



Blatchington Mill School

AND SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

Involvement, Achievement & Care

Blatchington Mill School is an 11 to 18 co-educational school incorporating a Sixth Form, which serves a mixed catchment area on the northern side of Hove. There are approximately 1750 students on roll (of which about 205 are in the Sixth Form), a figure which has consistently increased over the past few years. The school sees itself as a 'typical' comprehensive in terms of its intake, from a designated catchment area now shared with another local secondary school.

In most other respects the school is atypical. For example, students benefit from an extensive curricular and extra-curricular programme. Participation and the achievement of high standards are actively encouraged and planned for. One particular strength is the school's 'specialist' status as a Performing Arts School. Whilst the school has many strengths and every curriculum subject is valued, the impact of the performing arts in raising standards has been evident for some time i.e. 'performers' are well motivated and achieve good examination results. We also actively promote the view that students gain important interpersonal skills through performing arts. All students have the opportunity to perform and so develop those important and transferable personal qualities such as self-confidence, self-discipline, creativity and teamwork.

As a school with High Performing Specialist School status we gained further specialisms; Mathematics and Computing, Applied Learning and Gifted and Talented. All of these areas are both successful and innovative. The extra resources that these specialisms bring are being used to broaden the range of technology available, curriculum opportunities and personalised learning at Blatchington Mill.

The school enjoys an excellent reputation throughout the conurbation of Brighton and Hove and is, as a consequence, heavily over-subscribed (523 'first preferences' for the 300 places available in September 2010). Our examination results have demonstrated our commitment to excellence and our fervour in ensuring every student succeeds.



The school was formed in 1979 through the amalgamation of three selective schools (one grammar and two secondary moderns). Two of the schools were situated just 100m apart and became the new campus consisting of two 'wings'. In the intervening years, successive building projects have been positioned to 'bridge' the gap between these wings. Following the school's first Ofsted Inspection a new driveway was constructed to segregate pedestrians from vehicles. This, in turn, allowed a successful planning application for a substantial building project costing £1.75 million. Completed in September 2000, this 'joined' the existing accommodation and comprises new classrooms, Science laboratories with preparation room and a new music block consisting of two large teaching rooms, space for music technology, a recording studio and numerous practice rooms. The scheme also helped create a dance studio from a former dilapidated squash court and a theatre by refurbishing a hall. A sports hall was erected and our more recent changes to the Sixth form accommodation, a fully functioning industrial standard kitchen for Catering courses and expanded facilities for performing arts have ensured we are keeping pace with curriculum changes which match our students' needs for their futures.

The new construction is fundamental to the school's future development, which involves promoting community use of the facilities and ultimately establishing a three-session day where young people and adults can share learning opportunities when appropriate.

We believe very strongly in partnership and are keen to be the centre of our community; where partnerships are forged to create a true sense of learning at the heart of everything that we do. Our school motto of "Involvement, Achievement and Care" is taken seriously by our school community and provides the foundation stone for our young people to take their place in society with confidence, knowledge and experience.

Janet Felkin
Headteacher

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