

2024-25



# | An Introduction to **Trent College**



**TRENT**  
COLLEGE



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**Equipping pupils with the life skills to handle whatever comes their way has always been a fundamental part of the first-class all-round education we provide. The recent past has reinforced what we have always known at Trent College – that the ability to adapt to change is key and a strong, supportive school community is essential for pupil wellbeing and success.**

Young people must develop the skills, confidence and self-awareness to flourish in the face of new challenges and experiences. Through breadth of opportunity and depth of care, we prepare our pupils to achieve and ultimately succeed in the ever-changing world that lies beyond Trent.

We are committed to delivering the highest possible academic outcomes for every individual, while also supporting physical, creative, spiritual and emotional development.

Continual investment in facilities, from a state-of-the-art Food & Nutrition Suite to a University-style Sixth Form Centre, enhances the first-class education we provide.

Significant recent improvements to our boarding facilities mean that our thriving community of boarders at Trent enjoy beautifully furnished single and double rooms and cosy social spaces. Boarding pupils benefit from extended access to academic staff for homework support, an excellent activity programme, and experiences that will develop their confidence and independence.

We are delighted to welcome you on a visit to Trent College and give you an insight into what makes a Trent education the right choice for your child.

**Bill Penty, Head of Trent College**

# | Academic Life at Trent College



**Mr Darren Brumby**  
Deputy Head (Academic)

We know that every child is unique. Our individual approach to education ensures that pupils receive the academic support and stretch they need to achieve their potential and become well-rounded individuals.

With a wide variety of subject options to study from Year 7 to Sixth Form, pupils can craft their own learning journeys around their unique aspirations. All our pupils also have access to a broad and enriching co-curriculum, designed to develop the whole person and to nurture each pupil's passions beyond the classroom.

Every educational journey is different. For pupils with the potential for straight A\*s, we will help them get there. If their strengths lie on the sports pitch or in the art studio rather than the classroom, we will help pupils achieve their personal best and meet their academic goals.

Our teachers are experts in their fields who are passionate about their subjects. Lessons combining interactive learning with real-world application bring education to life. We enable first-class teaching with modern classrooms and high quality facilities, creating a learning environment where students can flourish.

## Curriculum Subjects in Years 7 to 11

- **English Language/English Literature**
- **Maths**
- **Biology**
- **Chemistry**
- **Physics**
- Art
- Business Studies
- Computer Science
- Design and Technology
- Drama
- Food and Nutrition
- Geography
- History
- Latin
- Modern Language (French, German, Spanish)
- Music
- Physical Education
- Psychology
- Religious Studies

*Subjects in bold are compulsory at GCSE for the majority of students.*

Please download a copy of our Curriculum Guides for more insight into each subject.





# Our Campus

- ✓ Wonderful physical environment to inspire and focus
- ✓ Easy to access from major road networks and an extensive bus service
- ✓ Continual programme of investment
- ✓ University-style Sixth Form Centre
- ✓ Upgraded science laboratories
- ✓ Specialist Food & Nutrition facility
- ✓ Careers and Higher Education Centre
- ✓ Modern and homely boarding houses
- ✓ Contemporary drama spaces
- ✓ FIH Quality National Certified premier Astro-turf pitch
- ✓ Beautiful library in the heart of the school
- ✓ Spacious music recital room
- ✓ Fully equipped theatre
- ✓ Inspirational art studios & photography darkroom
- ✓ University-style lecture theatre





# I Lower School (Years 7 & 8)

Lower School provides a supportive, nurturing environment where happy pupils can thrive academically and discover new interests through the school's extensive co-curricular programme.

Pupils study a wide range of academic subjects and are expected to work hard in order to achieve their best outcomes inside and outside the classroom.

Each pupil is assigned to a Tutor who, working closely with the Head of Year and Head of Lower School, takes direct responsibility for the academic and pastoral care of around 20 pupils. Tutors maintain regular contact with parents and are the first point of contact at school. Typically pupils remain in the care of the same Tutor throughout Lower School, with the Head of Year, Assistant Head of Year and tutorial team moving from Year 7 to Year 8 at the same time as the pupils.

Academic teaching groups are arranged independently of tutor groups. The timetable is set at the start of term and remains fixed for the whole year. Wednesday afternoon is when most school sports fixtures are played, although there are some matches on Saturday mornings and afternoons.

All pupils follow a two week timetable with five lessons a day that are all 60 minutes in duration. The core curriculum studied by Lower School pupils consists of: English, Maths, Science, Geography, History, Religious Studies, Art, D&T, Music, Drama, Computing, Food & Nutrition, PE, PSHE and a Modern Language.

Lower School pupils receive two pieces of prep daily, each typically taking 25 minutes to complete. Pupils can opt to remain at school to complete their prep during supervised sessions after school, Monday to Friday, from 16:15 to 17:30.

## Sample Timetable - Lower School

THURSDAY	
07:45	Boarders' Breakfast
08:00	Day Pupils' Arrival
08:30	Registration for all Pupils
08:40	Tutor Time / Chapel / Assembly
<b>Period 1</b> 09:00 - 10:00	PSHE
<b>Period 2</b> 10:05 - 11:05	Design & Technology
BREAK	
<b>Period 3</b> 11:30 - 12:30	Maths
LUNCH	
<b>Period 4</b> 13:55 - 14:55	English
<b>Period 5</b> 15:00 - 16:00	Science
16:15 - 17:30	Optional After School Activities/Prep
17:40	Boarders' Tea / Buses Depart
18:30	Boarders' Prep
Evening	Boarders' Activities





# I Main School (Years 9, 10 & 11)

Pupils in Main School study a wide curriculum as we aim to help them to discover their true academic passions. They work to fulfil their potential and are tested by increasingly high expectations as they move towards public examinations. By the end of Main School, pupils can make well-informed choices for the future and have developed the attributes to thrive in Sixth Form.

We encourage pupils to develop resilience and personal qualities that are essential in the adult world. We give them opportunities to reflect on their progress and encourage them to identify their interests, character strengths, life aspirations and much more.

Each pupil is assigned to a Tutor who, working closely with the Head of Year and Head of Main School, takes direct responsibility for the academic and pastoral care of around 13 pupils. Tutors maintain regular contact with parents and are the first point of contact at school. Typically pupils remain in the care of the same Tutor throughout Main School, with the Head of Year, Assistant of Year, and tutorial team moving from Year 9 to 10 and 11 at the same time as the pupils.

The two-week timetable and structure of the school day consists of five 60 minute lessons which, in addition to academic lessons, include Games. There is also a rich and varied activity programme, including Music, Drama, Sport practices, Leadership and Community Service.

From Year 9 onwards Saturday morning academic lessons take place each week from 08.30-12.00, and pupils then have regular Saturday afternoon sports fixtures. During the Michaelmas and Lent terms we have Exeat weekends, when there are no Saturday commitments.

The curriculum is constantly under review so that we can provide the most appropriate subjects and offer as much individual choice as possible. In Years 9 and 10 pupils begin exercising more choice in the subjects they study, and at the end of Year 11, pupils will be able to make informed decisions about the subjects they will study in Sixth Form.

Main School pupils receive prep every day, totalling around one and a half hours per night. Pupils can opt to remain at school to complete at least part of their prep, with supervised sessions available after school every evening from 16:15 until 17:30.

**Sample Timetable – Main School**

<b>TUESDAY</b>	
07:45	<b>Boarders' Breakfast</b>
08:00	<b>Day Pupils' Arrival</b>
08:30	<b>Registration for all Pupils</b>
08:40	<b>Tutor Time / Chapel / Assembly</b>
<b>Period 1</b> 09:00 - 10:00	<b>History</b>
<b>Period 2</b> 10:05 - 11:05	<b>Modern Language</b>
<b>BREAK</b>	
<b>Period 3</b> 11:30 - 12:30	<b>Biology</b>
<b>LUNCH</b>	
<b>Period 4</b> 13:55 - 14:55	<b>Psychology</b>
<b>Period 5</b> 15:00 - 16:00	<b>Maths</b>
16:15 - 17:30	<b>Optional After School Activities/Prep</b>
17:40	<b>Boarders' Tea / Buses Depart</b>
18:30	<b>Boarders' Prep</b>
Evening	<b>Boarders' Activities</b>

# | Learning Support



**Ms Catherine Berry**  
Head of Learning Support

The Learning Support Department offers support to pupils who require advice or tuition in areas of difficulty. Pupils may refer themselves or referrals may be made by staff or parents. Parents of new pupils with previous assessment results should send this information to the Learning Support Department. The Head of Learning Support will liaise with parents, teachers and professional advisers to support the needs of the pupil.

Learning difficulties can be identified through referral or routine screening. In Years 7 and 9, all pupils sit standardised tests for reading comprehension, spelling and maths. MidYIS testing is also carried out in Years 7, 8 and 9, and Yellis testing in Year 10. Any concerning results are investigated further using dyslexia screening tests, which may lead to recommendation for further assessment or appropriate support. These options are always discussed with tutors and parents.

# | Expert Careers Guidance



**Mrs Fiona Starbuck**  
Head of Careers

At Trent College we provide tailored careers guidance throughout the school journey. Our dedicated Careers Hub is the ideal setting for future planning and careers-focused lessons, where pupils can explore careers of interest and seek professional advice. Our expert careers staff help pupils decide which route is best for them and to make subject choices at GCSE and in Sixth Form that support their chosen pathways.

We are committed to supporting our pupils as they prepare for the next stage, whatever that may be. We help pupils to secure work experience placements that are relevant to their goals for the future. For those with university ambitions, we guide both student and parent through the UCAS for study in the UK, or for overseas universities. We also provide support for alternate routes, such as degree-level apprenticeships, and assist with CV writing and interviews.

The Academic Forum offers specialist support for students with Oxford or Cambridge University ambitions, from interview practice to application advice.

Our Careers Speaker Programme introduces students to new career possibilities through engaging talks from guest speakers. Representatives from national and international universities also visit Trent to inform and inspire students about Higher Education.



# **| Dining**

Pupils enjoy healthy, well-balanced meals each day in the whole school cafeteria, the Prince Obolensky Dining Hall.

A variety of hot and cold food is freshly prepared onsite with options available on request for any individual dietary needs.

Trent College and The Elms are proud to have received the Department for Education's Healthy Schools Award, as well as a five-star environmental health rating.

Boarders eat breakfast, lunch and dinner in the Dining Hall, and benefit from kitchens in their House where they can prepare additional drinks and snacks.



# Co-Curricular Activities

**Opportunities to pursue new interests and excel beyond the academic curriculum are an essential part of a Trent College education. Our extensive activities programme takes place from 16:15 to 17:30, Monday to Friday, with some clubs also running at lunchtime.**

## Music @Trent\_Music

Music brings together pupils from across the school community and promotes valuable skills such as discipline, hard work and creativity. We encourage every pupil to experience the joy of creating music, whether that is through one-to-one tuition or school ensembles. A variety of ensembles meet at lunchtimes and after school, providing young musicians with exciting performance and development opportunities.

## Drama @RepDrama

All pupils can showcase their talent through our diverse programme of drama and musical productions. Roles behind the scenes, from tech to scenery, also offer creative opportunities beyond acting. Drama at Trent caters to all abilities and experience levels.

We aim to stage three large shows each year - Whole School Show, Lower School Show and a Scholars' Production.

## Sport @TrentSport

Trent has a longstanding sporting reputation at regional and national level. Pupils have one double Games lessons per week, and one PE lesson per week.

Our sports are categorised as Performance, Progression and Participation. Those involved in Performance Sports benefit from specialist coaching and all pupils can look forward to competing against other schools in fixtures.

In Years 7 to 11, Games lessons focus on Performance sports, whilst PE lessons involve Progression and Participation sports. Our sports programme is fundamental to the physical and emotional development of our pupils and promoting a healthy, active lifestyle.

*Performance:* A commitment to participation in local, regional and national competitions. There are regular fixtures.

*Progression:* A commitment to developing skills in our Performance sports. There may be some mid-week fixtures.

*Participation:* A commitment to engaging positively during all sports sessions.

Performance Sports	Michaelmas	Lent	Trinity
Boys	Rugby	Hockey	Cricket & Tennis
Girls	Hockey	Netball	Cricket & Tennis





## Combined Cadet Force (CCF)

In Year 9, all pupils join the Combined Cadet Force as part of the Army or RAF sections. Cadets learn leadership, field craft (including map-reading) and safe weapon handling. Field days provide opportunities to apply these skills in real world settings, while flying days and gliding courses offer new experiences for RAF cadets. Many pupils continue CCF into Year 11, while others opt for another service activity, including Community Service, Leadership, Sports Coaching, Environment Team and Life Saving.



## The Duke of Edinburgh's Award

In Year 10, pupils are encouraged to participate in the Duke of Edinburgh's (DofE) Bronze Award. Challenging comfort zones and promoting resilience, the DofE programme is a rewarding experience that requires pupils to:

- Develop a new personal skill
- Contribute to a period of community service
- Learn navigational, survival and teamwork skills to complete expeditions

## Debating and Oxbridge

Academic co-curricular activities promote the higher-level thinking and problem-solving abilities required to succeed at university. Pupils can represent Trent in competitive debating by joining our Debating Societies, while the Oxbridge Society is available from Year 10. These societies enable pupils with university ambitions to work towards their academic goals with additional specialist support and guidance.

## Some of our clubs & activities...

- Anime & Manga
- Archaeology
- Beastly Biology
- Beginners' Mandarin & Japanese
- Book Club
- Chemistry Club: Bronze Crest Award
- Chess
- Choir
- Coding/Cyber Club
- Creative Writing
- Dance
- Debating (Junior & Senior)
- Drama Arts Award
- Economics Society
- Journalism
- Junior Medics
- English Club
- MedSoc
- Orchestra
- School of Rock
- Science and STEM
- STEM Spelling Bee
- Trent Traders Business
- VetSoc
- Warhammer

Example list - actual activities offered will vary each term.



# | Easily Accessible

We understand busy modern families and we strive to ensure we offer solutions that make us as accessible as possible. This includes the structure of the school day, boarding options and assistance with logistics via our comprehensive bus service.

## Optimising the School Day

School is open to pupils for longer than the standard learning hours. Pupils can arrive from 08:00 and stay until 17:40 if they choose. They can participate in supervised prep time or

explore new interests in our exciting Co-curricular programme from 16.15 to 17.30 when the buses depart.

## Overnight Opportunities

Our boarding programme has an option to suit every family. Boarding is not just for families who live far from school, over 80% of our Flexi & Weekly boarders live within a 45 minute drive time.

## Boarding Activities

There is a diverse activity programme in place for our boarders ranging from bingo nights and food festivals to theme park trips and talent shows. Flexi and weekly boarders can join the weekend programme for a small fee.



## 5 Benefits of Boarding

- ✓ **Gain independence and a wider world perspective**  
The life skills you learn through boarding with like-minded peers from across the UK and the wider world will help you go further in education and beyond.
- ✓ **Full, flexi and weekly boarding balance school life with family time**  
Weekly boarders stay at Trent on school days and go home at weekends. Flexi boarders stay at school 2 or 3 nights per week.
- ✓ **Access to extra support & set homework time**  
Allocated time for prep ensures our boarders get homework in on time. A number of subject teachers are on hand to provide extra support.
- ✓ **Plenty of time to relax & socialise**  
With travelling time saved, boarders have more opportunity to unwind in the evenings. Exciting weekend activities provide fun on and off campus.
- ✓ **Make friendships that last a lifetime**  
When you join the Trent boarding community, you become part of our boarding family and share experiences and memories to cherish.

# **I Our Bus Network**

Our extensive school bus routes make Trent College a possibility for families across Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire. With over 100 stops on the network, pupils from Year 3 at The Elms through to Sixth Form at Trent enjoy a high level of service and reliability.

## **Our Bus Routes are:**

- CALVERTON ROAD
- KINOULTON
- LITTLEOVER

- LOWDHAM
- MANSFIELD

## **Quality Assured Services**

The service is operated in partnership with Skills of Nottingham who ensure daily drivers provide a friendly welcome for pupils boarding their coaches. Being fully-qualified and DBS checked, parents can rest assured that their children will have safe and enjoyable journeys.



Scan here for  
details of the stops,  
times and prices.

# Scholarships

At Trent College we want every individual to discover their strengths and make the most of their talents. Trent Scholarships are awarded for Academic ability, Art, Drama, Music, Choral and Sport. They recognise a pupil's specific flair and identify potential for development. Scholars will be mentored and supported by department heads and tutors and provided with the development needed to exceed their current expectations.

Scholarships awarded on entry to Trent College attract a 10% discount off tuition (day) fees. Further financial assistance *may* be available through the Trent College bursary scheme, dependent on family financial circumstances.

## Academic

Assessed via the entrance exam and interview.

## Art

Candidates present a portfolio, including specified drawings, and complete a drawing test.

## Drama

Candidates prepare a monologue and join a drama workshop.

## Music & Choral

Candidates perform pieces to a minimum level (grade 4 for Year 7 entry, grade 6 for Year 9 entry and above) and take aural and sight reading tests.

## Sport

Candidates join a sports assessment session aimed at identifying key skills and coachability. Sports Scholarships are only awarded to children who reach the desired level of performance in our Performance Sports - rugby, hockey & cricket for boys; hockey, netball & tennis for girls.

**Please advise us upon completion of the registration form if your child would like to apply for a scholarship.**



# **| Entrance Assessment**

Children applying to join Years 7 to 10 will take a Cognitive Abilities Test, often known as a CAT test, which identifies how a child thinks in four areas that are known to make a difference to learning.

Preparation for the assessment is by no means essential, we would rather children arrived prepared to solve problems, than thinking that they should 'know the answers'.

This Cognitive Abilities Test is done on a computer, and all the questions are multiple choice. There are eight parts in total, each with an individual time limit of between 8 and 10 minutes. The timer appears on screen for each individual candidate, and only starts to count down when he or she clicks 'start'. The tests are generously timed - most children reach the final questions in each part, and many have time to go back and check their answers. The whole test takes around 1 ½ to 2 hours to complete, depending on the duration of breaks.

Each part of the assessment includes introductory information with practice examples, which will familiarise the candidate with the style and format of the questions. These introductory sections are not timed and may be repeated if needed to ensure understanding.

This part of the assessment does not allow for additional time to be given to children with Special Educational Needs. However, children may be given a headset so that the written on-screen introductory information can be heard aurally.

## **Year 7 Entry to Trent College      Feb 2025**

Should you want to familiarise your child with the style of the questions, there are a couple of resources that you may choose to purchase:

Bond 11+: Non-verbal Reasoning: Assessment Papers: 10-11+ years Book 1 (2015) ISBN-13: 978-0192740267

Bond 11+: Verbal Reasoning: Assessment Papers: 10-11+ years Book 2 (2015) ISBN-13: 978-0192740366

Children may also benefit from practising writing under timed conditions (20 to 30 minutes), thinking about how long they spend on planning, writing and proof reading

## **English Paper**

In addition to the Cognitive Abilities Test, children applying to join Trent College will also take an English paper so that we can assess their written prose. This is a chance for students to differentiate themselves and their thinking. They can show us both their English skills (wide range of vocabulary, accurate use of spelling, punctuation and grammar) and their creativity (imaginative ideas, how they think and their interests).

For entry to Year 7, the English paper asks children to write an essay. For entry to Year 8, 9 & 10, children will answer comprehension questions, as well as writing an essay.

## **Year 7 Interviews**

**Jan 2025**

One of our friendly and experienced staff will have a one to one chat with your child, asking about their family, interests, school life and hopes for the future.

# | Next Steps

Choosing the right school for your child is a big decision, so our aim is to provide parents with all the support and information you need, every step of the way.

We pride ourselves on getting to know each child as an individual, helping them to imagine their future at Trent College, and giving them the confidence to take this step on their educational journey.

## **Open Days and Tours**

We are pleased to be able to offer families the chance to explore Trent College on an Open Day or a personal tour. Visits are hosted by a member of staff and planned to give you an introduction to our grounds, facilities, teachers and school ethos. We can include time to visit our boarding houses.

## **Taster Days**

We offer Discovery Days (Year 7 applicants) and Taster Days (Year 8 upwards) throughout the year as opportunities for children to experience life at Trent.

## **Year 7**

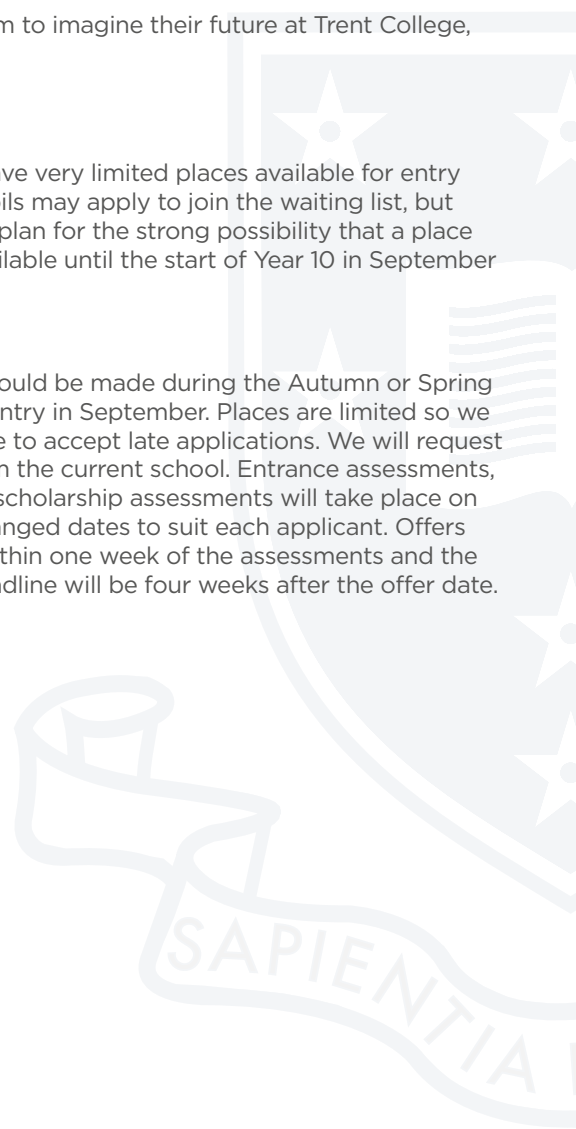
Applications should be made during the Autumn term prior to entry. Places are limited so we may not be able to accept late applications. We will request a reference from the current school. The entrance assessment, interviews and scholarship assessments will take place in January 2025 – dates will be provided upon application. Offers will be made in February 2025 and the acceptance deadline will be March 2025.

## **Year 9**

Currently we have very limited places available for entry into Year 9. Pupils may apply to join the waiting list, but families should plan for the strong possibility that a place may not be available until the start of Year 10 in September 2025.

## **Year 10**

Applications should be made during the Autumn or Spring terms prior to entry in September. Places are limited so we may not be able to accept late applications. We will request a reference from the current school. Entrance assessments, interviews and scholarship assessments will take place on individually arranged dates to suit each applicant. Offers will be made within one week of the assessments and the acceptance deadline will be four weeks after the offer date.





# **| Admissions**



**Mrs Maria James**  
Head of Admissions



**Miss Karlee Wildgoose**  
Admissions Officer



**Mrs Jacqui Rhodes**  
External School Liaison Manager

**admissions@trentcollege.net**  
**0115 849 4950**

Formal applications for a place at Trent College  
should be made via our online registration form.

Scan here





TRENT  
COLLEGE

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Nottingham NG10 4AD

[www.trentschools.net](http://www.trentschools.net)