

KLB



KATHARINE
LADY
BERKELEY'S
SCHOOL
FOUNDED 1384



Ambition Enjoyment Success

“I am very impressed with KLB. The school keeps parents well informed and teachers are easy to contact, and respond quickly when needed.”

YEAR 9 PARENT



Learn more about
our students'
experiences.

Welcome to Katharine Lady Berkeley's School

Katharine Lady Berkeley's School has a long history. In fact, it is the oldest state secondary school in the country. Founded in 1384, it was set up by Katharine Lady Berkeley in Wotton-under-Edge with just one master and two students. Since then, the school has come a long way; we are now a highly successful 11-18 mixed comprehensive school with over 1500 students.

It is important to us that we inspire you to become ambitious, confident individuals who enjoy your learning and achieve the success you deserve – both in and out of the classroom. Our committed and skilled team will provide great teaching, fantastic extra-curricular opportunities and excellent academic and pastoral support to help you to become a well-rounded individual, to achieve your very best every day and to prepare you for an exciting future.

We are extremely proud of our strong community. We are a welcoming, open and outward-looking school where every individual can feel safe and thrive. Our academic standards are very important to us, but so too is our ethos of respect for all.

When you visit the school, you will immediately be struck by our green and spacious setting. It is a feature of which our students are proud, and it inspires us to look after the environment – our own and beyond. Much of our electricity is generated by our newly installed solar panels and many of our school practices contribute to a sustainable future.

We are entering an exciting phase of the school's history with a rebuild of parts of the school which, will ensure we have new state-of-the-art facilities for design technology, languages and learning support, as well as a new school hall and activity studio.

Well over 600 years since its foundation, Katharine Lady Berkeley's School is stronger than ever. We look forward to you joining us to help take the school forward to an even brighter, fairer and greener future.

If you'd like to know more, visit our website or, better still, get in touch to arrange a visit. I'll be happy to meet you and your parents.

Hannah Khan

Acting Headteacher

Ambition Enjoyment Success

“We have three children at KLB. They are all thriving in the environment provided by this excellent school.”

YEAR 10 PARENT

1384



The School is founded



1439

First printing press

1500's



Tuition free but scholars required to provide their own quill, inkhorn and penknife

1540



The Reformation causes "great troubles" in Wotton



1569

First Mercator Projection Map



1605

First newspaper



Hear about students' favourite subjects.

An inspiring curriculum and great teaching

We very much believe in a rich and varied curriculum where you will have the opportunity to study and prosper in many very different subjects. We continually review what we offer to ensure that the curriculum is appropriate and challenging, as well as enabling you to develop the knowledge, skills, experiences and wider cultural appreciation to be fulfilled in your adult life.

Whether it is developing your interest in languages through studying a combination of French, Spanish, Japanese and Chinese, developing your practical skills in the DT workshops, exploring science in great depth, developing your love of literature or mathematical problem solving, or joining the biology and geography field trips amongst much else, you will find something to excite and inspire you.

Being a large school we are able to support all subjects equally so you will have the opportunity to thrive in all areas of the curriculum. The newly refurbished art block with stunning views across the countryside provides a wonderful environment to develop your talents with a wide range of

disciplines on offer at GCSE and A level. The performing arts department will benefit from a new drama hall and studio, which will further enhance music concerts and drama productions.

Your teachers are committed to developing their practice to ensure you enjoy great learning experiences every day in the classrooms, laboratories, workshops, art rooms and sports facilities across the school. They will also get to know how you work best, your strengths, and which areas you need to develop so you can enjoy success, not only in your exams, but each and every day in the classroom. In short, we will be here to support your learning and celebrate your successes every step of the way.

Regardless of your interests and abilities, I am certain your journey through KLB will bring much enjoyment, challenge and ultimately success.



Edward Thomas
Deputy Headteacher (Curriculum)

"I have been delighted by how well my daughter has been managed, how well listened to she is, and most importantly, how excellent the communication has been."

YEAR 7 PARENT

"We, as parents, have been impressed with not only the academic expectations of the school, but also the support given in our daughter's pursuit of extra-curricular activities. She has flourished at KLB. We are delighted, thank you."

YEAR 13 PARENT



First steam engine

1712



Electricity discovered

1712



1827 School inspection describes curriculum as simply "classical"



Stephenson's Rocket

1829



1864 Harris Minor gets shocking report: conduct slovenly, progress nil



1886 School name becomes "Katharine Lady Berkeley's Grammar School"



Hear how students are supported at KLB.

“I love being able to go to A1 – it’s a safe place for me to go to, and I enjoy spending time there. I sometimes complete homework there, or I can work on something I am finding tricky.”

YEAR 7 STUDENT

Supporting you and your development

Just as we do all we can to help you with your academic progress, we also aim to support your well-being and personal development so that you live and work cooperatively within the school community and enjoy a healthy and active life.

The high quality of care, guidance and support starts from the moment you are offered a place at KLB. We will work hard to get to know you, your strengths and ambitions as well as those aspects of life at school where you may need extra help and support. One of our team will visit your primary school to talk to you about your new school. You’ll also be able to visit KLB for an induction day when you’ll have the chance to meet many of your new teachers and enjoy sample lessons. This will be

supported by communication between the school and your parents so that you all know what to do and what to expect.

Your well-being and enjoyment of school is our main priority. We have a wide range of support and counselling available for students who are experiencing difficulties or who are just feeling stressed or anxious. This includes ‘Talk in Confidence’ (TIC), which involves volunteer sixth form students being trained to provide a listening ear for younger students.

We also know that not everyone finds learning easy and it is important to us that we give those students as much support as possible to help them achieve their dreams.



“Pupils have a highly positive experience of school and feel very well looked after.”

OFSTED

We put the student at the centre of what we do. We listen to the young person and work with their family and the staff to build on the student’s strengths and find ways to reduce the barriers to personal, social and academic fulfilment. Across the school, we seek to normalise asking for help because most people, at some point, will require it; we recognise the strength of character needed to manage and overcome life’s challenges. Those with special educational needs are encouraged to take ownership of their success and celebrate their achievements.



Karen John

Special Educational Needs Coordinator and Assistant Headteacher



“This year there have been many challenges, but I have had a lot of support from the school, especially the Teaching Assistants and my tutor, and this has helped me to enjoy my time at KLB. Talking to my TIC buddy about my feelings whilst seeing Berkeley (the school dog) has helped me a lot, too.”

YEAR 7 STUDENT

1901



Girls enrolled for the first time



1903

First motorised aircraft

1916



November 13th: William Wellcome killed in action



1928

Penicillin discovered

1955



Roll grows to 335 pupils



1969

Apollo 11 landed on the Moon



*Find out about
our student
opportunities.*

Staying active

We are very proud of our reputation as one of the top schools in the region for both recreational and competitive sport and we hope you will take the opportunity to become involved in the very many different sporting activities on offer. KLB has a rich tradition in hockey and enjoys much success in netball, rugby and football. You can also benefit from the range of lunch-time activities that include handball, archery, fencing and table tennis amongst others.

We also recognise that you have much to offer, supporting sport and acting as a role model in our local primary schools. Many of our Key Stage 4 students follow a Sports Leaders programme which includes working with students in Key Stages 1 and 2. As well as supporting younger students, Sports Leaders also increases our students' understanding of sport.

“Pupils feel very enthusiastic about the school, in part because of the wide range of extra-curricular clubs on offer to them.”

OFSTED



*Find out how
students keep
active at KLB.*

Students at KLB really embrace an extensive range of sporting opportunities, led by our dedicated and enthusiastic staff. Participation is the priority, but we also take great pride in the outstanding achievements of many of our individual students and our teams, frequently gaining success at county, regional and national levels.

Richard Daniel
Head of Physical Education



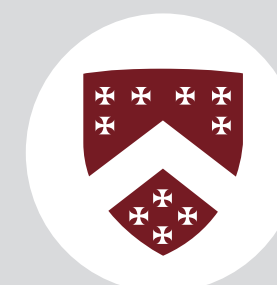
Beyond the classroom

We very much hope that as well as enjoying your academic studies, you will take the opportunity to be involved in the wide range of clubs and activities that we offer. If you are interested in performing arts, you'll be able to take part in musical concerts, theatrical productions, public speaking and poetry recital; if you enjoy physical and leadership challenges, you'll be able to take part in the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme; if you enjoy mathematics, you'll be able to compete in the Mathematics Olympiad; and if you enjoy travelling and speaking foreign languages, you'll be able to take part in one of our many language exchanges.



Foreign visits provide an excellent opportunity for students to develop their language learning and to gain international understanding. Our exchange programme includes residential visits to France and Spain, as well as further afield to China and Japan. We are very proud to have long-standing exchange programmes with Collège Denecourt in Bois-le-Roi in France, Colegio Altair in Madrid and Hikawa High School in Japan. Numerous past students have benefited from spending a week living in a different country and experiencing its culture first hand.

Selena Jones
Head of Languages



In fact we are always looking to add new opportunities and these are often developed in response to the interests of students and staff. Additions over the last few years include electric go-kart racing, the equestrian team, science club and horticulture.

Your participation outside of the classrooms is hugely important and contributes greatly to you becoming a young adult who communicates well, is confident, respectful of others and embraces difference. Ultimately, our hope is that you are able to move on to the next stage of your life with the necessary skills, interests, qualities and ambition to be fulfilled and successful.

1973



Merger with the County Secondary School

1984



600 year centenary celebrations and visit of Princess Anne



1989

World Wide Web launched

1998



First exchange with Hikawa High School, Japan



2001

First Apple iPod

2011



School becomes an academy

An exceptional Sixth Form

The school has a large sixth form of over 250 students. Academic attainment is exceptionally high, with the school being consistently placed in the top 5% of schools nationally for student progress. Most of our students progress to university study, including to many of the most competitive degree courses in the country.

Sixth Form studies are enhanced by an enrichment programme which provides a range of opportunities such as sporting activity, learning a new language, supporting members of the local community, working in local primary schools or supporting the younger students in this school.

We are proud that so many of our new students in Year 7 have the ambition one day to be a member of our sixth form, to be with us for the full seven years, to move seamlessly to GCSE, to A level and beyond. The last two full Ofsted reports have rated the achievement of our students and the quality of provision in our sixth form as Outstanding.



Visit the KLB Sixth Form website.

“The quality of teaching is high in the Sixth Form. Staff and students visibly enjoy opportunities to debate issues and wrestle with intellectual concepts.”

OFSTED



Of course we are thrilled to be one of the top 5% of sixth forms nationally, but I'm not really surprised. We are continually impressed by the dedication and ambition shown by our students and by their excellent results. Effort certainly does bring reward. An aspect of my job that I particularly enjoy is the opportunity to get to know students individually, to help them with their challenges and with their dreams. Most of our sixth form have been with us since Year 7, so we already know them well, but it's great to see students from other schools joining us in Year 12 too.



“KLB has been the best experience for our child and us as parents: so supportive, understanding and caring and not to mention excellent staff and teaching.

We are extremely proud to be part of KLB.”

YEAR 13 PARENT



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Ambition Enjoyment Success



2012

God Particle discovered



2018

64,000 year-old Neanderthal cave art found in Spain

2019



Tim Rand becomes the 43rd headteacher of KLB



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