



THE BRITTONS ACADEMY

SCHOOL HISTORY

The school is located in South Hornchurch and occupies a 19 acre Green Belt site which is in close proximity to the A13 East London commuting and commercial corridor. It is within the corridor of regeneration for East London.

Buildings and Facilities

The main school building dates back to the time of opening in 1952 and, by modern standards, is spacious. The school hall will seat 700 students, and the adjacent canteen almost 180.

In addition to the main building there are additional blocks housing Technology, Science, English and Music and Drama. These were constructed during the 1960s and 1970s.

In recent years the school has and continues to operate a rolling programme of internal decoration and most areas have been repainted. In addition, where practicable, classroom floors have been refurbished and many refitted with replacement furniture and blinds. Much work has also been completed with regards to roofing repairs, creation of new classrooms and office space and external fabric minor and major repairs. In 2011 a major window and roof replacement project commenced. This was designed to improve classroom climate conditions.

A new school central heating system was installed in 2005 with a new central boiler and new radiators and pipework throughout the school.

The school's information technology capacity is extensive. In 2011 it was subject to a £500,000 replacement project. This comprised the installation of CC4, Windows 7 and Office 2010. The project also included the installation of a 10GB wireless network throughout the school site. The school has invested in 50 tablets in order to explore their use for educational purposes throughout all curriculum areas. A range of specialist rooms are located adjacent to the school's Flexible Learning Centre and around the school. All faculties have access to computer equipment. In addition, Technology, Mathematics and Science each have networked machines. In addition to the main Library, which now contains over 20,000 books, there is a specialist Careers Library, CD Rom and internet provision. Each classroom has a broadband facility, overhead projector, electronic whiteboard and an internet connection on each classroom desktop.

Examination results/administration

School examination results are improving and in 2011 the 5 A* to C, headline figure was 71%. The 5 A* to C figure including English and Mathematics was 54%. All staff are working hard to ensure that all students achieve their targets. Subject Leaders, where practicable, set students according to a range of ability and there are established systems for setting targets, monitoring student pace, progress, effort and attainment.

The school has detailed policies for all areas of operation and subject areas also have detailed handbooks, which define key policies in curricular and administrative areas. These are available on our website and on the school Intranet.

Students

In September 2011, 21% of our students were eligible for free school meals and our statements of special educational needs were broadly in line with the national average. The intake is genuinely comprehensive and the students are lively and friendly. They respond well to imaginative teaching and good classroom management. The school has over 30 feeder schools in The London Borough of Havering and the neighbouring Borough of Barking & Dagenham.

SUBJECTS

Mathematics

Staffing in this area includes a Subject Leader and other full-time teachers of Mathematics. The teaching classrooms are located in the main building and are adjacent to each other.

Science

The main Science rooms are mainly located in a separate building adjacent to the school, with one laboratory in the main building. In recent years considerable sums of money have been made available to improve resources and refurbish all the laboratories. In addition to the Subject Leader and Assistant Subject Leader there are eight full-time members of staff in the Faculty.

English/Drama

There is a Subject Leader for English as well as an Assistant Subject Leader, a Subject Leader for Drama and five full-time English teachers. English is based in a separate building adjacent to the main building and is located over three floors. The school has a well-resourced Library.

Technology/Incorporating Art

The majority of the Technology rooms are contained in one corridor in the main building and the Art and Ceramic rooms are immediately above. In addition there are four Technology rooms located in separate buildings adjacent to the main block. Staffing consists of an overall Subject Leader for Technology with Subject Leaders for Resistant and Compliant Materials, Food Technology and Art plus eight full-time teachers. As a former specialist technology school we have a strong technology ethos.

Music

Music is based in a block adjacent to the main building. There is a Subject Leader and one full-time member of staff. The Subject Leader also supervises the activities of an extensive peripatetic music team.

Physical Education

Physical Education has its own specialist areas, which include a boys' and girls' gymnasium and an all-weather sports pitch. There are Subject Leaders for boys and girls and four full-time members of staff. The department has a strong commitment to extra-curricular activities.

Educational Support

In addition to the Subject Leader for SENS, there are five full-time plus eight part-time staff. SENS rooms are located in the school's Flexible Learning Centre which is adjacent to the school Library.

ICT Faculty/Flexible Learning Centre

ICT is adjacent to the Flexible Learning Centre. There is a Subject Leader for ICT and three full-time members of staff. The ICT suite currently contains 150 machines, which are networked and have broadband access. The current operating system is CC4, Windows 7 and Office 2010.

Humanities (History, Geography, Religious Education, Citizenship)

Humanities rooms are located in the main building. There are Subject Leaders for History, Geography and Religious Education (including collective worship) and Personal and Social and Citizenship education.

Modern Foreign Languages

The Subject Leader is responsible for co-ordinating MFL. The department is based on the top floor of the main building. There are two full-time teachers of Modern Foreign Languages.

Overall Organisation

Enclosed with this pack is the school structure which details the responsibilities of the Senior Leadership Team.

Year Leaders

There is a Year Leader for each year in the school. Each Year Leader has a team of eight tutors and up to two relief teachers. Year Leaders are responsible for monitoring the academic performance of their year and for promoting good behaviour standards. Attached to each year group is a Home School Support Worker whose role is to support pupils and their families who may be experiencing difficulties.

Administrative Support

There is an excellent team of non-teaching support staff, including Science and Technology Technicians, a Receptionist, secretaries to support personnel, attendance, curriculum and examination roles. There is also a Librarian, a Reprographics Assistant, a full-time First Aider and seven professional assistants. The school also has full-time maintenance, grounds, caretaking and cleaning staff.

General Ethos

The ethos within the school is good and the school's Code of Conduct ensures that those who do transgress are dealt with in a fair and efficient manner. The school offers a caring environment within a firm Code of Conduct. The school's unique merit sticker system, letters of congratulations and end-of-year presentation days help to reward pupils for their successes.

Staffing

Whilst the age of the teaching staff ranges from newly qualified to those approaching retirement, the overall age profile is younger than comparative schools. This is due, in part, to the recruitment of new staff to satisfy our expanding curriculum requirements.

There is a good rapport between all staff and they support each other well throughout the year. For the newly-qualified teachers the school offers an extensive programme of support throughout the first year. There is also an established induction programme for new members of staff. There is a rigorous programme of professional development, which is overseen by a senior member of staff. All staff participate in the school's arrangements for Collective Worship. This involves form tutors arranging for the delivery of a 'Thought for the Day'.

History of the School.

- 1952 (7 January) Brittons opened as an experimental bilateral Technical School (Age 11-15)
- 1958 Technical students were transferred to a new school (Abbs Cross) and the school was designated as a co-educational Secondary Modern School. Age range (11-15).
- 1973 Brittons was redesignated as a Comprehensive School and accepted its first all-ability intake. By 1981 it was an 11 to 18 co-educational School with 1,300 pupils on roll.
- 1990 Local Authority restructuring reduced the School age range to 11 to 16 and by 1992 its roll had fallen to 535 pupils.
- 2001 Brittons was designated as a Specialist Technology college. (Redesignated in 2005).
- 2005 Brittons became the only full service extended School in the London Borough of Havering. On-site pupil and family services including Home School Support Workers, a family therapist, Police, Community Support Officers, Social Services, health and psychology specialists.
- 2009 Brittons became a Foundation School.
- 2011 (1 April) Brittons became The Brittons Academy, independent of the Local Authority and administered by The Brittons Academy Trust.