



Beaconhurst

The Senior School

Beaconhurst is an all-through school comprising a Nursery, Junior and Senior schools all on the same campus. The school is managed by the Headmaster, assisted by a Deputy Head, Senior Tutor and Bursar, who reports to the school's Board of Governors. The school roll is currently around 400 and there is no intention to expand numbers significantly in the near future. Proportionally, the school population is 10% in Nursery, 40% in Junior School and 50% in Senior School. Pupils are attracted from a wide geographical area around the central belt of Scotland and from a variety of educational backgrounds, many of whom are coming to independent education for the first time.

There is no separate head of senior school and day-to-day management comes directly from the Headmaster and Deputy Head. With the exception of English, Mathematics, Science and Modern Languages, departments in the senior school are single-staffed, with support provided by the Deputy Head and through regular meetings of subjects specialists. As a result, staff develop a comprehensive insight into curriculum development, SQA entry, quality assurance, self-evaluation and departmental planning. In addition, there is a high importance attached to the incorporation of IT into the curriculum; with a school-wide network, supported by a dedicated technician, as well as specialised facilities in a number of departments.

Beaconhurst operates the Scottish system of assessment and examinations. This starts in the junior school, where the 5-14 Curriculum is followed and continues in the senior school with Standard Grade and NQ Intermediate 2, Higher and Advanced Higher. Academic standards are high and in any year the majority of leavers in S5 and S6 will go on to tertiary education. As an all-through school, subject specialists play an important role in supporting staff in the junior school. In place of Primary 7, the school operates a Transition class, where teaching is done on a subject basis in senior school departments, thus providing a smooth progression for pupils into senior school.

Pastoral care is administered by senior school staff, as is the PSHE programme through a tutor and year group system. This is managed by the Senior Tutor and gives staff a holistic view of pupils. Good communication with parents is paramount and all senior school teachers are expected to liaise with parents on a regular basis; both formally at parent/teacher meetings and informally when parents collect their children. All teaching staff are expected to take an active role in offering extra-curricular activities, covering routine supervisory duties and running detention sessions as required. In addition, staff are encouraged to undertake regular CPD and play an active part in developing the Senior School.

Staff enjoy the benefits of a free school meal and membership of the sports facilities at Stirling university at corporate rates. Basic salaries are those negotiated for teachers on the SNCT Scale. In addition there is a Beaconhurst enhancement paid to full time staff after a qualifying period. Promoted posts and those carrying further responsibility are remunerated accordingly.