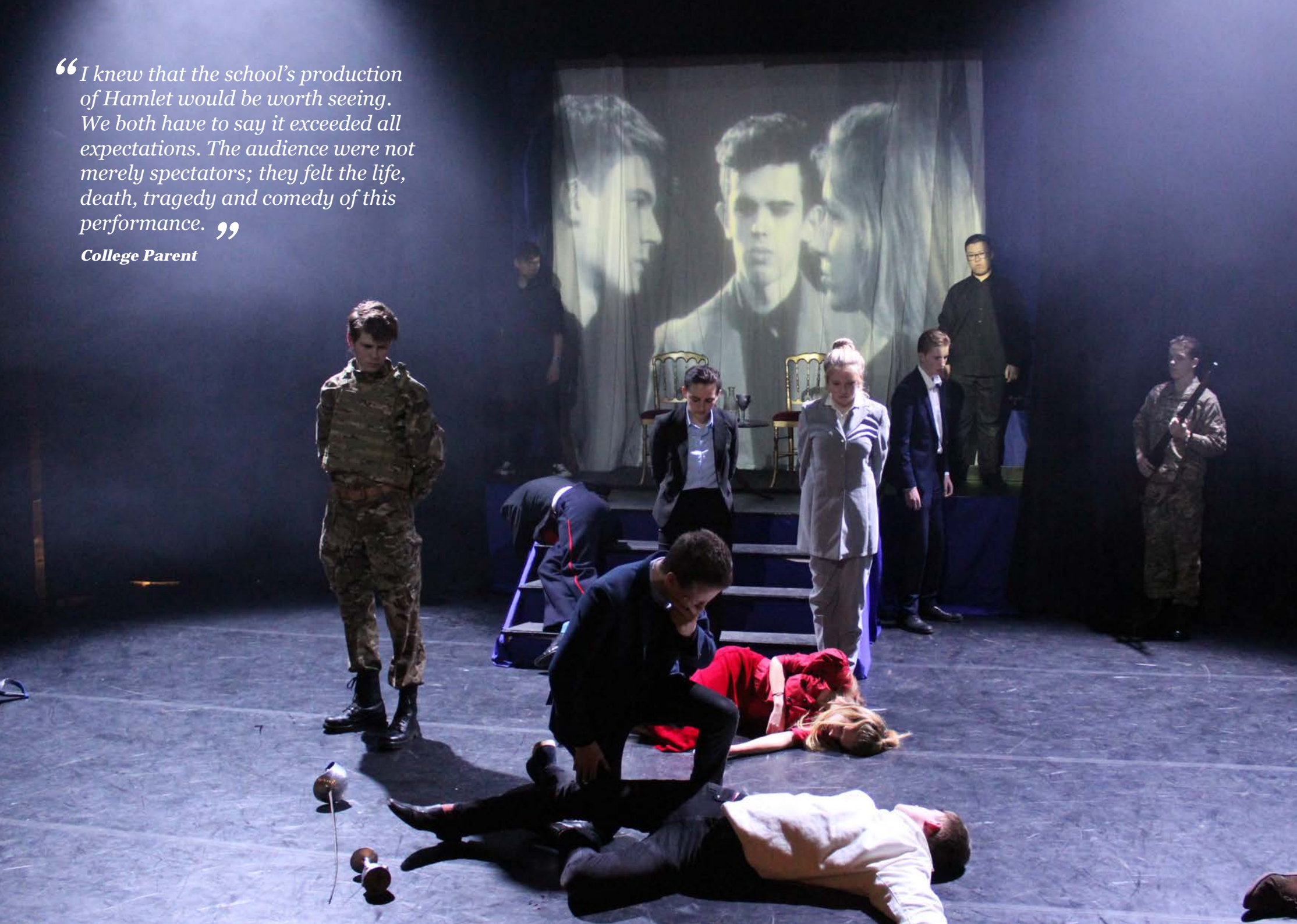
Mr Roland Robertson  
Director of Music





“I knew that the school’s production of Hamlet would be worth seeing. We both have to say it exceeded all expectations. The audience were not merely spectators; they felt the life, death, tragedy and comedy of this performance.”

College Parent



## DRAMA

Drama is offered to all students at Prior Park in the first three years here and is also taught at both GCSE and A Level. It is a subject that allows students to express themselves, think on their feet and function in a group. Not only that, but Drama is an all-inclusive subject with strong cross-curricular ties and a focus on getting the very best out of every student.

The Drama department is extremely proud of its reputation for putting on diverse and impressive productions each year, including works by Beckett, Ibsen, Miller, Shakespeare and Stoppard. We are very lucky to have such professional facilities and resources at Prior with our own professionally equipped 180-seat Julian Slade Theatre and the Mackintosh Dance Studio, both facilities supported by a theatre technician.

On average 12-15 productions take place every year with students taking control and ownership of some, both as performers and as directors, technicians and backstage crew. Guest speakers are regularly invited to the College to discuss their varied roles within the industry or to give professional acting advice, including former pupils who have gone on to successful careers within the performing arts, of which there are many.

We are proud of our successes in placing students at nationally and internationally recognised drama schools such as The Actors Studio in New York, The London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art and more locally, Bristol Old Vic Theatre School. Many students will take part in auditions for theatre, television and film works during their time with us and are enthusiastically supported in their ambitions by our dedicated staff.

The array of talent we have at the College never ceases to amaze. The boundless energy and endless enthusiasm shown by the students of this school is both an inspiration and a source of great pride.

Mr David Langley  
Director of Drama





## CREATIVE DESIGN

Our Creative Design faculty comprises of four fascinating subjects; Fine Art, Photography, Textile Design and DT.

Due to its popularity, the faculty has undergone extensive redevelopment over the last couple of years and is now primarily located in the beautiful listed building of St Peter's. Set over three floors, St Peter's provides students with a stimulating, light and airy space for them to tap into their creativity. In addition, the newly opened DT Workshop set in the Old Ball Court provides facilities on a par with neighbouring universities and many industrial workplaces.

These fantastic facilities, combined with the skill set of our talented teaching staff, allow students the opportunity to become complete artists and designers. From product designers, metal fabricators, glass blowers, textile designers, pattern makers through to the range of artists who work within a plethora of different mediums, from painting to sculpture and installation, our students are able to move between media, wherever their creative journey takes them.

As the subjects evolve due to the introduction of new technologies and techniques, students will have the very latest of what the creative world has to offer. Our aim is to provide a rich forum for creative learning and lessons balance skill-building with self-directed learning to facilitate creative independence.

Our annual Summer Exhibition celebrates the hard work and talent of students across the full age range. The achievements of A Level, GCSE and Key Stage Three students are showcased in the gallery spaces, studios and Mansion.

Ms Stephanie Seville,  
Head of Visual Arts

Mr Rob Faulkner,  
Head of DT





## SPORT

Our outstanding onsite facilities include a state-of-the-art Sports Centre complete with an impressive fitness suite, indoor swimming pool, new all-weather pitch, rugby and cricket pitches, indoor and outdoor tennis and netball courts.



Our specialised coaches, who include ex-internationals in both Hockey and Rugby, encourage our pupils to achieve the highest standards regardless of ability. We put together as many teams as possible so that everyone has an opportunity to compete however we recognise that team sport is ‘not for everyone’ and ensure that other options are available for those pupils. The school has a strong fixture list and we compete with the best sporting schools. In 2016, our 1st XI Boys Hockey won the National U18 Plate at the Olympic Park. We have pupils that compete at County, Regional and International level.

For our elite sportsmen and women in particular, our close proximity to Bath University is a tremendous bonus, with students regularly using training facilities and coaching there. Prior Park supports these students in pursuit of their goals and works with them individually to accommodate their sporting schedules, whilst making sure the demands of school life are also met.

The College is represented at various national and inter-schools tournaments throughout the year, including indoor and outdoor hockey,

netball, tennis and Rosslyn Park Rugby Sevens. Students can also take part in overseas tours, the most recent being a combined hockey and netball venture to South Africa. This trip not only involved some excellent competition, it also gave students the chance to explore a different culture, visit breath-taking landmarks and work with a local children's home, creating memories to last a lifetime.

A wide range of additional sports, such as table tennis, golf and sailing, are also on offer at the College through extra curricular activities and Saturday Active. There really is something for every appetite and ability at Prior Park.

Mr Rhys Gwilliam  
Director of Sport

*“The part can never be well unless the whole is well.”*

**Plato**







## CO-CURRICULAR

The objectives of our co-curricular programme is that it is inclusive, provides opportunity, develops talents, is enriching, provides a global education, offers access to outdoor education, encourages personal and physical development, leadership and most importantly, is fun!

Our Daily Activities programme features over 60 activities ranging from Chess to Mandarin, CCF to Sci-Fi. Students are required to choose one activity per week and the choice can vary each term. If a student has an external activity that they wish to continue with, this can also be included within the programme once approved by the relevant Housemaster/ Housemistress.

Any students aged over 12 years and 9 months can sign up for CCF (Combined Cadet Force). This runs on a Tuesday from 4.30-6pm and we cover both Army and Navy sections and allow boys and girls to develop leadership skills. Many of our Heads of Houses have achieved their roles through the skills they developed in CCF.

As well as traditional sports, we offer activities such as swimming, archery, golf, sailing and many more. The College also has an Equestrian team.

Saturday Active is a programme of courses that take place every Saturday morning during term time. There are over 25 courses to choose from over

the year, including robotics, fencing, animal husbandry, craft club and sailing. We expect our Boarders to take part but for Day pupils the courses are optional. Most courses are free however some can incur a small cost.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme is a popular and flourishing option for many students from Form 4 upwards. The College offers participation at Bronze, Silver and Gold levels, with each level consisting of four sections: skill, service, physical recreation and expeditions. Some students opt for both DofE and CCF!

With such a wide variety of activities on offer, we are confident of providing something for everyone to enjoy and develop.





## BOARDING

Boarding is at the heart of the College. Approximately 150 full, weekly and flexi boarders live in the family atmosphere provided by the boarding Houses – Allen, Roche and St Mary’s. Each is a small community where our boarding staff work hard to create a home-from-home environment.

St Paul’s is home to approximately 90 boys who are divided between Allen and Roche Houses, whilst St Mary’s is home to approximately 60 girls. Each House has a dedicated live-in Housemaster or Housemistress, a deputy and a team of tutors, to ensure the pastoral care and organisation essential to the community and to every individual.

Our boarders are made up of British and international students from a broad range of countries. For our British boarders, and indeed our day students, the benefits of making friends amongst our international community are extraordinary. It broadens horizons and cultural knowledge which, in a global marketplace, can be very advantageous.

Boarding life at Prior Park is happy, vibrant and dynamic. The learning culture during the day is enriched in the evenings and weekends with supervised prep sessions in the Houses. Staff are on hand to answer any questions and peers and older students are, of course, also on hand for advice.

A full weekend activity programme includes Saturday Active, cinema and theatre outings, sports fixtures, theme park outings, ten-pin bowling and shopping trips, amongst other fun pursuits. Boarders also benefit from being able to access the on-site facilities after hours, including our state-of-the-art Sports Centre and Fitness Suite.

Bath as a location offers a diverse range of sightseeing and leisure attractions and has a year round programme of festivals and sporting events. The city is easily accessible via mainline rail and major road networks, with Bristol International Airport just 20 miles away.

Despite the distance that can separate boarders from their families, links with parents are seen as an indispensable part of the support and development of boarders. Pupils and parents can easily contact each other using email or mobile phones and opportunities to use Skype also exist. The Housemaster or Housemistress offer a clear point of contact for boarding parents and the Tutor is ideal to contact for any routine matter.

We believe boarding is a highly worthwhile pursuit, offering countless opportunities for pupils and staff alike in a positive, strong community. Boarders joining the College will be supported, encouraged, challenged and very much welcomed.

**Mr David Holmes**  
Housemaster, Roche

**Mrs Lisa Seward**  
Housemistress, St Mary’s

**Mr Anthony Lovat**  
Housemaster, Allen





# SIXTH FORM

The Sixth Form is a lively, socially enjoyable and intellectually stimulating time in a pupil’s school career.

“One thing I love about Prior Park is that it seems very much a community and I believe that if I do come here, it hopefully won’t take long to make friends.”

**Prospective Sixth Form student**

Here at Prior the Sixth Form students have their own designated space within the Mansion providing the perfect place for students to work and relax. The Sixth Form Centre includes a large, bright room for study, a kitchen and Café area that sells snacks at break times and a sofa area for socialising. Daily support is available from our Heads of Sixth Form, who are based in an office in the study area, as well as members of each House and Form Tutors.

Our Sixth Form team prides itself on the support given to each student through the university admissions process. All students have access to the Unifrog software which helps to highlight options for them. They also have individual meetings to discuss their choices and to get advice on finance, accommodation and student life in general. Those interested in applying to Oxbridge meet weekly to discuss the specific requirements, take part in practice interviews and prepare for admissions tests. Students who wish to apply for an apprenticeship or take a gap year can meet with our Independent Careers Advisor and are welcomed at our annual Gap Fair, held onsite every June.

All students are encouraged to pursue their academic interests beyond the A Level course curriculum through competitions, lectures, work experience and private research. However, as part of Prior’s commitment to a ‘rounded’ education there are many enrichment and co-curricular opportunities including community service, sport, debating, House activities and performance and creative options. There is even a wine tasting society!



Prior 4 Life is the part of our curriculum that encourages students to learn practical and enriching skills that helps to prepare them for life, including DIY, interview skills and managing their finances.

One of the highlights of the Sixth Form experience is an U6 overseas trip – the favoured destination of recent years has been New York, where students have enjoyed an action packed cultural experience in one of the most exciting cities in the world.

In addition, there are many events throughout the year where the Sixth Form community socialise together. These range from BBQs, restaurant outings, fancy dress parties and concerts. The U6 finish off their time at Prior in style with a Grand Leavers’ Dinner and Palladian Ball, held in the magnificent Assembly Rooms in Bath.

One of the core aims at Prior Park is to enable our Leavers to be confident, capable, compassionate and independent-minded. We wholeheartedly support our pupils to this end.

**Mrs Amy Colquhoun**  
Head of 6th Form, Academic

**Ms Laura Young**  
Head of 6th Form, Pastoral



# MONEY MATTERS

Financial prudence underpins our strategy across all the Prior Park Schools and we look to maintain a healthy cash balance to re-invest in future plans for each school. At Prior Park College, we have recently invested in boarding and commenced a programme of classroom refurbishment, in addition to the general expenditure you would expect of a school.

We strive to ensure that school fees and extras are kept to a minimum by maintaining tight budgetary control over expenditure, regularly reviewing staff levels and only investing in projects where we see a real gain for pupils. Our fees already include school meals, pupils personal accident insurance and a number of small trips and outings essential to the curriculum.

We do charge parents separately for additional discretionary extra curricular costs such as overseas trips, music tuition and medical insurance cover. However, such activities are charged at cost.

Our main income stream is via the payment of School Fees but we do also look to supplement this by:

- Letting out our facilities (Sports Hall, Swimming Pool, Mansion, Chapel) to the local community.
- Donations from alumni, business sector and others.
- Investment to ensure long term security

Our overriding aim is to keep fees at a level affordable by parents whilst providing top quality teaching facilities for their children. The Governors drive our budgetary control by striving to maintain a surplus each year for re-investment into the schools.

Mr William Trueman  
Financial Controller







Mrs Vicki Quinn  
Registrar

# ADMISSIONS

We welcome your interest in Prior Park College.

As Registrar it is my pleasure to work with parents in ensuring the Admissions process is as smooth and transparent as possible. Initial enquiries are by phone or email, at which time we will discuss your child’s interests, current schooling and year of entry to the College.

Prospective families are encouraged to attend any of our Open Events or, if these dates are not convenient, arrange a private visit to the College on a normal working day. Applicants should complete the Registration Form and return it to the Admissions department with a non-refundable registration fee.

Entrance and scholarship examinations are obligatory and we will contact your child’s current school for a report. All candidates are interviewed by the Headmaster before a final decision is reached and an offer of a place is communicated. Parents should return the Acceptance Form and deposit before the deadline date to ensure their child a place.

Our aim is to admit pupils with academic or other qualities, who will gain the most benefit from the opportunities on offer at Prior Park, whilst maintaining a balance across the school – boys to girls, day to boarding.

Prior Park offers a range of scholarships and exhibitions to talented pupils at 11+, 13+ and 16+. Applicant’s parents are encouraged to consult the Headteacher of their primary, preparatory or senior school about the suitability of their son or daughter for such an award. Additional supporting reports from teachers or coaches are most helpful.

So that we can broaden access to our schools, the College is able to offer financial support to eligible families through Bursary Awards. Means-tested bursaries may be granted in addition to exhibitions and scholarships.

Further information regarding our Admissions Policy, Key Dates and Application Process is available on our website [www.priorparkcollege.com/admissions](http://www.priorparkcollege.com/admissions) or you can contact our department direct by phone: 01225 83100 or by email: [admissions@priorparkschools.com](mailto:admissions@priorparkschools.com)

We look forward to hearing from you.



*“ Both boys have thrived in their own individual ways through the encouragement and challenge that the school has provided. We could not have wished for a better start in life for both of them. ”*

**College Parent**







# Prior Park College

Ralph Allen Drive, Bath BA2 5AH

**Tel: +44 (0)1225 835 353**

**Email: [admissions@priorparkschools.com](mailto:admissions@priorparkschools.com)**

**[www.priorparkschools.com](http://www.priorparkschools.com)**

11-18 Day and Boarding HMC Established Co-educational Catholic Senior School  
Senior school to The Paragon School, Bath.