

# School details



The Bemrose School is a mixed secondary school for students aged between 11 and 19 years. We have no formal specialist school status although we do offer an exciting Humanities and English curriculum which has led to invitations for us to speak at local and national conferences and to work with other secondary schools in Germany and Hungary. We also offer an enhanced resource facility in support of children on the autistic spectrum. There are no formal links with any specific religion but we are respectful of all of the different religions shared by our young people and staff.

Our current headteacher is the longest serving since 1993 – Ms Jo Ward. She leads the school on behalf of the school governors, the majority of whom are appointed by the Bemrose Littleover Partnership Educational Trust. The Chair of Governors, Mr Roland Furber, can be contacted through the school.

The Bemrose School website can be found using the address [www.bemrose.derby.sch.uk](http://www.bemrose.derby.sch.uk) and here you will find the names of staff and governors, current school policies, news, day to day information and key dates for diaries.



*"Students work in a very supportive environment that encourages their participation in sport and helps them improve their fitness."  
(OFSTED 2009)*

## Buildings and grounds

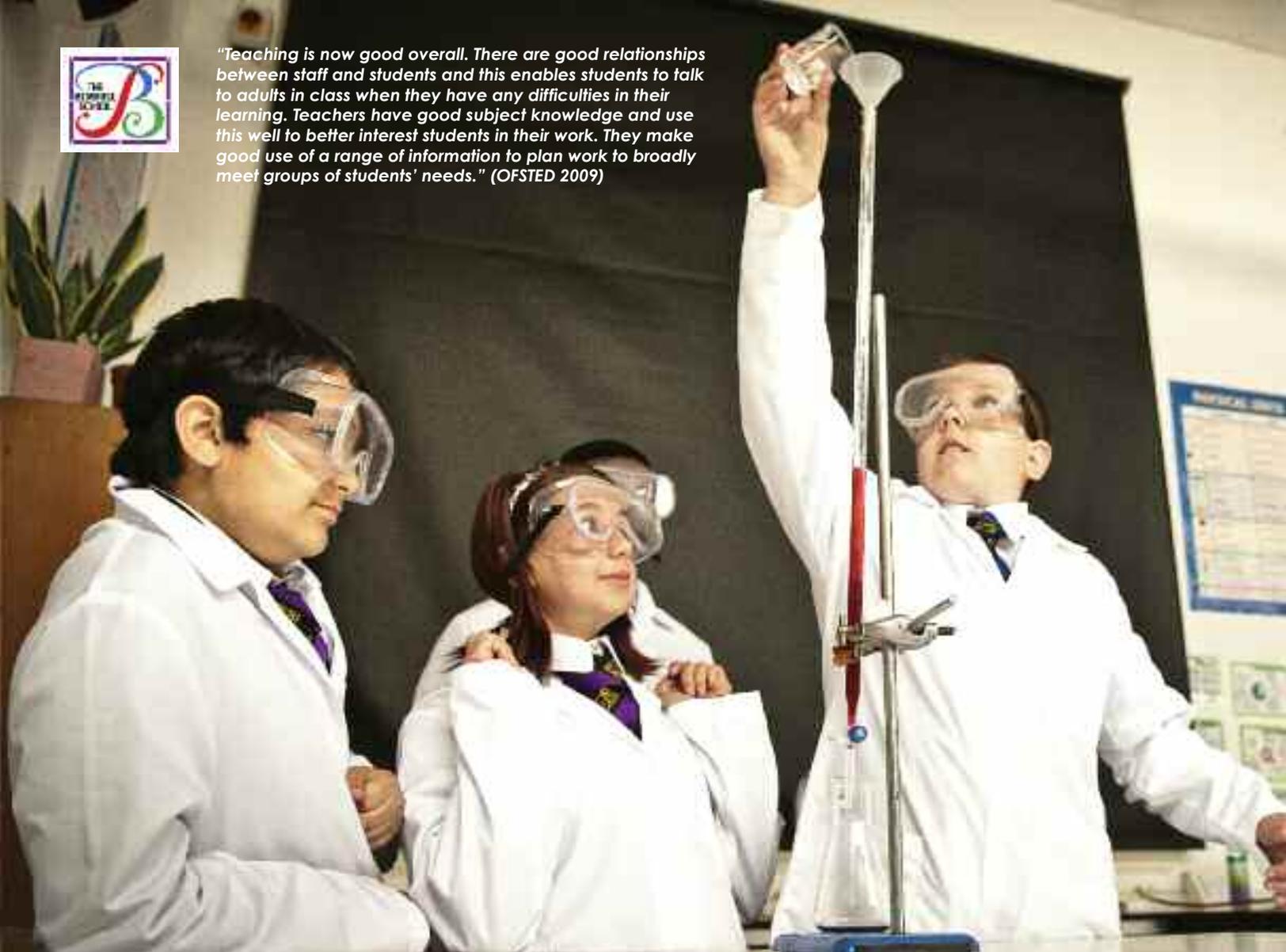


The Bemrose School occupies an attractive, spacious and secure site close to the centre of Derby. A £1.7 million buildings development and refurbishment programme a few years ago enhanced the existing older building, built originally for the boys' grammar school. The buildings contain a grand school hall and well-equipped classrooms all with extensive ICT support for learning along with several networked computer suites all with high speed internet access. There is a well-resourced library also with PC/internet access and a specialist careers facility. Other rooms are subject specific such as the six science laboratories, a modern design and technology area, an art room, a music room, a specialist dance/drama studio and PE facilities with extensive playing fields, a gym, a large sports hall

(refurbished in 2011/12) and PE classroom. There are a variety of spaces to support children with additional needs including EAL support for children who do not speak English, a learning support unit and an Enhanced Resource Facility within the school complemented by Elmtree, our newly opened provision for children with a greater level of need who are on the ASD continuum. Our buildings have been adapted to support students and visitors with physical disabilities including the installation of a lift. We have a post 16 area for our 16-19 year old students. Our student meals are provided in a separate canteen which offers a choice of hot and cold food each day.



*"Teaching is now good overall. There are good relationships between staff and students and this enables students to talk to adults in class when they have any difficulties in their learning. Teachers have good subject knowledge and use this well to better interest students in their work. They make good use of a range of information to plan work to broadly meet groups of students' needs." (OFSTED 2009)*



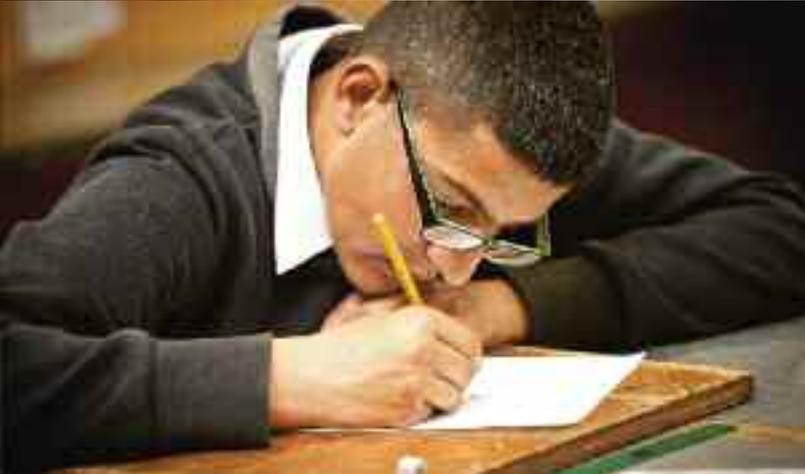
# The school day

The Bemrose School has an unusual school day. Students begin in their forms for registration. Forms are mixed age and each form is linked to one of four houses – Chatsworth, Haddon, Hardwick and Kedleston. After this, lessons begin and follow the pattern below:

- Lesson 1 8.50am until 9.50am
- Lesson 2 9.50am until 10.50am
- Break 10.50am until 11.10am
- Lesson 3 11.10am until 12.10pm
- Lunch for Years 7, 9 and 11 12.10pm until 12.50pm
- Lesson 4 for Years 7, 9 and 11 12.50pm until 1.50pm
- Lesson 4 for Years 8, 10 and post 16 12.10pm until 1.10pm
- Lunch for Years 8, 10 and post 16 1.10pm until 1.50pm
- Lesson 5 1.50pm until 2.50pm
- After school study clubs, activities or home 2.50pm onwards

We believe that activities outside the classroom can enrich and extend our students' learning. We offer a full range of clubs outside of lessons including sports, study support in various subjects, ICT, drama, reading, art, music and films. Our students enjoy many visits to museums and theatres, both locally and further afield. We organise visits to London and further afield as well as fieldwork trips to support students' coursework. There is an extensive sporting calendar, with many inter-form as well as inter-school matches. Our students regularly celebrate considerable success at local, county and national level. We encourage our students to stay after school at least once a week and to get involved. There are further opportunities for gifted and talented students – in the past these have included competitions, visits to universities and masterclasses hosted by either ourselves or our partner school, Littleover Community School.





# School uniform

We believe that a consistent, smart and affordable uniform promotes a sense of pride in belonging to the school, identifies the students with the school, fosters a sense of equality among students and prepares students for the expectations of working life.

In 2010 the governors consulted the students, parents and staff about a new uniform for school students which will be introduced in September 2011. Details of available choices follow:

- white shirt which buttons to the collar
- striped school tie for most, a pin badge for traditional dress, a plain tie for House Captains (on sale in the school)
- V neck sweatshirt or cardigan with embroidered logo (on sale in the school)
- traditional dress with a plain black scarf in the winter, optional white scarf in the summer (Easter to October)
- black trousers for either sex, not jeans or leggings

- black knee length skirt for girls
- knee length, tailored short trousers for girls, optional in the summer (Easter to October)
- tights or socks
- black shoes or plain all-black trainers
- hats shall not be worn in school other than traditional head coverings
- facial piercings shall not be worn in school
- jewellery should be a maximum of one small discrete ring, one necklace worn under the shirt, stud or small hoop earrings and a simple discrete bracelet and watch.

For PE, students can wear:

- red T shirt or polo shirt
- black shorts or jogging bottoms
- trainers
- football boots for boys in the winter.

# Admissions

Students are admitted into Year 7 to a maximum of 180 students. This means that the school has a maximum number of 900 students plus a small number in our sixth form. Any parent wishing to apply for a place for their child should do so through the Derby Local Authority Admissions team on the common application form. Further information can be found on the website [www.derby.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.derby.gov.uk/admissions)

*"A high number of students have come to the school from abroad and it has developed effective systems for managing over 30 different home languages." (OFSTED 2009)*

*"Students are rightly proud of their school. It is very responsive to their individual needs." (OFSTED 2009)*



## What we stand for



At The Bemrose School, we acknowledge and celebrate diversity and we work hard to ensure that everyone who comes here is respectful of difference and values the contributions made by our wide range of people from a wide range of backgrounds. Our curriculum reflects the rich and varied cultures represented by Bemrose students. Pride in culture is encouraged through celebrations in which the whole school takes part. We reject racism, sexism, homophobia and prejudice against individuals or groups based on who they are, how they look or what they believe. Our diversity is an asset which supports the development of social, moral, spiritual and cultural understanding in our students.

We have very high expectations of our students (and staff). We insist that Bemrose students:

- treat other people with respect, tolerance and kindness
- work hard in lessons and on homework and support others to do so as well
- are polite and friendly to others – we welcome visitors, hold doors open for others, we smile and say hello and we are helpful and proud of our school
- are excellent ambassadors for our school when they are out of lessons, on trips and travelling to and from school in the local community
- are honest, reliable and trustworthy
- look after the school buildings, our resources and our environment so that others can also enjoy and benefit.

*"Community cohesion is a well established aspect of the school as part of its commitment to improve the lives of local people and improve students' multicultural understanding." (OFSTED 2009)*



# Behaviour

*"The school has high expectations for the care and safety of all its students." (OFSTED 2009)*

Visitors to the school often remark how friendly and helpful we are. Good behaviour is at the heart of our school and is fundamental to the success of Bemrose students. Without good behaviour and strong positive values, students cannot learn and therefore succeed in life. For this reason, The Bemrose School is committed to ensuring that standards of behaviour are high and constantly improving. Respect is integral to the development of high standards of behaviour. Respect for members of the school community, for equipment and facilities, and for our neighbours and visitors is an expectation of all. Staff, parents and pupils also have a role to play in ensuring a positive and productive learning environment. The Bemrose School will always strive to support all students and provide them with the guidance and help they need to overcome any barriers they may have to becoming successful citizens.

Our Behaviour Policy can be found on the school website. In it, there is a full explanation of how we use rewards and sanctions to support a calm and orderly school. Rewards in the past have included small items of stationery, cinema tickets, free trips and vouchers. Sanctions include detentions including after school, internal seclusion both here and at other schools, and exclusion.

# Bullying

*"Students said when bullying or racism occurs they are confident it is dealt with swiftly and they had someone to talk to." (OFSTED 2009)*

We work hard to ensure that The Bemrose School is a place where everyone can achieve their potential and feel safe, knowing that any incident of bullying is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Our Anti-bullying Policy can be found on the school website. It reinforces our determination to see that no cases are unresolved.



# Other important policies

In addition to those mentioned elsewhere, other policies can be found on our website. These include our policy for Special Educational Needs, Access, Disability and Equality, Equal Opportunities, Admissions, Complaints and our Charging Policy, found under Financial Regulations. Copies are also available on request for those who do not have internet access. (There may be a small charge for photocopying.)

## Attendance

We guarantee that a student with over 90% attendance will improve and succeed. We need you, our parents, to ensure that your children come to school regularly and on time. We operate a computerised attendance system that enables us to contact home quickly if no explanation of absence has been received. Parents are expected to contact school by telephone, or letter whenever their child cannot attend school. Parents are also requested not to take holidays in term time. We follow the Derby City policy and will usually refuse such requests.





*"The school has also identified a group of higher attaining students, 'Team G', and is providing them with carefully targeted opportunities which enhance their education and promote their learning." (OFSTED 2009)*

*"Improvements to the curriculum have provided a greater breadth of opportunities which encourage and enable students to continue their education post 16." (OFSTED 2009)*

# Teaching and learning

We believe that students are entitled to the most appropriate teaching to fully develop their individual learning potential. Teachers at The Bemrose School are committed to providing a challenging learning environment, adopting varied approaches and taking careful note of students' needs to ensure maximum achievement. Our professional development programme ensures we remain at the forefront of educational good practice. We expect and encourage our students to try their best and we reward them when they do. Students are assessed regularly and their progress is tracked carefully to ensure they reach their individual targets. We keep parents fully informed by sending home reports, having regular Parents' Evenings and Target Setting Days and providing access to progress data via our school website.

Our aim is to provide students with the skills and knowledge needed to access the curriculum and allow good progress to be made. We have a great deal of experience and expertise in providing individual or group support for students with a variety of learning and language difficulties. Many of our subjects group the students according to ability and prior assessment information although movement between groups is flexible and depends on the progress made by the child. The Bemrose School is an Enhanced Resource School offering specialist facilities for students on the Autistic Spectrum in Elmtree and in the main school itself.

In Years 7, 8 and 9 (Key Stage 3) we offer the national curriculum subjects – English, mathematics, science, ICT,

humanities including RE, citizenship and PSHE, design and technology, PE, art, music and a modern foreign language. In some lessons we link together the skills and content of English and humanities into a curriculum designed to improve the learning competencies of the children – known as 'The Bemrose Way'. Our work has been noted nationally and internationally and we often host visitors keen to find out more.

In Years 10 and 11 (Key Stage 4), all students have the opportunity to gain GCSE and vocational qualifications alongside further study of PSHE, careers, citizenship, RE and PE. There is a separate options booklet produced each year which provides further detail of subjects on offer. These do, of course, include all of the subjects necessary to achieve the English Baccalaureate alongside other GCSEs or vocational qualifications.

In all key stages, we follow the guidance of our local SACRE for the RE curriculum whilst also respecting the diversity of faiths represented in our school community. Although parents do have the legal right to withdraw their children from all or part of their religious education, it is extremely rare for them to do so because of the importance for a tolerant and harmonious community of developing understanding of our similarities and differences.

In our sixth form, we offer a range of courses at level 2 and level 3. Again, there is a separate booklet providing further details.