



Somervale  
School

PROSPECTUS





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The Partnership aims to help everyone in the community surpass their own expectations.

STUART WARRENER  
Chair of the Trust



Midsomer Norton  
Schools Partnership

# Partnership.

## An education for the future.

It is a privilege to be the CEO and Executive Headteacher of the Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership (MNSP).

Our aim as a Multi-Academy Trust is to ensure all children have the opportunity to attend a 'good' or better school and we believe through close collaboration, our work towards this goal is more effective. The foundations of the MNSP Trust are linked to a shared desire to support our local community. This area of North East Somerset is a wonderful place to live and work. Children, staff and all those associated with the schools in the MNSP benefit from a sense of shared responsibility for the welfare and progress of children.

As a group of schools, we are stronger and have already seen some outstanding improvement as a result of our work together.

Children and staff have benefitted from increased opportunities and I have no doubt that our partnership will continue to grow, optimising life-chances for all our children.

Somervale collaborates with several other secondary schools in the Multi-Academy Trust to ensure staff can deliver first class education for our students.



**Mr Alun Williams**  
CEO & Executive Headteacher

# Welcome.

Joanna Postlethwaite BA (Hons) PGCE NPQH NPQEL  
Headteacher, Somervale School

I am extremely proud to be Headteacher of Somervale School. It is a truly fantastic place to learn and work and I continue to be amazed by our fantastic young people. The school has gone from strength to strength over the last few years and is now consistently over subscribed and secure in its strong reputation within the local community. We have achieved three consecutive very strong 'Good' judgements from Ofsted with many areas of the school being highlighted as exceptional.

Examination results regularly reach record levels and the school has been rightly recognised as one of the top 10% of schools in the country for student progress. Consistently outcomes achieved at Somervale place the school well above the national average for student attainment and achievement. The school's excellence in Arts education has also been recognised with the award of the prestigious Arts Mark Gold Standard. It has also been acknowledged for its outstanding work around equalities and is one of the few schools in the South West to have achieved the Gold Equalities Award.

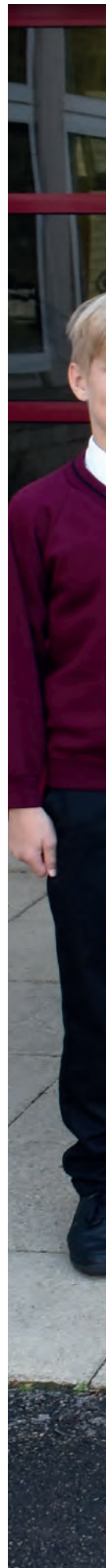
Somervale School continues to be one of the best schools in Bath and North East Somerset and its strong partnership with other MNSP schools gives students exceptional opportunities. The school's attendance and behaviour has been held up as an example for other schools in the South West to follow, as has the exceptional care, support and guidance students receive, which was judged as 'outstanding' in a recent external review.

As a forward thinking and creative school, Somervale School is able to design learning around the needs of each child with the expectation that all make outstanding progress. We encourage all students to take the lead and develop personal responsibility through our student leadership and enrichment programmes. All of our students feel known and valued as individuals.

Our teachers are passionate and knowledgeable and work hard with students and parents to challenge and support our young people to achieve beyond their expectations. Our curriculum is broad and diverse and allows all of our students to thrive and shine.

Extra curricular opportunities take our students beyond the school gates and support them in experiences that nurture their development into hard working, aspirational, creative, empathic and tolerant young people who can make a valuable contribution to society.

I would encourage parents to visit the school and see it in action. If you would like a tour of Somervale please contact my PA to arrange a suitable time to visit.





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It is difficult to  
imagine a friendlier  
and more harmonious  
community.

OFSTED 2022



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Leaders have a clear vision for the school. They are ambitious for pupils' success.

OFSTED 2022



# Vision.

## Our strategic vision for Somervale School.

### OUR STRATEGIC VISION

All students, regardless of circumstance, are challenged and supported with equal measure to be successful, confident and respectable citizens that make a positive contribution to society.

### VALUES

To be successful at Somervale School all students should be **ready** to learn, **respectful** of all others, behave in a way that keeps themselves and others **safe** at all times and be **aspirational** in everything they do. These values can be seen throughout the school and are lived through the following statements:

#### Ready

- We are prepared, reliable and always committed.
- We make the most of every opportunity that we are given.
- We ensure learning is designed around the needs of each child with the expectation that all make outstanding progress with no limits to their achievement.

#### Respectful

- We listen, speak and act with kindness to everyone we encounter.
- We take care of our people, our places and our community.
- We provide the opportunities for students to develop a sense of responsibility and strong values to assist them in becoming outstanding citizens and engage with the wider world.

#### Safe

- We provide a welcoming, safe and ambitious environment that is both calm and purposeful where students can thrive and exceed their potential.
- We make the right choices at the right time for ourselves and for others.
- We are aware of how our actions impact others.

#### Aspirational

- We develop and sustain a positive culture of lifelong learning.
- We keep going even when it's challenging because that's when we learn.
- We aim to be better every day.

#### AIMS

- Students consistently experience excellence across a broad and balanced curriculum.
- All students leave the school with an understanding of how to learn, think creatively, take risks and handle change.
- All students get the chance to participate and take leading roles in everything the school has to offer.
- Self-esteem and personal growth are nurtured and students take on responsibility as local and global citizens.
- A student's chances of success are not related to their social economic background, gender or ethnicity.
- All teachers use their expertise and knowledge to engage students in their learning and act quickly to adjust their teaching in response to the student's individual learning needs.
- All members of the school community strive for excellence at all times.

# Join.

## A smooth transition to becoming a Somervale student.

Every Autumn, we invite Year 5 and 6 pupils and their parents to Somervale School for our Open Evening. Our fantastic students act as guides and hosts, and the evening includes an address by the Headteacher. The event is a highlight in Somervale's calendar and is always very well attended.

Although the Open Evening is a great way to view the school and ask questions, we also encourage all visitors to see the school at work. Open Day Tours are offered to parents and pupils in Year 6. This provides visitors with an insight into how a secondary school runs during a normal day and offers a flavour of what it is like to be a Somervale School student.

Appointments to visit the school will be available for booking via the school website in September: [www.somervaleschool.com](http://www.somervaleschool.com). All visitors need to report to the Reception on arrival.

The school offers lots of activities which help to make the transition from primary school to secondary as smooth and successful as possible. These activities include visits to the school for master classes, competitions, activity days, support from our Sports Leaders, Year 6 Induction Day and Evening and Summer School.

In Year 6, pastoral staff visit all Year 6 students coming to Somervale during the Summer Term. They also speak to the Year 6 teachers at the primary schools.

We hold an Induction Day in July where students get a chance to experience new lessons and begin the process of making new friends. This is followed by an Information Evening for students and parents.

Summer School is offered for all students joining us in Year 7 during the first week of the summer holidays. It is always very well attended and gives the incoming students the opportunity to spend time in their learning groups and become familiar with the site before starting in September. In Term 1, we offer all Year 7 students a team building experience accompanied by their tutor. The purpose of this is to build the tutor group into a mutually supportive team and further develop those new friendships. In addition to this the students are offered a Year 7 only residential during activities week.

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Students, parents and staff all make very positive comments about the culture of care, support and concern for all students well-being and all-round development.

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Pupils know that staff are there to help and support them whenever needed.

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Leaders have carefully planned the order in which knowledge and skills are taught to pupils, for learning to build over time.

# Inspire.

## Inspirational teaching and stimulating learning.

At Somervale School we value academic excellence and teachers' abilities to nurture an enthusiasm for their subject in the students they teach. We encourage students to ask questions and develop their intellectual curiosity through well planned lessons that challenge their learning.

Our curriculum is broad, balanced and varied, securing core skills and fundamental academic disciplines across all subjects at Key Stage 3. At Key Stage 4, an academic pathway is offered in English Baccalaureate subjects to stretch the more able, and other pathways include vocational courses which are available to prepare students for the careers they aspire to.

We create a learning environment that is exciting and contemporary. Our Media Arts Specialism allows the students to access 21st century resources simply not available in most schools, such as TV and radio studios and film and music technology digital editing suites.

Work is regularly assessed and individual feedback is given to students to help them improve. Lesson preparation tasks are regularly set and monitored, ensuring students develop skills from formative comments to meet expected targets.



# Proud.

## The Academic Curriculum.

At Somervale School we are proud to deliver a broad and balanced curriculum which allows all students to aim high and fulfil the very best of their potential. Our curriculum meets and exceeds the National Curriculum through careful curriculum design and a commitment to enrichment so that students can develop the knowledge and skills they need to be successful, both at school and later in life. Our commitment to high standards and relentless ambition for our students is exemplified in comments from our most recent Ofsted report.

### English

The English Department delivers a curriculum that is recognised as both thorough and engaging. Students dive into a wide range of exciting texts, autobiographies, newspapers, and dynamic drama works. The curriculum also incorporates the Accelerated Reader programme, ensuring that students continuously develop their reading skills. Our focus is not just on literacy, but also on empowering students to communicate effectively, both in writing and speaking.

### Maths

Our Mathematics curriculum is designed to inspire success, guiding students from Year 7 to Year 11 as they develop the skills and knowledge to excel in their GCSEs and beyond. Students quickly dive into tailored learning, with assessments along the way to ensure everyone is in the right set to match their abilities. There are opportunities for growth and development to explore GCSE Further Maths and Statistics alongside their GCSE Maths qualification.

### Science

In Science our goal is to ignite curiosity, foster critical thinking, and provide a strong foundation in Biology, Chemistry, and

Physics. Throughout their time here, students engage with the 'Big Ideas of Science,' with core concepts in each discipline that recur and deepen their understanding over time. Alongside content knowledge, they develop essential skills, including lab techniques, data interpretation, and evidence-based reasoning. Students rotate through all three sciences in KS3 before moving into KS4 with more challenging material and extensive exam practice to prepare for the GCSEs.

### Humanities

Our Humanities curriculum is designed to inspire curiosity and deepen students' understanding of the world around them. Over KS3 there is a dynamic and interconnected exploration of History, Geography and Philosophy and Belief, designed to deepen the students' understanding of the world around them. Each subject complements the others, offering a vibrant and engaging journey through key global concepts. Students then have the opportunity to specialise in one or more areas at GCSE.

### Modern Foreign Languages

At Somervale School we offer Spanish and French. Our curriculum ensures that all students build strong foundations in speaking, listening, reading and writing. They begin their journey with essential verbs and soon develop into using the past tense to talk about events and dive into the vibrant world of different cultures. As the student's confidence develops they are soon communicating fluently in the target language both in verbal and written form. All students study one language with the higher sets studying an additional language.



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Current students in all  
year groups are making  
strong progress.

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# Varied.

Students have access to a highly creative and inspiring curriculum.





### The Creative Curriculum

At Somervale School, our creative curriculum nurtures students' creativity and practical skills across a range of exciting subjects from across the spectrum of the National Curriculum. These subjects work together to inspire innovation, critical thinking, and personal growth, offering students a well rounded education that prepares them for future success.

#### Music

The Music curriculum encourages creativity, skill development, and is designed to cultivate a deep love for music. From Key Stage 3 to Key Stage 4, and with the opportunity for further study at A Level, students embark on an exciting musical journey, exploring diverse genres and honing both individual and collaborative performance skills.

#### Art

Our Art curriculum is a vibrant journey that sparks creativity and hones artistic talent. Designed to inspire and challenge, our programme spans Key Stages 3 and 4, allowing students to explore drawing, painting, sculpture, printmaking, and digital media, blending traditional techniques with cutting-edge technology.



### Design & Technology

The Design & Technology curriculum offers students a dynamic mix of hands-on creativity, technical expertise, and problem solving skills, preparing them for success in an ever-evolving technological world. Over five exciting years, students will develop the confidence to design and create high quality products, analyse and critique their work, and learn essential skills for independent living.

#### Physical Education

Our Physical Education (PE) curriculum is all about inspiring students to embrace a love for physical activity that lasts a lifetime. As students progress, we ensure their learning evolves year on year, with plenty of extra-curricular clubs to keep them engaged and active.

#### Information Technology

Our Information Technology curriculum is designed to inspire students and prepare them for a tech-driven future. By honing skills in problem solving, communication, and innovation, we equip students to thrive in a rapidly evolving digital world. With a focus on IT systems, applications, and their real-world impact, students will build technical expertise and sharpen critical thinking, setting them up for exciting careers in technology.



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Pupils learn important lessons outside of the classroom to help them become thinking citizens of the future.





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Pupils say that they enjoy attending school and like the fact that expectations of them are high.

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# Care.

Our Pastoral System recognises  
and supports every student.





At Somervale, we believe every child should feel valued, supported, and encouraged to achieve their full potential. Pastoral care is a significant strength of Somervale School and we are proud to ensure that your child receives the care and guidance they need throughout their school journey.

Every child is welcomed into a tutor group upon joining Somervale School, supporting them in building a sense of community and belonging which will flourish over the time they are with us.

Each tutor group is in the care of a form tutor, who is the champion of each child within their tutor. Their role is to hold every child to the highest expectations while supporting them both academically and pastorally to be successful. Tutor groups meet twice a day, where they complete a tutor programme, which includes a focus on the following areas:

- Embedding the values of the school
- Developing literacy
- Enhancing character development
- Supporting attendance
- Monitoring behaviour
- Celebrating success.



Within our pastoral structure, each year group is also guided by their Head of Year who are experienced and trained in navigating children through their school journey. They hold an overarching view of the year group and can identify and support the needs of those specific year groups when required.

Parents and Carers are always welcome to contact us regarding any concerns they may have or to pass on helpful information about their child. The form tutor should always be your first point of reference in these situations.

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Pupils are taught to stay safe and make well thought through decisions and choices.



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Pupils take part in many opportunities that help them to develop their confidence and resilience.

# Leader.

Students are given opportunities to lead and take responsibility.

Somervale students play a key role in decision making on school matters and are given the opportunity to take responsibility and lead on a number of activities.

Our house system provides students with the opportunity to put themselves forward as House Captains. These senior students remain in post throughout the academic year and have responsibility for working with the Heads of House on a variety of activities designed to further enhance school spirit as well as develop student leadership across the school.

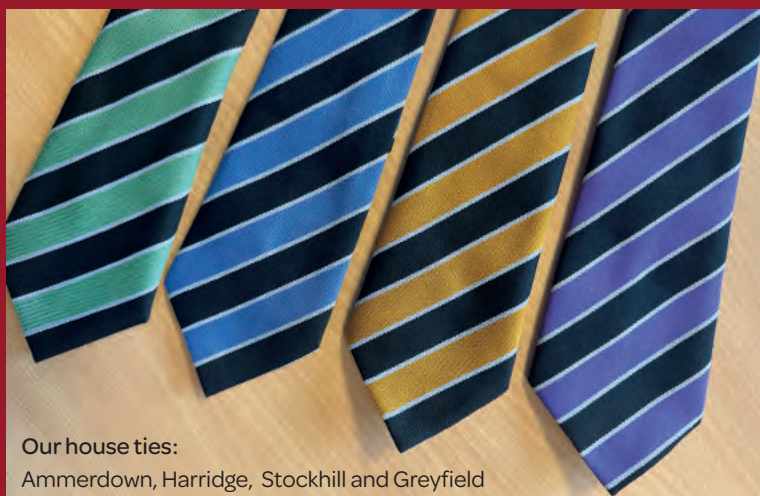
Each student is placed into a house. These are Ammerdown, Greyfield, Harridge and Stockhill.

Each house has a house council that consists of two representatives from each year group.

This enables all students to have a voice within the school. Any matters arising from meetings are taken back to the Heads of House for consideration.

Students have the opportunity to be trained as reading mentors throughout Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4. A large proportion of Key Stage 4 students participate in the Sports Leader Programme and have developed coaching and officiating skills, on and off site, and are ambassadors for the school.

Our Teaching and Learning Council consists of student volunteers who work closely with the Assistant Headteacher on developing classroom practices and have led on a number of school wide projects.



Our house ties:  
Ammerdown, Harridge, Stockhill and Greyfield

# Enrich.

## Opportunities beyond the classroom.



Students are offered a large variety of opportunities to develop their skills beyond the classroom, to become independent and resilient learners. As part of our provision we actively encourage students to participate in a wide range of activities, offering enrichment opportunities across all subject areas and beyond. Our staff are highly committed to ensure that all students meet their full potential through a diverse extra curriculum programme.

Within the extra curricular programme we offer over 40 activities per term. These range from sports activities and fixtures, creative writing groups, homework clubs, translation clubs, Anime club, debating team, Attenborough club, radio and TV club, art and photography club, cooking club, dance club and music activities which include club rock, choir and our annual school production. These opportunities allow students to interact with other students within the same year group but also across year groups to broaden their collaboration and communication skills.

Across all key stages we provide students with the opportunity of day and residential experiences. These include residential camps, ski trips, visits to Morocco and Iceland and closer to home, the Eden Project.



We provide a wide variety of day visits locally and nationally linked to the curriculum. These include: Year 10 trip to Bath Spa University, Year 7 Humanities trip to the Big Pit and Cardiff Castle, Year 9 Geography and History trip to London Imperial War Museum and Bristol Aquarium, Year 11 Art and Photography trip, Year 10 and 11 English trips to Macbeth and Poetry Live, Year 8 Geography and History trip to Lulworth Cove and Bristol Harbourside, Science STEM challenge day with the Institute of Engineering and Technology, Science Live visit to the Bath Forum lecture days, Maths Festival, Music workshops and numerous literacy events with visiting authors.

Within the daily life of the school the PE department offer activities before school, during lunchtime and after school. This includes county fixtures which we have an enviable record in winning numerous competitions. We have a significant proportion of students receiving instrumental lessons, which currently include keyboard, piano, drums, guitar, clarinet, saxophone, voice and DJ-ing.

Students have the opportunity to participate in the Duke of Edinburgh scheme at Bronze, Silver and Gold levels, developing key skills valued by employers. We also enter successful teams for the annual Ten Tors event on Dartmoor.



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Pupils benefit from a thoughtfully designed programme in personal, social, health, citizenship and careers education.

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Pupils try their best in lessons and produce work of a high standard.

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There is a broad range of additional activities including many clubs, activities and educational visits.



# Next...



## Many students choose to stay on to continue their Post-16 studies.

**The majority of students choose to continue their post-16 studies across the partnership at the Midsomer Norton Sixth Form.**

The Sixth Form is growing rapidly due to its outstanding results and, with over 400 students, it is able to offer a diverse selection of courses and opportunities. As well as a wide range of over 40 courses at both the Norton Hill and Somervale sites, students experience the greater freedom of Sixth Form life. They take advantage of excellent facilities across both campuses, such as the fantastic media suite, Sixth Form library, extensive ICT facilities and dedicated purpose built Sixth Form Centres at both sites. Both have rooms and study areas solely for Sixth Form use.

Students also participate in a wide variety of social and educational trips, such as to London and Berlin. Each year, a number of students will choose to join us from other institutions for their Sixth Form study.

We offer a wide range of courses and have outstanding levels of achievement. There is a strong tradition of students entering Higher Education including regular success at Oxbridge.

As part of the Post-16 programme, students participate in a Careers and Higher Education programme which ensures they receive preparation and support with university applications and entering the world of work. Additionally, students can opt to take part in a separate Oxbridge preparation process. Our partnership with Merton College,

Oxford and Trinity Hall Cambridge helps to maximise students' chances of successful applications. Our Russell Group preparation programme supports students preparing for application to the top universities in the country and we are also a Harvard partner school and are experienced in supporting students in the application process for universities.

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The school has high 'sixth form expectations'. As a result, they are well prepared for their next steps.

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Somervale  
School

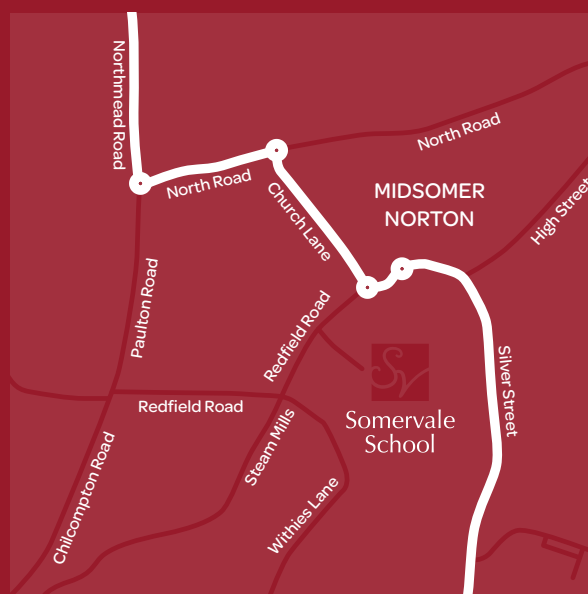


SOMERVALE SCHOOL is situated on the B&NES border to the south of Midsomer Norton and Radstock approx 10 miles from Bath and 12 miles from Bristol.

The Somerset villages of Chewton Mendip, Ston Easton, Chilcompton, Binegar, Gurney Slade, Stoke St Michael, Coleford, Oakhil, Holcombe, Kilmersdon and Stratton-on-the-Fosse are within 15 minutes drive of the school, as are Peasedown St John, Wellow, Shoscombe, Camerton, Timsbury and Paulton.

School coach transport is provided by B&NES from Farmborough, High Littleton, Clutton, Temple CLOUD, Hallatrow and Farrington Gurney.

Somerset County Council also provides school coach transport from Coleford and Holcombe. Norton Hill also runs buses to some local villages. For further information please contact the school.





Somervale  
School

## Somervale School

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Midsomer Norton  
Schools Partnership

## Part of the Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership

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