

# An Introduction to Dauntsey's



# 840

pupils

# 12

houses

# 150

acres

# 40%

full boarders

“A big-hearted, unpretentious country school that manages to be traditional yet forward thinking at the same time - no mean feat.”

The Good Schools Guide, 2023

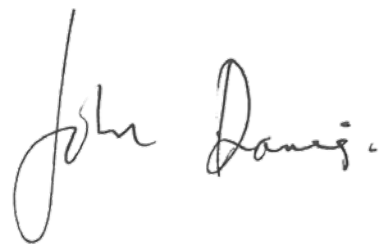


At Dauntsey's, we believe every day at school should be an adventure. We believe our young people will be best served in their development if they are challenged and supported in equal measure throughout their formative years.

Our world is undergoing unprecedented and accelerated change, and so our pupils will require generous capacities of wisdom, knowledge, resilience and compassion if they are to be successful in the future. Cultivating such characteristics is core to a Dauntsey's education, and we achieve this through providing opportunities for each individual to push beyond their comfort zones intellectually, physically and in their character development.

We believe there is a pathway at Dauntsey's that meets every child's sense of adventure, and that adventurous paths are best walked as a member of a purposeful, happy community. At Dauntsey's, we pride ourselves on bring warm, friendly and inclusive - somewhere where every person is seen, heard and valued for who they are.

Our aim is that every pupil leaves us as rounded, responsible and thoughtful individuals, well-equipped to meet the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead of them. We also feel confident that they will leave with lasting memories of a fulfilling and adventurous education.



John Davies, *Head*





## AN ADVENTUROUS EDUCATION

The Dauntsey's spirit of adventure goes far beyond learning survival skills in the outdoors, or taking to the high seas on our Tall Ship, *Jolie Brise*; it is present in all aspects of life at school, not least within the classroom.

At Dauntsey's we offer an adventurous education. The determination and willingness to push personal boundaries, which many pupils discover through physical challenges, are key aspects of life in the classroom, too.

Pupils are encouraged to question the norm, to explore subjects in greater depth and to approach topics from unexpected angles.

We want our pupils to stretch themselves intellectually. It is an exciting, interactive process in which strongminded young people are ready to ask "What if...?" or "How about...?" when they are presented with a new concept or problem. They will inevitably meet failure as well as success, but they learn from both and move on.

Our approach ensures that we are equipping pupils with the necessary skills and confidence to succeed in whatever the future holds for them.

“Our talented and committed staff deliver teaching that is modern, challenging and inspiring. They ensure that a culture of academic ambition is firmly rooted in the school and we expect our pupils to achieve examination results that they can feel truly proud of.”

*David Noble, Deputy Head (Academic)*

### ACADEMIC AMBITION IS FIRMLY ROOTED IN THE SCHOOL

We are proud of our academic reputation and long tradition of exam success. Throughout the school, the curriculum is broad and balanced, offering the opportunity to study an extensive range of subjects. The timetable offers a great deal of flexibility; there are no set options columns at I/GCSE and A Level, allowing pupils freedom of choice to accommodate their different interests and aptitudes.

Alongside the academic curriculum, we run our own, bespoke complementary curriculum, covering important life skills beyond study, including current affairs, mindfulness, critical thinking and money management. These lessons are timetabled, not an optional extra.

The complementary curriculum works to develop pupils' self-confidence, enhance mental wellbeing, foster empathy and develop an appreciation of individual and collective rights and responsibilities. The programme seeks to broaden pupils' horizons and a range of outside speakers are invited to talk on a variety of topics.



**71%**  
A\*-B grades at A-Level



**66%**  
Grades 9-7 (A\*-A) at GCSE



**360**  
staff

“The enthusiasm and general approachability of the staff, along with the promotion of community spirit with all its associated benefits and responsibilities, are what we value most about Dauntsey's.”

*Dauntsey's Parent*

## ONE COMMUNITY

Warmth, laughter and lasting friendships, built on trust and mutual respect, are the hallmarks of daily life at Dauntsey's. Our 320 boarders are at the heart of our school community and are joined each morning by over 520 day pupils.

At the heart of our community is the house system, which creates a feeling of belonging and collective responsibility. The Lower School (First to Third Form or Years 7-9) comprises of four mixed houses, three day and one boarding; in the Upper School (Fourth Form to Upper Sixth or Years 10-13) pupils are moved into one of four single-sex boarding houses or one of four single-sex day houses. Each house inevitably reflects something of the personalities of the house staff involved, and has its own traditions, but there is one common thread, which is the strength of the bonds formed between pupils.

The network of care and support extends beyond the house system and reaches every corner of the school; from the teaching staff to the nurses and counsellors, the chaplain to the domestic staff, there is an abundance of staff making sure that the mental, physical and spiritual needs of all pupils are met.



**320**  
boarders



**520**  
day pupils

# 38

different sporting clubs  
and activities



# 141

teams represent Dauntsey's

### SPORT FOR ALL

Sport is a fundamental part of life at Dauntsey's. As well as developing physical skills and fitness, participation in sport builds confidence and resilience, whilst developing character.

Sport offers pupils a real sense of achievement, extends their leadership skills and teaches them the importance of teamwork and discipline; all essential life skills.

Our team of specialist sports coaches aims to provide 'sport for all', whilst pursuing excellence for the most talented individuals. The programme caters to pupils of varying interests and abilities. From elite athletes to energetic all-rounders, there is something for everyone.

In addition to our major sports - rugby, hockey, football, cricket, athletics and tennis for boys and hockey, netball, athletics and tennis for girls - we run a thriving co-curricular programme. This allows pupils to represent the school in such sports as swimming, rifle shooting, fencing and equestrian.

We have outstanding facilities on-site to develop these skills and we regularly play more than 830 matches annually.



# 830

matches played each year



# 35

pupils take PE at GCSE



# 8

drama productions  
each year

## INSPIRING CREATIVITY

Whether on stage, behind the scenes, or at an easel, the Arts are very much part of the fabric of life at Dauntsey's.

Throughout the year there are concerts, masterclasses, drama and dance productions and exhibitions. Our legendary December musical frequently attracts audiences of more than 500 people each night and, on three occasions, the shows have been taken to the West End.

Pupils are encouraged to develop their interests through related clubs and activities (Rock Society, Symphony Orchestra and Brasstastic, to name just a few) as well as individual one-to-one Music and Speech and Drama lessons.

Our Drama Tech team is central to the Performing Arts Department and plays a crucial role in all of our performances, with pupils from First to Sixth Form involved.

We have a thriving Art School which is housed separately from the main school and delivers a wide-ranging programme to all pupils including painting and drawing, relief painting and sculpture and ceramic. Photography is also offered as an A Level subject.

We also have a flourishing Design and Technology Department that has embraced the rapid changes in technology the subject has seen in recent years.



# 40%

of pupils learn a musical  
instrument

# 16

different musical  
instruments taught



# 6

A Level pupils pursuing  
Art Foundation courses





“Through our adventure programme, the confidence and self-esteem of the pupils rises dramatically as they discover what can be achieved, often under challenging conditions.”

*Sam Moore, Head of Adventure Education*

# 50

kilometres hiked by Fourth Form for the Trek to the Stones



# 14

paddlers entered the DW Race in 2024



# 4800

Dauntsey's pupils have sailed on *Jolie Brise*



## LESSONS FOR LIFE

We are blessed with a 150-acre estate and we make the most of this space with our adventure education programmes. We aim to push our pupils out of their comfort zones and expect them to bring a spirit of adventure to everything they do.

We are unique in maintaining and sailing our very own Tall Ship, *Jolie Brise*, which is used for both sail training and as a classroom for other subjects.

We offer our pupils activities such as: camping, orienteering, kayaking, climbing, outdoor cookery, survival skills and cycling, as well as First Aid and Lifesaving. We also take pupils on adventures to locations such as Iceland, the Arctic Circle, the Himalayas in Bhutan and Tanzania.

Challenge events are taken seriously with crews entering the 125-mile Devizes to Westminster Canoe Race every year and teams entering our own Brecons Challenge, involving a weekend of kayaking, cycling and running through the Welsh mountains.

All pupils will get to experience the *Jolie Brise* over the course of their time at Dauntsey's. For some, this develops into a life-long love of sailing and we have many ODs who still enjoy sailing on the *Jolie Brise*.

**OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM**

We believe that learning outside the classroom can have a profound effect on our pupils' self-confidence, their ability to think around a problem and their willingness to persist when things aren't straightforward. We have therefore structured the school day to allow pupils plenty of time to develop new skills and interests, to undertake new adventures and to interact with different groups of pupils.

There is an enviable selection of sports, clubs, societies and co-curricular activities on offer each day – with more than 80 clubs and activities. Everyone is encouraged to try something new, be it a new sport, joining a drama club, playing an instrument, trying street dance or learning how to look after bees. The possibilities are endless and each club is designed to provide enrichment and breadth to the academic curriculum.



15

different veg/  
herbs grown



32

canoes



80

clubs



25

metre pool



26

music clubs



2

bee colonies



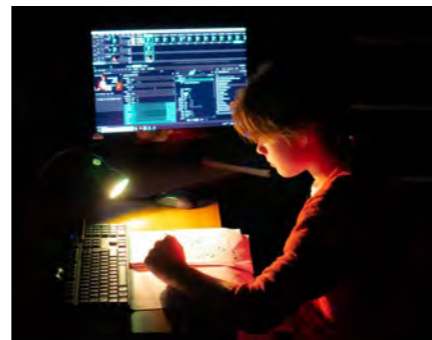
26

riders in equestrian team



73

pupils preparing for  
Gold D of E



2

long breaks each day  
for clubs and activities



2

table tennis teams



7

dance clubs



12

stage productions



“Throughout a pupil’s time at Dauntsey’s, they are helped in discovering the many different career options available beyond school, and are subsequently helped in identifying and developing the skills and competencies needed to carve out their chosen pathway.”

*Assistant Head (Head of Sixth Form), Zoe Ross*



# 65%

On average, over 65% go on to Russell Group/Sutton Trust Top 30

## WHERE NEXT

On leaving Dauntsey's the vast majority of pupils go on to take up places at their chosen universities, with the most popular destinations being Cardiff, Exeter, Newcastle, Manchester, Kings College London, Bath, Leeds, University College London and Oxford Brookes. Over the past five years we have seen over 65% of pupils move on to Russell Group or Times Top 15/Sutton 30 universities.

We also see students take up places at Oxford, Cambridge, in the USA, Canada, The Netherlands, Germany, Hong Kong and Spain, and we have had pupils secure coveted degree apprenticeships with Vodafone, Dyson, BMW and Jaguar Land Rover. A number also move on to pursue Art Foundation courses, including at the Charles H. Cecil Studios in Florence.

Careers advice at Dauntsey's begins in the First Form with discussion about the skills and competencies needed in various careers. It then moves on to consider I/GCSE options, and further develops over the following years giving advice and guidance on A Level courses, work experience, university applications and personal statements. Alternatives to university such as apprenticeships and gap years are also considered.



years of careers advice



# 12

students currently studying overseas

## ADMISSIONS TO DAUNTSEY'S

We aim to have a comprehensive, informative and welcoming process for admitting pupils to Dauntsey's. Selection for entry is based on academic criteria as well as consideration of the character, interests and talents of each individual child.

We have three main entry points at 11, 13, or 16, although occasionally pupils may be accepted into other year groups if space is available.

The first step is to complete the online registration form on our website. Please consult the website for registration deadlines. The admissions process is then dependent on the entry points.

### 11+

Entry is for both day and boarding places and there are usually around 80 places available. The entrance examinations and interview are held in January and all candidates are considered for an academic scholarship or a Head's award as a result of this process. Music awards, offering free tuition on one or more musical instruments, are awarded following an audition and these place around the same time. Sports awards are available following practical assessment and interview. Full details are sent to those who are registered in late November, preceding entry.

### 13+

Around 30 new places are available and entry is limited to boarding places only. Those preparing for Common Entrance (CE) take the ISEB Common Pre-Test (taken at Prep Schools in either the Autumn Term of their Year 6 or early in the Spring Term of their Year 7). They are then invited for a 'Taster' at Dauntsey's, when they will take part in activities and have an interview. Those not prepared for CE, take entrance examinations in English and Maths in the October of their Year 8.

There are academic, music and sports scholarships; awards for drama, art and dance, and the *Jolie Brise* all-rounder boarding award. Examinations, auditions and interviews take place in the March preceding entry (Year 8). Further details are available from the admissions office.

## SIXTH FORM

Around 35-40 places are available and entry is open to both boarding and day pupils. Prospective pupils should be predicted at least three Level 7 (or A grades) and three Level 6 (B grades) at I/GCSE. Reports and references from current schools are requested in November, when interviews are held, and conditional places are offered on 1 December each year. For those not taking I/GCSE, entrance examinations in English, Maths and a General Paper take place in early November.

We offer academic scholarships, sport, performing arts and boarding awards. Further details are available on the website.

In addition, we operate a 100% Bursary place scheme, open to 11+ and 16+ entry. Please contact our Admissions Team for further information on the bursary programme.

Scholarship supplements are available to those who have been offered a scholarship or award and who need additional financial assistance with the school fees.

Helen Sullivan  
*Head of Admissions*  
h.sullivan@dauntseys.org  
+44 (0) 1380 814504

## TRANSPORT LINKS

Each morning 13 buses travel from across the county (and beyond) ensuring that our day pupils arrive in school ready for morning registration. The vast majority of our day pupils utilise this service and they quickly develop their own positive and social bus communities.



### Train

Pewsey Station to London Paddington: 1 hour 10 mins  
Westbury Station to London Paddington: 1 hour 30 mins  
Salisbury Station to London Waterloo: 1 hour 30 mins

### Road

Dauntsey's School to Heathrow Airport: 1 hour 30 mins (via M3)

“The School is highly successful in developing well-rounded, confident, skilled young people who are very well equipped for the next stage of their education”

*Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI) Inspection Report, 2018*

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