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JUNIOR
ADMISSIONS



Talbot Heath

Independent School for Girls aged 3-18





WELCOME

Developing
self-confidence
and character
since 1886

TALBOT HEATH SCHOOL | JUNIOR ADMISSIONS 2021/22

Dear Parent,

I am delighted that you are considering Talbot Heath School for your daughter and I hope the information on our website, in this prospectus and through the discussions you have with our staff will provide you with everything you need to help you make such an important decision.

Talbot Heath is a flourishing, vibrant and dynamic school, with a focus not only on high academic standards, but outstanding pastoral care. Our optimum class sizes mean that every pupil is known, cared for and nurtured. We encourage girls to grab every opportunity that comes their way, in order to discover their individual strengths, interests and fulfil their potential.

Our dedicated staff foster warm supportive relationships with all pupils and there is a tangible sense of community throughout our school. On a visit to our school, you will meet articulate, engaging, caring and respectful girls. Our pupils love learning, have fun, enjoy life's rich variety and have ambition for the future.

Through their formative years, we nurture and support our girls as they take the first steps on their exciting educational journey. Our broad curriculum and extra curricular provision means every girl has a wide range of opportunities, both in and out of the classroom, whether it be sport or music, global citizenship or robot invention! This allows us to draw out every girl's strengths, talents and gifts in whatever field they may be found, so they become the best they can be. The expertise, skill and support of dedicated, specialist teachers and staff ensure your daughter is known as an individual; her unique journey is very important to each one of us.

Being an all through girls' school we can support our pupils from the age of 3 to 18. There is something unique, very special and empowering when learning and growing from early childhood to adulthood in an atmosphere of caring aspiration. Our vision is that every pupil is equipped to become a capable and compassionate adult, ready to contribute to society and make their mark in the world.

Talbot Heath is a very special place, underpinned by tradition, yet always looking forwards and outwards. I do hope that you will come and see us soon. I look forward to meeting you, hearing about your daughter and showing and telling you more about what Talbot Heath can offer her.

Liz Pugh, Head of Junior School



HONOUR BEFORE HONOURS



DEVELOPING SELF-CONFIDENCE & CHARACTER SINCE 1886

Talbot Heath was founded in 1886 by Mary Broad with the aim of providing a first class liberal education for girls, an aim that holds true today. A committed social reformer and devoted Christian, Miss Broad wished to provide a rigorous education with high academic standards, while developing a genuine love of life and learning in her pupils. At Talbot Heath, we cherish our long traditions and heritage while celebrating modernity and dynamism.

Talbot Heath is a Church of England School founded on Christian principles but we welcome pupils of all faiths.

Our approach is an inclusive one where all members of the community are united in the importance they place on principles, compassion and consideration of others.

Talbot Heath girls are confident but not arrogant, knowledgeable but not complacent, able to express their opinions but willing to listen to those of others, independent yet supportive, strong yet compassionate, principled but fun.



They value what they have and they value others. They are keen to play a role in the wider world but have a strong sense of community. They are original but can work as a team.

The School's motto, is 'Honour Before Honours' and this underpins the community. We care for each other and support one another. Integrity and character lie at the heart of who we are.



LATEST ISI INSPECTION REPORT

Pupils were described as respectful, focussed, mature, kind, resilient, confident, digitally proficient, responsible, analytical, self-reflective, talented, with character, independence and a strong moral compass.

Talbot Heath was described as a school with a harmonious and convivial atmosphere, based on the school's ethos and high expectations throughout.

Pupils in the Junior School make rapid progress across the curriculum.

Children in EYFS achieve extremely well in meeting the expected learning goals well in advance of their entry to Year 1.

In Junior School levels of attainment are above average in tests in English and Mathematics compared to those taking the tests nationally.

Junior and Pre-Prep pupils show mature and confident communication skills for their age.

In the EYFS and Junior School (including KSI) pupils thoroughly enjoy their time, which is filled with experiential learning supported by leaders and teachers who allow pupils to develop at their own pace without fear of failure.

EYFS children settle quickly into daily routines, leaning through organised play and choice of activities that promote their interest and curiosity.

In Junior School pupils demonstrate excellent ability to focus, to draw information from their teachers and apply it to their learning.

Pupils have positive attitudes to learning, are focused and respectful with a real willingness to participate.

Pupils are self-reflective from an early age.

Younger pupils understand decision-making and are able to make choices in their learning. They read and write creatively. They learn from teachers to think carefully before expressing an opinion and to consider how it might affect others. This helps them become responsible, able young people.

From early years to sixth form pupils say that they feel well prepared to move to the next stage of their education, be it Pre-prep, Junior, Senior or University.



WHAT THE GOOD SCHOOLS GUIDE SAYS

HEAD

Since 2018, Liz Pugh BA PGCE, previously Deputy Head. Educated at Parkstone Grammar School, then studied law and history at Oxford Brookes, followed by a PGCE. Joined the Junior School in 2007 as a Year 2 teacher, then taught Year 5 and became SEN coordinator before being appointed as Deputy Head with special responsibility for pastoral care. Her philosophy in life is to seize every opportunity, try your best and always treat those around you as you would like to be treated. Married with grown-up children.

ENTRANCE

Selective from Y7, girls are tested in English, maths and verbal reasoning.

OUR VIEW

Situated in a lovely woodland environment on the Talbot Heath campus, a short walk from the Senior School and a mile from the beach at Bournemouth.

Juniors and Pre-Prep children occupy separate wings of a large redbrick building, with a courtyard eco-garden and outdoor learning area in between.

Our young guides were full of enthusiasm for their school (and for their teachers), proudly showing us every corner of every classroom, including a Year 6 Form room with a make-believe beach and school deckchairs. We visited an animated Year 6 philosophy class where girls were discussing what makes somebody a hero. They were also doing a project on women they admired – everyone from the American mathematician Katherine Johnson to Rosa Park, the civil rights activist. When the teacher asked girls to tell us about their choices a host of hands instantly shot up. No reluctant learners here. Parents say the academic provision is the school's 'real strength'. One told us: 'The girls have a really healthy work ethic. They all encourage each other, which is lovely to see.'

The advantage of being part of an all-through school is that Juniors get to use Senior School facilities. Not surprisingly, the new £7.6 million STEAM Hub, complete with a 600-seat auditorium, art studios, design workshops and interactive wall and floor, is hugely popular with the youngest girls. A recent project involved juniors devising ways for the three bears to design chairs that would support Goldilocks while another saw Year 5's learning about the heart and circulatory system by running around a giant heart beamed on to the interactive floor. They also use the Senior School's swish new swimming pool, music department and sports facilities.

THE GOOD SCHOOLS GUIDE

GOOD SCHOOLS GUIDE CONTINUED

There's lots of space outside and forest school is a big part of the curriculum, with each Junior and Pre-Prep class having a fortnightly forest school session. On a winter's day we joined a group of Year 2's having a whale of a time clambering across a rope bridge in the woods ('it's great for their gross motor skills and resilience,' the forest school leader told us) and then cooking Welsh cakes on a camp fire.

Stand-alone Jubilee Hall (the senior school ran a competition to name it) used for assembly and activities like ballet and drama. Separate library for the pre-prep and junior school, with a big emphasis on reading.

A sense of order and purpose pervades the junior school but girls clearly have fun too. Every wall is packed with displays of written work (lovely handwriting everywhere), vibrant artwork and photographs of recent trips. Learning support is carefully planned – either in small groups or one-to-one – with lessons timetabled to avoid core subjects and provided at no extra cost.

Sport taught throughout the junior school by specialist PE teachers, with badminton, cross-country, dance, football, gymnastics, hockey, netball, swimming, tennis, volleyball, rounders and athletics on offer. Netball is so popular that more than 70 girls stay on for after-school practice. Music is an integral part of school life and is taught by specialists from reception up, with an emphasis on developing an enjoyment and appreciation of music. A host of extracurricular activities, from tennis before school to drama, computer skills, aero dance, martial arts, clay club and mindfulness after school.

Great sense of community and parents say the school communicates with them well. There's a weekly newsletter for Kindergarten to 6. 'It's a very inclusive, warm environment,' one mother told us. Wholesome dining room, with virtually all dishes cooked from scratch. Junior pupils also do some lessons at the senior school.

Jaunty uniform of red tartan pinafores, red ties, white shirts and navy blazers - from Sept 22, smart navy trousers. Extracurricular activities before and after school (there's also after-school care till 5.30pm).

This is a school that nurtures and encourages girls in a positive and caring environment. Teaching and learning are exciting here and pupils get the chance to enjoy their childhood years in a lovely setting. No wonder virtually everyone stays at Talbot Heath for the Senior School.

GOOD SCHOOLS GUIDE CONTINUED

Parents like the way the school has kept its traditions (pupils celebrate the school's birthday every year) while being innovative and forward-thinking too. A father told us his daughter had 'come on leaps and bounds confidence-wise' at the school' while a sixth former said: 'I was very shy when I got here but they find something you're good at and help you flourish.' Usual system of sanctions for unsatisfactory work or behaviour but girls' behaviour is generally excellent.

PUPILS AND PARENTS

Many day girls live in Bournemouth and Poole but some come from as far afield as Wimborne, Ringwood, the New Forest and Swanage, by one of the school's minibuses.

Former pupils include Dame Shirley Williams, Judge Cosgrave, Lady Faithful (social worker and reformer), showjumper Pat Smythe, internationally renowned cellist Natalie Clein, opera singer Kate Royal, actresses Louise Clein and Nicole Faraday, engineer Caroline Gledhill and geneticist Frances Ashcroft.

ENTRANCE (SENIOR SCHOOL)

Pupils starting in years 7 to 10 take the school's own entrance exam, with six papers in English, maths and verbal reasoning. Around ten arrive in the sixth form. (*Since review, there has been a policy change, TH Junior pupils are now guaranteed a place if they meet criteria, this can be found on our website)

EXIT (FROM SENIOR SCHOOL)

Up to a third leave after GCSEs although some return having discovered the grass isn't greener on the other side. 'I missed it so I came back,' one girl told us. At 18, most to higher education – from medicine at Cardiff and Sheffield to illustration at Falmouth. Degree apprenticeships are growing in popularity – a girl recently started one at JP Morgan, just down the road. Three to study medicine in 2019 and one to Berkeley with a tennis scholarship.

MONEY MATTERS

Academic, music, sport and all-rounder scholarships offered, as well as tennis academy scholarships and swimming academy scholarships. Means-tested bursaries available, as well as bursaries for daughters of C of E clergy and discounted boarding fees for pupils whose parents are in the forces.

This is the latest Good Schools Guide Review, written in 2019.

“A gem of a school that is making waves in the education world thanks to its inspiring head and exciting approach to learning. Girls get a first-class education in a safe, caring and encouraging environment – and the school excels at supporting talented sport and music specialists too.”

The Good Schools Guide



PUSHING THE FRONTIERS OF TEACHING

Imagine a Year 5 lesson where you are able to interact with moving blood cells on a floor and wall that responds to your steps or touch; a lesson in which you can see a beating heart holographically; a Year 1 lesson where an augmented reality app allows you to transport a Tyrannosaurus Rex into your classroom - such lessons are taking place at Talbot Heath School on a daily basis for its pupils aged 3-18. Their world of learning is being transformed, as they harness the possibilities of new technologies. Having developed their drawing skills, Year 7 pupils are lectured on architecture by a university expert from AUB, before designing their own buildings, first on paper and then digitally using CAD (Computer-Aided Design). Finally, they step into their buildings using virtual reality and are able to modify their design accordingly.

A sense of awe, wonder and curiosity is developed on a daily basis as pupils explore, discover and experiment. The size and scale of the interactive wall enables them to develop a sense of spatial and dimensional awareness, thereby understanding the difference between the macro and the micro.

Yet, while experiencing reality (both augmented and virtual), they are offered a broad range of hands-on, 'real' experiences that are so important to developing all-round skills; within the design studio they learn to saw, shape, mould, join; in forest school they bake, whittle, carve and drill; in Food and Nutrition lessons and Textile lessons they devise and create, working skilfully with their hands; our musical and dramatic performers learn the power of voice and physical expression.

The human is cherished while the understanding of the digital is enhanced. Ethics is taught throughout the school, as is personal, spiritual and moral development. Pupils learn the importance of the value and worth of the individual in this technological age, so that their decisions and actions demonstrate an appreciation of our planet and all those sharing it.

Pupils view the future as something to be embraced rather than feared. They know that they will leave school with the knowledge and skills required for this rapidly changing world. At Talbot Heath the future is already here.



“The role of the teacher is to create the conditions for invention rather than provide ready-made knowledge”



THINK BIG

We are Bournemouth's leading independent through school for girls and we are 'thinking big' as we embark on the exciting next phase of our school's development. As the school grows and expands, our vision looking ahead is future-focussed and pupil-centred.

While the recent initiatives of the Department for Education, are resulting in a narrower curriculum for pupils, favouring an emphasis on core subjects, examination preparation and rote learning across much of the country, Talbot Heath is fully committed to offering an education that is broad and places great value on the creative arts.

The UK has always led in creative fields; its inventors, architects, musicians and designers have blazed a trail where others have followed. Their combination of intellectual rigour and artistic virtuosity has led to innovation and brilliance. We are wholly committed to ensuring that creativity and design thinking is incorporated into every aspect of pupils' learning, from the age of 3 to 18.

The Confederation of British Industry has emphasised the skills that they believe will be essential for young people if they are to succeed in the future; creativity, adaptability, digital proficiency, the ability to problem solve, to work collaboratively while being able to think independently.

These skills seem at odds with a system of education that is a series of exam related hoops through which young people have to jump. The best schools and education systems globally have realised that education must prepare young people for a future that will be vastly different to the present; 50% of the jobs that our current school pupils will have in the future do not currently exist. Talbot Heath girls will be fully prepared.

OUR STATE OF THE ART STEAM HUB INCLUDES:

- 400 SEAT AUDITORIUM
- LECTURE THEATRES
- INTERACTIVE SPACE
- GRAPHIC DESIGN STUDIO
- ART / TEXTILES STUDIOS
- DESIGN TECHNOLOGY STUDIO
- DRAMA STUDIOS
- FOOD TECH DEPARTMENT
- CAFE
- INDOOR SWIMMING POOL



“From Kindergarten, pupils enjoy lessons in our Steam Hub; e.g. from designing Gruffalo dens and unbreakable chairs for Goldilocks, to being immersed in the story of the Titanic and Roman battles.”

THE

TALBOT HEATH SCHOOL | JUNIOR ADMISSIONS





Talbot Heath is set within extensive grounds and therefore offers exciting outdoor learning opportunities for all our pupils, all year round.

We have a wildlife pond, sensory garden area, outdoor classroom, courtyard classroom and use of our eight acres of woodland.

We have a dedicated Forest School area and each week a specialist teacher leads sessions around the campfire in forest skills and personal challenge.

Our outdoor spaces mean that everything can be bigger, messier and can allow children to be far more active, spontaneous and experimental. Learning is far more kinaesthetic and multi-sensory, leading to a deeper understanding of concepts and foster higher order thinking. There is strong evidence to indicate that time spent in green spaces brings a host of health and well-being benefits too. Outdoor learning provides experimental opportunities, challenges and responsibilities; it encourages our pupils to manage risk and cope with change.



“There is no wifi in the forest but I can assure you, you will find a good connection”





PASTORAL

PASTORAL CARE

At Talbot Heath we believe that strong pastoral care is an essential part of school life. We believe that pastoral care and academic opportunity go hand in hand. If a pupil is happy and safe, this creates an environment in which they can thrive socially, academically and in every way.

Talbot Heath is a family and we are fortunate to be small enough that every teacher knows every pupil. We are able to get to know each child quickly and this helps us to identify the needs of all of our pupils, and see if any extra support may help. Each pupil has their own form teacher who they see daily, as well as a weekly class time session. We also have an Assistant Head (Pastoral) Mrs Brown, and ongoing pastoral support and care from our Headteacher, Mrs Pugh. It is crucial that any pastoral needs are identified early and the strong bond that a pupil builds with their teacher is formed. When a pupil joins us she becomes a member of a 'house.' These are named after our woodland animals and along with our Prefects, Wellbeing Ambassadors and Head Girls, provide a network of support for pupils across their class and year groups.

Every year group has weekly PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education) which allows us the opportunity to explore current affairs and further develop life skills, with a focus on dealing with emotions and feelings. A weekly wellbeing assembly focuses on emotional literacy and understanding feelings.



Here at Talbot Heath we understand that every pupil is different and we cater for this both academically and pastorally. We have Emotional, Literacy, Support Assistants (ELSAs) who are fully qualified to help pupils overcome areas with which they may be struggling. For example, lack of confidence, bereavement, difficulty socialising and being able to express their emotions clearly. Talbot Heath has a full-time School Nurse, as well as an on-site counsellor, both key elements of our pastoral provision.

With all of our on-site provision, we pride ourselves on looking after both physical and mental health. We recognise that it is 'ok, not to be ok' and we encourage and embrace opportunities to talk about our feelings. All of our pupils know they can speak with any adult in the school at any time about their worries, no matter how minor they may feel. Nothing is ever too small or unimportant!

Jo Brown, Assistant Head (Pastoral)



BENEFITS

BENEFITS OF BEING A GIRLS SCHOOL.

Providing a supportive and inspirational environment.

At Talbot Heath we have been successfully championing the educational aspirations of girls in Bournemouth for over 130 years. The world has changed a lot in those intervening years yet our core principles have not.

Our girls' only education provides opportunities to try new things and take risks, to develop leadership skills, it empowers girls to believe in themselves, and that anything is possible. We Think BIG at Talbot Heath!

Whether your daughter loves sport, science, art, music or drama, they will be provided with an environment which nurtures her passions and fulfils her potential.



BENEFITS OF BEING A THROUGH SCHOOL

When your daughter joins our school, they are embarking on an educational journey that can take them from 3-18.

This all through provision means that we really get to know every pupil both academically and pastorally. Our curriculum provides a greater consistency and progression as staff can collaborate and liaise across year groups and key stages. Our dedicated staff build strong, supportive, nurturing relationships having guided girls through all aspects of their development. Younger members of our school benefit greatly from the support and role modelling the older girls provide; whilst older pupils can develop empathy and leadership whilst working alongside younger pupils.

There is something very special about growing up and spending your education surrounded by familiar people and places; this develops a strong sense of security that enables our pupils to look outwards and take on the future with confidence and conviction.

Sarah Breeze, Assistant Head (Academic)



OUR ADMISSIONS PROCEDURE

At Talbot Heath, we are always delighted to welcome prospective pupils and their families. We understand that choosing your daughter's education is one of the most important decisions you will make.

As a result, we have a number of ways to help you make that choice. The first and most important step is we would love to meet your daughter!

Our taster days are designed to find out as much as we can about her and to provide her with plenty of opportunities to experience everyday life as a TH girl alongside her prospective peers.

Girls wishing to join in Kindergarten or Reception are warmly invited to come in and spend time visiting and touring with their parents, and then spending time with their peer group. We run Stay and Play sessions during the summer term to help girls acclimatise to being in school.

For places in Year 1, we run informal assessments on their taster day. These are directed by the teacher, your daughter won't even notice!

We are a selective school and as part of their taster day, girls in Year 2 and above, will complete a CAT test. The Cognitive Abilities Test is a diagnostic assessment which helps us identify developed ability and likely academic potential. By measuring a student's ability to reason with different types of material, the test allows us to understand the way a pupil thinks and how best they will learn.

All pupils at Talbot Heath are periodically assessed using CAT, along with standardised progress tests, throughout their time at our school. The CAT test cannot be revised as it is not based on any curriculum or dependent on prior learning. As a result, it offers us a fair assessment of ability, regardless of a pupil's prior schooling. The test is divided into the following parts: Verbal, Non-Verbal, Quantitative and Spatial Reasoning. They are administered digitally and Mrs Pugh will discuss the results with you before an offer of a place is made.

We are a thriving school and do experience waiting lists in some years. Should this be the case for your daughter's year group, our Admissions Officer will advise you.

The next step is to contact Admissions and arrange a taster for your daughter.

A warm welcome always awaits.

TESTIMONIALS

I moved from another school and I was worried that I would be lonely in the playground and that I wouldn't know any people, but I made lots of friends really quickly. I thought not having boys in school would be weird but just girls is good! This is only my third week and I am already really happy and I don't feel new.

Maisie on entering Year 4

As our daughter moves on to the Senior School, we would like to thank you from the bottom of our hearts for the whole experience she has had from Kindergarten to Year 6. She has blossomed in every way, academically goes without saying, but also her character, the confidence we are sure has come from the support and encouragement she has received from Talbot Heath.

Year 6 parent

Our daughter Annie attended TH from early in the Junior School and she has flourished, she went from being a bit of a daydreamer to top sets, her achievements are something we could only ever have dreamed of. She has obviously worked hard herself- but so much of this is down to the amazing teachers and Head, I cannot recommend Talbot Heath highly enough!

P Matthews, parent





Talbot Heath

Independent School for Girls aged 3-18

“When all think alike, then no-one is thinking”

Walter Lipman

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