



# TOR BRIDGE HIGH



# Prospectus

## 2024/25

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Ready  
KIND  
Safe

**Email:** [reception@torbridge.net](mailto:reception@torbridge.net)

**Telephone:** 01752 207907

**Address:** Miller Way, Estover, PLymouth, PL6 8UN



# Headteacher's Welcome

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Welcome to Tor Bridge High. It is wonderful to welcome you to our community. We recognise and value the trust you have placed in us. This is the start of a really important relationship, one that - built on strong foundations - has the capacity to significantly help your child on their journey into adulthood. This is an exciting time for you and your family. We are here to help you with this transition and I am sure that you will feel comfortable in no time. I hope that this booklet will be an invaluable guide in the next few weeks.

It is an exciting time to join the TBH team and I feel incredibly blessed to lead the school on its next journey from 'good' to 'outstanding'. Most of our students study a mix of traditional, academic subjects alongside professional studies such as engineering, art courses or catering. Whatever you study, we will ensure that you are supported to achieve your full potential and succeed.

As a caring school with traditional values and the community at our heart, we place a lot of importance and emphasis on kindness and love. We believe that it is vital to help our young people to look out for each other, to take responsibility and lead. Mutual respect, empathy and social responsibility are key drivers behind the wider education we seek to develop.

Finally, we know that we are truly fortunate to inhabit a beautiful and privileged part of the world. We recognise that we are developing young people who are emerging into a fast-moving, global and diverse future. We seek to provide them with the versatility, flexibility and high aspirations that they need to enable them to succeed and grasp every opportunity life offers them.

I look forward to meeting you over the coming months and, more importantly, to working with you over the next five years to enable your child to develop and flourish.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephenson". The signature is written in a cursive style, with the first letter 'S' being large and stylized.

Mrs Tracy Stephenson  
Headteacher







# Children at the Heart of All We Do

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We know that a school is built on the foundations of its culture and we are proud of our warm, loving and supportive culture which is combined with high expectations and consistent, regular routines. We know that when you get the small things right, the big things tend to go well. This is why we believe having smart uniform, being equipped for every lesson and being on time matters. These good habits promote excellence and we know that if you compromise on high standards, you let children down.

We are proud of our inclusive and caring pastoral team who form a large number of staff for a school of our size. They are also highly trained, particularly caring and talented. We have specialist Heads of Year for each year group and we place a lot of emphasis on the importance of our tutors, who spend the first half hour of every day with their tutor groups. We start every day (when it's not raining!) with a line up where we warmly welcome students into school and give any important announcements and positive news. We then have an assembly, a special pastoral briefing where key social lessons and routines are taught, or we do guided reading in the mornings.

We make strong relationships our first priority and we do a lot of work with staff to help them build strong relationships with all students. Our tutors and our Heads of Year are key members of staff who students can go to if they need help and who parents and carers can contact with queries or issues.

We have a well resourced Pastoral Hub at the center of the school where students can also go if they need support. Our Student Services team and our pastoral staff possess skills in physical and mental health first aid as well as training in trauma-informed approaches and various other forms of counselling and support. We aim to always put the needs of students first, whilst maintaining the highest of standards and expectations.







# Safeguarding & Wellbeing

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The Safeguarding and Welfare team at Tor Bridge High is a high effective team of professionals who are dedicated from protecting children from harm. The team work as part of the Adaptive provision in the Academic and Pastoral Hubs.

All members of staff trained in safeguarding and they update their training annually. We believe that the Tor Bridge High rules of 'Ready, Kind and Safe' are a simple but effective way of teaching behaviours that protect children from harm.

Every term we deliver safeguarding assemblies to educate the students on how to keep themselves safe, reduce risks, think critically and speak up for themselves and others.

We believe that a good education, excellent attendance and positive relationships with others are the most powerful ways for children and young people to understand and minimise risk, stay safe and form healthy relationships with other. Tor Bridge High's Health & Wellbeing curriculum is designed with children at the heart of it and we aim to equip children to be contributing citizens so that we can all make the world a better place.









# Our Curriculum

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We ensure that all students at Tor Bridge High access an ambitious, broad and knowledge rich curriculum which will open doors for all and maximise their life chances to go on to progress into ambitious and exciting careers and futures 'without limit'.

Our curriculum is led by, collaborated on and delivered by high-quality specialists who ensure that all students, regardless of starting point, social background or SEND provision are challenged to think hard, work hard and learn effectively.

The curriculum is designed for students to remember in detail: to be stored in our students' long- term memories so that they can later build on it forming ever wider and deeper schema. As a result, a good knowledge- rich curriculum embraces learning from cognitive science about memory, forgetting and the power of retrieval practice. Intelligent sequencing of the curriculum builds on what has come before and prepares for what comes after. This careful and meticulous consideration of what our students learn and in what order provides them with the richest narrative possible for our students.

At the heart of our curriculum lies deep respect and passion for the subjects that we teach. We ensure that students are not only equipped with the powerful knowledge that they need to understand intelligently the world around them, but we also teach students how to think, how to critically evaluate and how to be an active and responsible citizens in society in the context of the rich knowledge each subject provides.

The academic year is divided into three cycles of twelve weeks. Each cycle comprises ten teaching weeks, during which students cover new topics in preparation for examinations and assessments. The eleventh week is an assessment week when all students in Year 7-11 complete tests and other assessments in every subject to analyse their strengths and identify areas for further development.





Art  
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# Adaptive Teaching & Literacy Development

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True inclusion happens in classrooms and the teachers work hard to become skilled at providing learning that is adapted to meet the needs of all students. All teachers are expected to know their classes well and to build loving and caring relationships with students, so that they can bring the best out of each person.

At Tor Bridge High, we fervently believe that Literacy is a whole school responsibility. Across the curriculum, we develop high standards of literacy by reading high quality texts, pre-teaching key vocabulary, modelling and demonstrating new knowledge, supporting and scaffolding independent deliberate practice and explicitly teaching good communication skills and literacy as standard.

One element of our literacy strategy is our Tor Bridge High Tutorial Reading Programme. There is a wealth of research that identifies the importance of reading in developing many aspects of students' lives and the benefits of reading are not only linked to better outcomes for students, but there are a number of other benefits too: 'reading for pleasure has not only been associated with increases in reading attainment but also with writing ability, text comprehension, grammar, breadth of vocabulary, attitudes, self-confidence as a reader, pleasure in reading in later life, general knowledge, a better understanding of other cultures, community participation, a greater insight into human nature and decision making' (Clark and Rumbold 2006).

Our Tutorial Reading Programme role-models positive reading experiences and opens our students' eyes to the wonderful world of literature. Titles have been chosen for each year group which offer a variety of genres, time periods, topical issues, narrative styles and challenging vocabulary. A range of fiction and non-fiction texts are available.

As well as this, this year we have introduced fortnightly Library Guided Reading lessons for our Year 7 and 8 students. These lessons support students reading comprehension development through the use of Reciprocal Reading skills

At Tor Bridge High, we are committed to ensuring that all students are able to read with fluency, enjoyment and comprehension. Because of this, we have introduced Sparx Reader for our Key Stage 3 students. Sparx Reader is an online programme where students read an ebook and answer comprehension questions based on their reading. Careful readers earn points so they can track their progress and climb the league table, earning Classchart points and rewards as they go.

A few students may need provision that is additional to or different from the mainstream curriculum and when this is needed they can access this through the adaptive provision. Adaptive Provision can be accessed through either:

The Academic Hub which supports cognition & learning, physical and sensory disabilities, communication & interaction, social, emotional, mental health needs and speech & language needs including Plymouth Local Authority Speech & Language Provision (only 11 places);

or the Pastoral Hub - supporting emotional regulation, trauma-informed practice and some social, emotional and mental health needs.







# Sixth Form & Tor Bridge High Alumni

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Our mission in the Sixth Form at Tor Bridge High is to support and encourage our learners to achieve the highest standards in their qualifications. We believe that every student deserves the opportunity to have a life without limits.

Each student is treated very much as an individual and a young adult. Time and care is spent on the preparation of an ambitious programme of study to suit each student's needs. Learners' are carefully supported to achieve their potential.

Each student to takes on responsibility, not only for their own learning, but also as a leader within the school community. We set high standards in an environment that will help build their self-confidence and self-esteem, whilst providing a role-model and support for the younger students.

Commitment, ambition, courage and hard work are the keys to success and the work students do in the Sixth Form is challenging. Qualifications have become increasingly important in the current economic climate, and the courses we offer are designed to give students the greatest chance of success in today's competitive marketplace. Working hard in the Sixth Form is rewarded, and we take great pride as we see many of our students taking up places in Higher Education, degree apprenticeships and professional careers. We are proud of our successes in preparing students for their futures.

Naturally, we encourage our students to involve themselves in a wide range of activities. No one should expect to have a quiet life in the Sixth Form! Apart from lessons, additional studies and private study, students can be found taking a lead in clubs, sports activities, school productions, community and charity work, committees, conferences and social events.







# Beyond the Classroom

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We know that education is about more than what we can learn in a classroom and exam results. These are important but school is also about enabling students to explore and gain new experiences; to find out what we enjoy and are good at; to learn how to socialise and make new friends; to meet people who are different from us and learn about alternative ways to view the world.

We have established our values of Courage, Love and Ambition with these goals in mind. Our routines, school rules and expectations have all been carefully designed to create a culture where tolerance, mutual respect and kindness permeate everything we do. We hold our students to account with high standards in regards to our uniform and behaviour expectations because we care about them and want them to be happy, safe and kind people. Visitors frequently comment on what a particularly warm and friendly place Tor Bridge High is. We are proud of this culture and you can see it across the school in break times, whether you're on the 3G playing football or in the restaurant chatting to friends.

As well as the wonderful facilities which support a broad and rich curriculum, we are proud to offer a wide range of extra-curricular clubs which run in breaks and after school. From chess club, to book groups, to wargaming, choir, drama and 3D animation, there really is something new for everyone to try and discover a new talent. There are also a range of sports clubs which vary over the seasons, with opportunities to represent the school in teams in a variety of sports, from football and basketball, to running and netball at different times over the year.

In addition, we look forward to our Personal Development Programme which runs over a week at the end of the summer term every year. Students get to sign up to a huge range of activities, with opportunities to go on trips - some residential in the UK and some abroad. There are plenty of low cost and free options, and some support for those who need it. We do everything we can to enable all of our students to experience something new, different and amazing over their time at Tor Bridge High.

Finally, we are very proud of our extensive careers advice work which starts as soon as students join our school. We have a full-time careers adviser and links to numerous employers and alumni students, locally and all over the country. We run a huge variety of talks, advice sessions, interview practice and other activities for every year group, and all students are supported to attend a full week of work experience in year 10 at our school.

We are proud to be a truly comprehensive school with opportunities for all to be ambitious and fulfil their potential as loving and courageous young people!













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