

THE

SENIOR  
ADMISSIONS

GB



Talbot Heath

*Independent School for Girls aged 3-18*







# WELCOME

Developing  
self-confidence  
and character  
since 1886

TALBOT HEATH SCHOOL | SENIOR ADMISSIONS

Dear Parent,

Thank you for considering Talbot Heath Senior School for your daughter's secondary education.

Talbot Heath has a strong tradition of academic excellence. With high quality teaching and outstanding pastoral care we will support your daughter through her educational journey. But academic results are only part of the Talbot Heath experience. We are a family where we support and challenge each other to do, and be, our best.

Fostering a love of learning at Talbot Heath is central to our approach to education, and this passion extends far beyond the curriculum into all aspects of school life. We believe in a complete education that successfully combines an excellent academic provision with warm personalized support. We offer an immense variety of enrichment activities, while always focusing on the needs of the individual. Students thrive in the challenging and nurturing atmosphere of the Senior School.

The Good Schools' Guide describes Talbot Heath as "a gem of a school...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."

Choosing a secondary school is an important decision for your family and we value the trust you will place in Talbot Heath to nurture, challenge and inspire your daughter. Our aim is to fully prepare her for her life beyond Talbot Heath, as she becomes an independent young woman and member of society in the twenty-first century.

I look forward to welcoming your family to Talbot Heath.

Mrs Tracy Harris, Head



# 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.







Talbot Heath School has been named as one of the most innovative and influential independent schools in the country.

(i25 Excellence in Education Awards 2019)

#### 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.

The school's GCSE and A-level results in the years 2020 to 2022 confirm that teaching enables pupils to make good progress.

Principles and values are actively promoted which facilitate the personal development of pupils as responsible, tolerant, law abiding citizens.

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

Pupils achieve high levels of success in sport, music and performing arts.

Pupils develop good team building skills and understand connections between subjects through the interdisciplinary subject days which provide memorable learning experiences.

Pupils across the school including boarders demonstrate resilience and independence in their personal development.

Pupils have a strong social awareness and appreciate the needs of others, they are highly positive regarding the promotion of diversity and inclusion across the school.

Pupils are astute decision-makers realising the impact of their future plans.

Pupils explore beyond examination specifications to extend their talents and interests. As many as a third of the Senior and Junior School excel, representing the school at regional, national or international level in netball, tennis, swimming and a wider range of individual sports.

Individual art portfolios are of high quality.

Boarders are well supported by a committed team who encourage them to support each other so they become independent and resilient in their learning and living.



## WHAT THE GOOD SCHOOLS GUIDE SAYS

### ACADEMIC MATTERS

'A first class education for girls,' say parents. In 2019, 44 per cent A\*/A and 76 per cent A\*-B at A level and 52 per cent 7-9 at GCSE. Most girls take nine GCSEs, including English, maths, a language (French and/or Spanish), a humanity subject and either double or triple science. Latin taught from year 8. Three forms per year group. Small class sizes (maximum of 20) and school is small enough to offer tailor-made timetables. Flexible teaching accommodates those with training and competing commitments or musical talent. For instance, those on the tennis academy programme may have a reduced timetable. Learning support department offers individual support to girls with specific learning difficulties such as dyslexia (no additional charge for this).

When the governors asked the head to devise a vision for education she consulted widely and decided that in order to keep pace with technological change all pupils should have a thorough grounding in subjects like design thinking, material science, engineering and ethics. 'Our pupils need to be creative, adaptable, resilient and able to problem-solve so we have completely reworked the curriculum for everyone from three to 18,' she says. 'My educational vision is an integrated one, where schools, higher education and business work together and we now have a resource bank of companies and universities who support us. We've devised a curriculum and we are identifying where we want them to come in and co-deliver.' The school's new £7.6 million STEAM Hub, with a 600-seat auditorium, art studios, design workshops and interactive wall and floor, is integral to the new curriculum. 'There is a real sense of excitement about it,' says the head. 'I'm a passionate advocate of excellence in education – but always forward thinking. I set great store by intellectual curiosity and rigour but value every aspect of the curriculum.'

The STEAM Hub is a vision of beauty, with a sculpture at the entrance signifying wave dynamics and the girls' names engraved on the base. Inside, it gives pupils the chance to experience virtual reality, immersive projection, holographic studios, computer aided design (CAD), animation tools and green screen facilities. 'It inspires us to be creative,' one girl told us.

The head likes the idea of 'interdisciplinary learning' and science and technology are woven throughout the curriculum. For example, when pupils learn about the Normandy Landings during the Second World War they get the chance to design and build pontoon bridges and test them in the school swimming pool. Sixth form chemistry

## THE GOOD SCHOOLS GUIDE

### GOOD SCHOOLS GUIDE CONTINUED

students can plot and point the structure of molecules digitally, see them transformed into a 3D hologram and walk inside them.

Plans are underway for an interdisciplinary day on gunpowder, where chemistry teachers will make gunpowder in front of the students and explain the chemical compounds while the history and English staff look at the history of gunpowder and set creative writing assignments. 'When the Dorset police explosives team came in they said that no other school had ever asked for a licence to make gunpowder,' says the head. Every pupil is issued with an iPad (parents don't pay for this; the girls hand them back when they leave). Girls are allowed to stay at school till 5pm and do their prep.

### GAMES, OPTIONS, THE ARTS

Swimming, tennis and netball are exceptionally strong here. New indoor pool within the STEAM Hub and the school has opened an elite swimming academy, enabling pupils from across the UK and beyond to train at the highest level while getting a great education. Tennis academy too – a girl reached the second round at Junior Wimbledon in 2019 for the second year running and the school recently reached the final of the national school championships.

Two modern art rooms, a textiles room (pupils knit scarves, hats and gloves for the homeless) and a DT department kitted out with laser cutters, lathes, saws, drills, 3D printers and CAD suite. Music is taught in the music school in the woods, complete with concert hall, teaching rooms, electronic music studio and practice rooms.

Drama and theatre studies offered at GCSE and A level and there are lots of extracurricular opportunities, including a whole school production every year (rehearsals for The Wizard of Oz in full swing when we visited). 'If you have a talent they encourage you to build on it,' a keen thespian told us.

### BOARDERS

One boarding house – St Mary's – with weekly, full and flexi-boarders. Some international boarders from mainland China, Hong Kong and Europe. Other boarders are tennis whizz kids or elite swimmers who combine top-flight training with their academic

work. Wholesome shared dorms for years 7 and 8s while older girls get their own rooms. Boarders have lunch in the main school but eat in the boarding house dining room the rest of the time. Youngest girls have to hand in their phones at night. Boarding staff run loads of activities, including yoga, baking, movie nights, a Christmas fancy dress party and theatre trips to London. Facilities include a 'hygge' space, music room, craft room and a visitors' lounge. The boarders even have two guinea pigs – Peppa and Pig.

### BACKGROUND AND ATMOSPHERE

School was founded in 1886 by Mary Broad to provide a first-class, liberal education for girls. Originally known as Bournemouth High School, it moved to its current woodland site in Talbot Woods, a mile from Bournemouth beach, in 1936 and was renamed Talbot Heath. The original redbrick school buildings remain at the heart of the school, complete with cloisters, quads and an oak-panelled library. Four Second World War air raid shelters in the grounds and one, known as 'the bunker', has been restored for 'living history' lessons.

School motto is 'honour before honours' (definitely has a Malory Towers feel to it). Smart uniform of navy blazers and tartan skirts for years 7 to 11. Sixth formers can wear their own clothes (they must look smart; no denim and no midriffs on show). Two head girls, two deputies, prefects for each subject department and two form leaders for every class. House system – the four houses are named after inspirational women (Lovelace, Franklin, Shelley and Earhart). When we asked a group of girls if there was anything they'd change about the school, the only complaint was: 'Stop putting raisins in the salads.' Apart from the raisins, they give school food the thumbs up and approve of meat-free Mondays.

### PASTORAL CARE, WELL-BEING AND DISCIPLINE

Parents praise the school's 'nurturing environment' and say it's a friendly place where everyone knows each other. 'It's very close-knit,' a sixth former told us. Older girls train as peer mentors and recently started a club called There for You to support year 7s. Every year group gets a block of lessons about e-safety.



## 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, either by bus, train or 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

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. (<sup>o</sup>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

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.

“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



## THE FUTURE IS POWERED BY STEAM

Imagine a 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 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 and floor 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.

# CURRICULUM

“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 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-focused and pupil-centred.

While the recent initiatives of the Department for Education have resulted 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



“A LEARNING ENVIRONMENT THAT REFLECTS UNIVERSITIES & HIGH TECH COMPANIES”

THE

TALBOT HEATH SCHOOL | SENIOR ADMISSIONS







Our aim is to inspire, engage and motivate all pupils to enjoy leading active, healthy lifestyles. We also look to provide varied sporting opportunities to pupils of all ages so that hopefully the girls will experience something they might like to continue or play into adulthood. By the very nature of the subject, PE plays an important role in the personal and social development of pupils as well as ensuring the pupils have a chance to play, compete and excel in a multitude of disciplines.

We offer GCSE and A Level PE, our pupils in our Swimming and Tennis Academies compete nationally and internationally, boarding is offered to these pupils making their training schedules much more family friendly.



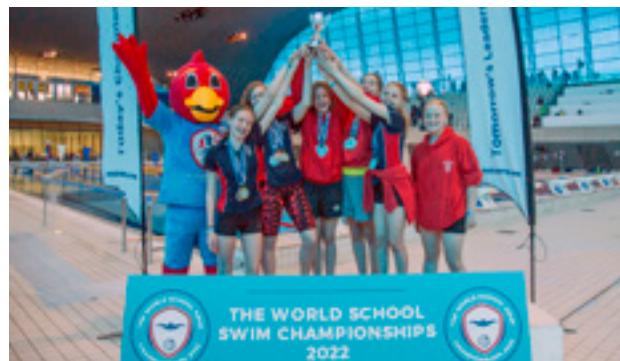


### TENNIS AND SWIMMING ACADEMIES

Talbot Heath is very proud of the fact that it hosts two national level sports academies. Our tennis academy with West Hants has produced a series of top level tennis players who have represented GB, played at Wimbledon and won multiple national level team championships. Many have gone on to achieve tennis scholarships at top US universities, with a view to becoming professional players on the world stage. West Hants are a Regional Player Development centre for the LTA, together we offer outstanding tennis provision within a strong and supportive learning environment.

2019 saw the launch of our national swimming academy with Poole Swimming Club. In 2022 they were crowned U13 World School Swimming Champions.

First class training sessions, delivered by award-winning coaches, ensures that our swimmers make outstanding progress while being able to complete their studies, supported by experienced and dedicated staff. Our boarding house offers elite sportswomen, from the UK and beyond, the opportunity to benefit from the highest level of sport coaching while being part of the dynamic and supportive learning environment of Talbot Heath. Our pupils and their parents know that we will enable our academy members to fulfil both their sporting and academic potential, thereby keeping all future pathways open to them. We aim high and think big.



### PASTORAL CARE

Our house system runs from Pre-Prep right up to 6th form giving girls the opportunity to mix with other year groups. Our 6th form run a wellbeing group called 'There for you' for pupils who might feel more comfortable in the first instance talking with a fellow pupil, sometimes a little reassurance from someone who has been through the school is all they need.

From the initial meeting with parents and throughout their education at Talbot Heath, great care is taken to ensure that every girl is respected, cared for and treated as an individual. The whole school maintains a happy, family atmosphere based on mutual respect where pupils learn the skills to live harmoniously, whilst respecting diversity. The welfare of the girls is of paramount importance to us and it is the responsibility of all members of staff, teaching and non-teaching, to safeguard and promote it.

**Talbot Heath nurtures each individual child and identifies their likes and interests. They encourage their confidence and support them to become independent and resilient.**

Year 8 parent

### ADMISSIONS

Talbot Heath is proud of its reputation for academic excellence, as well as its reputation for holistic education. Its pupils attain consistently high exam results while also excelling in sport and the creative and performing arts. High numbers of our pupils perform at national level, representing Great Britain at sport, or participating in national youth choirs, orchestras or theatres. The school ethos means that girls flourish in all areas, giving of their best and excelling in all that they do.

Our scholarship programme is designed to recognise and support those who are gifted and talented in a range of fields. Our scholars benefit from tailor made programmes that enhance their learning and develop their skills, be it on the sports field, the stage or in the classroom.

Scholarships include Academic, Steam, Music, All Rounder, Sport Art and Drama, plus discounted academy places for Swimming and Tennis. See the next page for more information on our new Scholarship mentors.

**We are academically selective with entrance exams for external pupils taking place in January, successful candidates will be offered a place in March. As a through school, TH Junior pupils are now guaranteed a highly sought after place in our Senior School. Criteria and full details are available on our website.**





Extra-Curricular activities and clubs are a great way for your child to discover exciting new subjects throughout the school and possibly make some new friends along the way!

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is very popular here at Talbot Heath and we have over 100 girls currently working on their Bronze, Silver and Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award Programmes.

We are also proud to be working with the National Citizen Service (NCS) to deliver an unforgettable summer experience for students in year U5 and L6. During their time on NCS, students will have unforgettable experiences and develop skills they can rely on during university, apprenticeships, and their career.

Honour before Honours is a student leadership award to encourage independence, creative thinking and interdisciplinary learning. Each level has 12 criteria to be achieved, 2 of which you have to design yourself. Tasks include organising a charity event, being involved in a school club, collecting outstanding work. You are responsible for collating evidence, collecting verification and deciding when you are going to do each activity.

Speech and Drama lessons provide a platform for creative, intellectual and social development of the individual as a whole. Students develop a range of skills for performance and communication.



We have a very vibrant music school here at Talbot Heath. In addition to the academic music lessons the girls have on their timetables, the music department also offers individual music lessons, tutored by our peripatetic music teachers. We also run numerous free music clubs including Funky Orchestra, Flute Ensemble, Chamber Choir, String Quartet or Ensemble.

We offer a broad range of fun clubs at lunchtime and after school, these include Architecture, Eco-Club, Classics, Art, MedSoc, Stem, Young, Enterprise, Robotics, Holograms, 6th Form Critical Thinking, Scriptwriting, Creative Writing and Illustration, Christian Union, French, Spanish and Italian - plus every sport we offer also comes with a club!

TH girls put their hearts into fundraising, accumulating over £64,000 in the last 5 years

We instil the mindset of kindness and giving right from Kindergarten which carries through to the 6th form with many events throughout the year. This could be simple events like mufti days, bake sales or hair down to day to epic performances at our Amnesty Concert and T Festival!

We run a life changing fundraising charity for Godfrey's Kitchen in Rwanda which is organised by our 6th Form, feeding a whole village, this culminates in a yearly aid visit to the region.

There are so many amazing opportunities!



## CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

## SIXTH FORM

Sixth Form at Talbot Heath is a place where young people can thrive, explore, plan, dream and 'think big.'

Expert staff deliver seminar style lessons in which all can develop confidence and knowledge. The passion of our subject specialists is infectious and ensures that our Sixth Formers develop a genuine love of the areas that they are studying, allowing them to shine when applying for higher education courses or apprenticeships. Pupils have the freedom and support to be themselves and develop their own personalities and ideas. Consequently, our Sixth Formers always impress when heading out into the world. They develop excellent relationships with staff and peers and strong communication skills. They are able to take the initiative across the school and develop leadership and teamwork skills in a way that they could not in much bigger schools. Our 6th formers are ready to take on the world and the exciting future that awaits them when they leave TH. They head out as a 'force for good' - organised, knowledgeable, determined, principled, compassionate, adaptable and resilient. We give them the wings to fly.

I as Head, could not be more proud of our Sixth Form and the fact that they are dynamic ambassadors for our school in every sphere. Come and join us - we cannot wait to have you as part of our 6th form team, blazing a trail.



SIXTH FORM





**BOARDING AT TALBOT HEATH**

We are extremely proud of the high quality of boarding provision that we offer here and we are confident your daughter would feel at home at Talbot Heath.

All boarders are encouraged to gain independence and take responsibility for themselves as well as being aware of and respecting the needs of others. The experienced boarding staff team provide a caring, cosy, relaxed and family environment where all girls are nurtured and supported according to their individual needs. The staff are all fully trained and work closely with the school nurses and the Pastoral Lead.



Such a warm, inviting atmosphere where everyone is friendly. Staff are kind, approachable and nothing is ever too much trouble. The girls are encouraged and supported throughout their learning journey and their independence is nurtured from a very young age.

Year 8 parent



**OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES**

Boarders take part in many extra curricular activities, trips and sport. During the week and at weekends boarders can visit their day pupils friends and vice versa, friendships flourish here. We are home to the Tennis and Swimming academies, the girls feel like a family and are very supportive of their friends.

Our philosophy is straightforward: we aim to ensure that the boarders at St. Mary's are happy, receive excellent pastoral care, are making the most of the opportunities on offer here and are thoroughly prepared for the challenges of life after Senior School and beyond.



We chose Talbot Heath School because of its long-standing reputation in our local community for turning out confident well-educated young women.

Year 9 parent







Talbot Heath

*Independent School for Girls aged 3-18*

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

Walter Lipman

Talbot Heath School, Rothesay Road, Bournemouth, Dorset. BH4 9NJ

Tel: 01202 761881 | [www.talbotheath.org](http://www.talbotheath.org)

[facebook.com/TalbotHeathSch](https://facebook.com/TalbotHeathSch) | Twitter: [@TalbotHeathSch](https://twitter.com/TalbotHeathSch) | Instagram: [talbotheathsch](https://www.instagram.com/talbotheathsch) | Search Talbot Heath School on Youtube