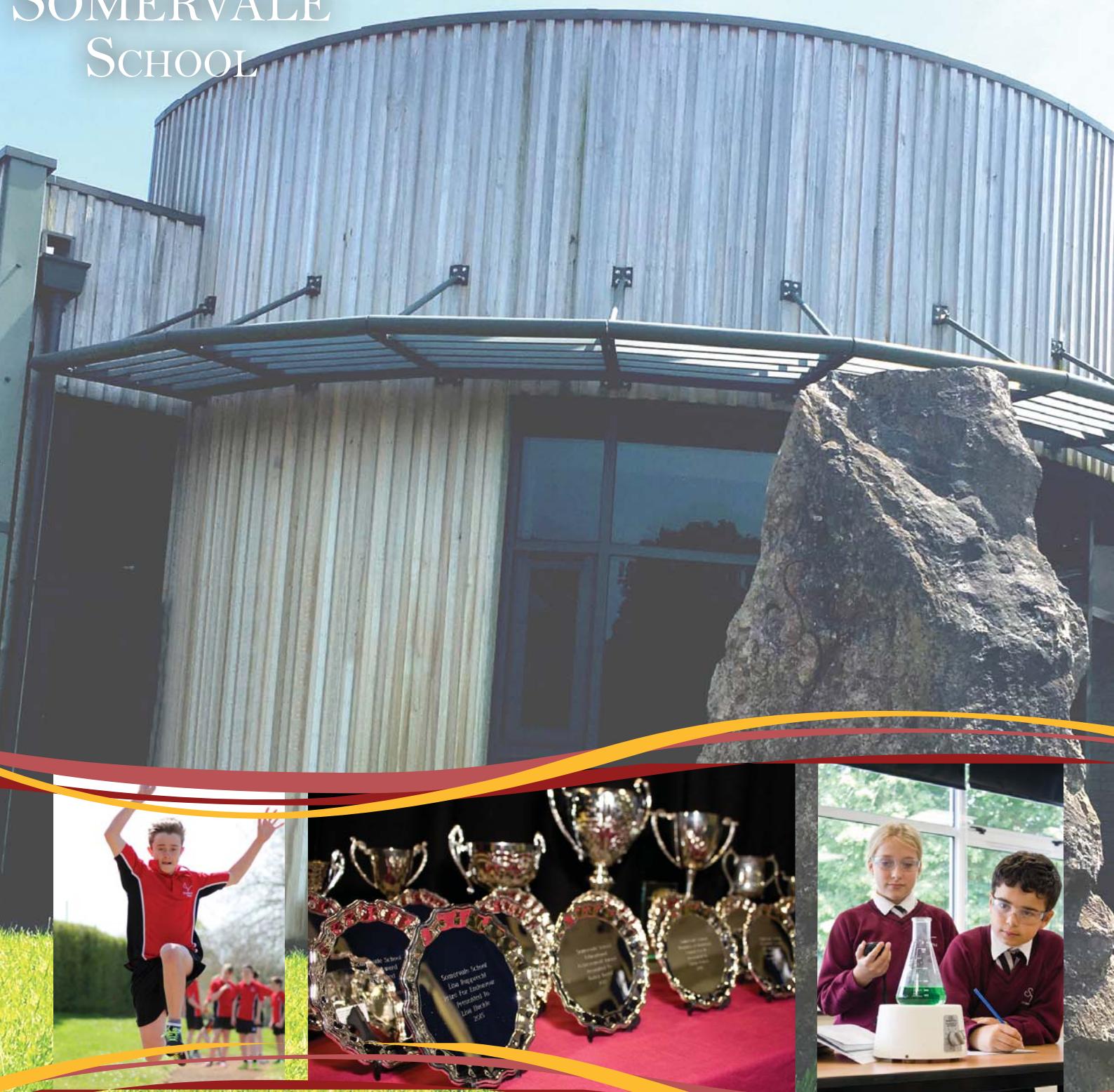




SOMERVALE SCHOOL



“Students achieving five or more higher-grade GCSEs, including English and Mathematics, has been higher than the national average.”

Ofsted

Welcome To SOMERVALE SCHOOL



Alun Williams
Executive Headteacher/CEO



Joanna Postlethwaite
Associate Headteacher

It is a privilege to be the Executive Headteacher and CEO 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 believe through close collaboration our work towards this goal is more effective.

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

Somervale School is a real-life example of what can be achieved through partnership. I am so proud of the children and staff of this school and what they have achieved. Improvement at Somervale over the last 4 years has been staggering. Children now leave the school as confident learners, with strong morals and excellent examination results. I look forward to seeing the school continue to develop under the leadership of Joanna Postlethwaite, our new Associate Headteacher.

I am extremely proud to have been appointed as Associate Headteacher of Somervale School, particularly as it has improved so much over recent years and was awarded a 'good' judgement by Ofsted in recognition of this outstanding progress. Examination results have hit record levels and the school was rightly recognised as one of the top 11% of schools in the country for pupil progress. Recent outcomes achieved at Somervale place the school well above the national average for pupil attainment and achievement. The school's excellence in Arts education has also been recognised with the award of the prestigious Arts Mark Gold standard. Somervale is one of the best schools in Bath and North East Somerset and its strong partnership with other MNSP schools gives youngsters at Somervale 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 dynamic and successful school in a modern environment, Somervale is able to design learning around the needs of each child with the expectation that all make outstanding progress. Being a small school enables Somervale to encourage all students to take the lead and develop personal responsibility. Its size allows all pupils to be known and valued.

The Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership - a partnership between Somervale, Norton Hill, St Dunstan's Secondary Schools and High Littleton, Clutton, Trinity, Dundry, Longvernal and Welton Primaries - is committed to a broad and balanced curriculum which benefits students so they can secure the best jobs and places at the best universities.

The MNSP has brought many benefits, specifically a wider range of subjects being made available and a programme of extra-curricular activities which are designed to provide greater opportunities and experiences. The Midsomer Norton Sixth Form ensures high quality Post 16 teaching for students and has become one of the highest performing Sixth Forms in B&NES and beyond.

Outcomes in all aspects at Somervale continue to improve and with many more developments planned, it really is an exciting place to be. Somervale has seen a staggering 20% rise in numbers in recent years. The word of our success is spreading! 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.



Somervale Strategic Vision

Somervale School is a small school, by design, in a modern environment and supportive community.

Where...

Learning is designed around the needs of each child with the expectation that all make outstanding progress.

Children experience excellence, particularly in the specialist area of English, Music and Media Arts.

All children leave school with an understanding of how to learn, think creatively, take risks and handle change.

All children get the chance to participate and take leading roles in all the school has to offer.

Self esteem and personal growth are nurtured and where children take on responsibility as local and global citizens.

A child's chances of success are not related to their social economic background, gender or ethnicity.

Teachers use their expertise and knowledge to engage children in their learning and act quickly to adjust their teaching in response to students' learning.

Leadership encourages the will for betterment in all.

The best of both worlds:

Somervale seeks to take the best out of the private school system so that all children benefit from high quality education.

- ✓ An expectation of academic excellence in English, Mathematics & Science.
- ✓ Accelerated reader programme.
- ✓ Small class sizes.
- ✓ An enriched curriculum, particularly in arts and sports.
- ✓ A small school ethos, encouraging all students to take the lead and develop personal responsibility.
- ✓ A collective pride and celebration of all the talents.
- ✓ Supported 'prep' time for future lessons.
- ✓ Excellence in behaviour and pastoral care.
- ✓ Lead school in the area for Music education.
- ✓ One of the highest performing schools in BANES for Sport.

"Students are keen to make progress and are proud of their achievements. In the best lessons, they develop independence and take responsibility for their own learning."

"Inspectors were very impressed with the behaviour of all students at all times. Behaviour in lessons is at least good, with much that is outstanding."

Ofsted

"Somervale has the highest proportion of students in Bath and North East Somerset progressing on to university."

Department for Education
Destination League Table



Becoming a Somervale Student

Every autumn, we invite primary students and their parents to Somervale for our Open Evening. Our students act as guides and hosts, with the evening including an address by the Headteacher. The event is always a highlight in Somervale's calendar and is always well received by parents and children alike.

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. To arrange an appointment to view the school, please contact the Head's PA on headssec@somervaleschool.com or telephone 01761 414276. All visitors need to report to the school reception on arrival.

A Smooth Transition to Somervale

There are lots of activities which help make the transition from primary school to Somervale as smooth and successful as possible. These activities include master classes, competitions and activity days, areas covered include: ICT Coding, Clay Design, Science, Sport, Music, TV production, Languages, Year 6 Induction Day & Evening and Summer School.

The transition process begins as early as Year 5, when all Year 5 students from our partner primaries are invited to attend after school master classes which run throughout the year. In Year 6, Senior and Pastoral staff visit all Year 6 students coming to Somervale during the summer term. They also speak to 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.

In Term 2 of Year 7, we offer all Year 7 students a residential experience at the Forest of Dean Study Centre. The central purpose of this experience is to build the tutor group into a mutually supportive team. To this end, the Year 7 Tutor accompanies the group.

"The quality of provision for care, support and guidance that they lead and manage is excellent."

David McGregor, Ofsted Trained External Evaluator

"My child's transition from primary school was handled in a very sensitive and professional manner and there was a great deal of interaction leading up to the big day. As a result, she has had an excellent start to her secondary education, her confidence has grown considerably and we are delighted with her progress."

Parent of a Year 7 Student





"I really enjoyed the Forest of Dean. I loved the zip wire, climbing and the canoeing. It's amazing doing all the things that you can't do at home!"

I went because it was a chance for me to get to know more about my new friends and to work with them and help them."

Kieron, Year 7 Student

"Over 97% of parents feel their child is well looked after, is happy and making good progress."

David McGregor
Ofsted Trained External Evaluator





Inspirational Teaching

At Somervale we value academic excellence and teachers' ability 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 make them think.

Stimulating 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.

Where appropriate, a range of intervention strategies are used to help students make the most of their ability, whether it is through catching up with literacy or numeracy in Year 7 or through support to achieve A*/A grades in Year 11. Outcomes at A*/A have doubled over the last two years.

"The majority of teaching is typically good and some that is outstanding."

"Where teaching is good or better, teachers plan activities that engage the students and encourage them to think for themselves."

"All students leave Year 11 with a range of qualifications. The percentage gaining five A-G GCSE grades has been above the national figure for the past five years."*

Ofsted

"The quality of middle leadership in the school is high and all are loyal to the school and share its values of inclusion and deep care."

David McGregor
Ofsted Trained External Evaluator



Care, Guidance & Support

Somervale has always had a very strong pastoral system which ensures we care for each and every individual. All students belong to a tutor group and are supported by their pastoral team.

Students participate daily in a varied and engaging tutorial programme that covers aspects of life outside the curriculum with an emphasis on global awareness and citizenship. This develops pupils' learning, and thinking skills which helps them throughout their school life.

We have high expectations of all students and encourage all to challenge themselves to reach aspirational goals. Our commendation systems award students for good attendance, punctuality, effort, behaviour and contribution to school life.

We support all students in their academic achievement, from gifted and talented enrichment to mentoring by older students and aspirational mentoring by university students. Learning and social support is available to all students and tutors offer guidance to students throughout the year, providing support and involving parents where appropriate.

We have a dedicated careers officer who provides impartial advice for all students, helping with option choices and choices for Post-16. Students get opportunities throughout their school career to get involved in activities and visits which inspire their choices for the future.

All students with identified individual needs are encouraged and supported to achieve their potential: academically, personally and socially. This is developed through additional support in lessons, targeted intervention, group work and access to professional services.

Further information is available for additional needs. Please contact the school for details.



"Somervale has a higher proportion of students going on to apprenticeships than any other school locally."

"Teachers and other adults support students well so that they make good progress and achieve well. Additional sessions to promote literacy and reading skills are having a positive impact on students' achievement."

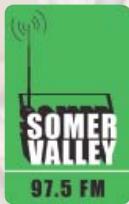
"Students feel very safe in school. Incidents of bullying are rare and, when they do occur, are dealt with quickly and effectively by staff."

"High-quality care is provided by the pastoral system."

Ofsted

"The school's work to keep students safe is outstanding."

David McGregor
Ofsted Trained External Evaluator



Specialist Arts College

Somervale School became a Media Arts College in September 2000 and was re-designated as a Media Arts College for a third time in July 2010. In 2013 Somervale School achieved the prestigious Arts Mark Gold Award. Over the last three years the school has benefited from a further £250,000 of capital and resource investment in its Specialism. From January 2009 the school became host to Somer Valley FM, our own community radio station broadcasting on 97.5FM and DAB.

English

The English Department was identified by Ofsted as a lead Department in teaching, '*much that is outstanding.*' The curriculum that is offered at Key Stage 3 is thorough and varied, and follows the guidelines given in the National Curriculum. Students study diverse units including Literary Heritage texts such as "A Christmas Carol" and "Macbeth" non-fiction texts such as autobiographies and newspapers, and also various drama texts. All students participate in the Accelerated Reader programme to support students in their reading development. We want all students to be able to, not only develop their overall literacy skills, but to also be able to develop their use of communication whether this be in written or verbal form.

At Key Stage 4 we follow the Edexcel syllabus. This course continues to build on the skills acquired at Key Stage 3, and all students take English Language and English Literature and are assessed via 100% terminal examinations which are taken at the end

of Year 11. English continues to be a very popular subject at Key Stage 5, and we pride ourselves on offering a variety of courses for students to take at A Level.

Music

As a specialist subject at Somervale the Music Department offers students a wide range of activities in the curriculum and through our extra-curricular programme. The department is equipped with two specialist teaching rooms, an ensemble room, a recording studio and practice rooms. The department has a Yamaha keyboard suite and a Music Technology suite with mini macs which is used to provide specific curriculum provision across all Key Stages.

In Key Stage 3, students receive three lessons per fortnight which are divided between developing their Music Technology skills, keyboard and instrumental skills. This enables students to learn about a wide range of musical styles and techniques within the





National Curriculum. In Key Stage 4, students receive six lessons per fortnight and have the opportunity to study Music as a GCSE option.

All students are encouraged to develop their musical talents in and out of the classroom and we offer a wide range of peripatetic lessons, for example: flute, clarinet, violin, viola, cello, double bass, guitar, bass guitar, vocals, keyboard, piano, drums, saxophone, trumpet, trombone and DJ-ing.

The department organises a variety of performances throughout the year in school and within the local community. We have an annual Carol Concert at St. John's Church and numerous recital opportunities throughout the year. Students from all Key Stages participate in a number of instrumental and technological extra-curricular activities which are teacher and student led.

Yamaha Music School

We have successfully been in partnership with Yamaha Music for 16 years offering lessons within the community on guitar, keyboard and drums. These lessons are taught after school and are available to both students and adults. Yamaha teaching techniques are exciting and diverse enabling learners to develop solo and band skills on top quality instruments, learning a wide range of popular music.

Media

Students have access to:

- A radio recording studio
- An audio recording studio
- A TV recording studio
- Two video editing suites
- A media computer suite using the latest digital i-Mac computers
- Class sets of video camcorders

Our students have the opportunity to:

- Take a Creative & Media BTEC at Key Stage 4 and a Level 3 BTEC at Key Stage 5
- Use media equipment and expertise in a wide range of subjects such as Science, Geography and Philosophy & Belief

We have a cinema quality screen, digital projector and sound system in the main hall which we use to show films and media work created by the students.

We extend our media arts expertise to the wider community too. Many students in our partner primary schools and Fosseway Special School have enjoyed working with Somer Valley FM through our community out-reach projects.

“Students are keen to make progress and are proud of their achievements, particularly in the school’s specialist field of media arts.”

Ofsted

“15% of Year 11 pupils participated in Music GCSE, placing Somervale in the top 233 schools nationally out of 4,961 secondary schools.”

ISM



Academic and Aspirational Achievement

Students at Somervale are identified on our Able, Gifted and Talented register in all Key Stages. Our identification process involves, staff, students and parents and is monitored throughout the year identifying progress in and out of school. Students are encouraged to participate in a variety of activities which supports students to develop academically and socially.

Students Set Challenging Targets

All students are assessed and monitored throughout the academic year. This ensures students have access to current grades and are set challenging targets to ensure all reach their potential at the end of each Key Stage through internal and external examinations.

All students are monitored throughout the year through our tutor mentoring and intervention programme. This involves subject staff, tutors, pupils and parents the opportunity to review targets and monitor progress through our Academic Review Day, Subject Reports and Parents' Evenings.

Student Responsibilities

Somervale students play a key role in decision making on school matters and are given the opportunity to take responsibility and lead in a number of activities. Our School Council representatives have co-ordinator roles which are decided upon by the students at the start of each year and remain in the post throughout the academic year.

Students have the opportunity to be trained by mentors throughout Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4. Our trained mentors are not only involved in activities at Somervale but also have the opportunity to participate in lunchtime activities in one of our local partner primary schools, gaining experience in leading and supporting activities with younger aged pupils. 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.



The senior students help to maintain high standards when they take responsibility to do a break and lunch time duty once a week. Senior students also assist in running lunchtime activities to engage students during their lunch break and take leadership roles in our A-dvice Team who support vulnerable younger pupils and our E-quality Team which campaigns on a range of equality issues.

We were the first secondary school in BANES to receive the Eco Green Flag award and have recently been awarded our third award. Students participate in activities throughout the year and Year 7 students lead teams, for example: Healthy Lifestyle Team, Transport Team, Energy Team, Eco Team, Gardening Team and Recycling Team.

School Council

We have a strongly developed School Council at Somervale that enables all pupils to have a voice within the school. Each Key Stage has a council with two elected representatives who attend meetings and provide feedback on actions. Within the Key Stage Councils, students have the opportunity to have roles of responsibility: Chair Student, Vice Chair Student, Secretary and Communications Manager. Any matters arising from meetings are taken to the Senior Leadership Team for consideration.



Great Opportunities

We provide a wide range of additional opportunities for able, gifted and talented students at Somervale School. These include:

- Master classes
- Music recitals in school and in the community
- Arts Extra programme
- Art gallery visits
- A wide variety of extra-curricular activities
- Participation in our 'Eco Team' and the Climate Change Conference
- Author visits
- Maths Challenge
- Guest speakers across all years
- Instrumental lessons through 1 to 1 tuition
- Personalised mentoring and Bath Spa mentoring
- Sports Leader Award
- Ten Tors
- Duke of Edinburgh
- Aim Higher university visits
- Residential visits
- School Council
- National Carnegie Award
- SSCO Sports Events
- Artists in residence
- Westonbirt A*-A residential course
- Bath University's G&T Sports Performers Programme
- Science Cafe
- B&NES Sports Leadership Academy
- School Production
- PREP

"Lessons, particularly in media arts, and extra-curricular activities promote students' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development well."

Ofsted





Beyond the Classroom

Somervale has a long tradition of providing outdoor activities and cultural experiences for its students. These range from School Camp on the South Coast to foreign trips. The school, through its Partnership links, provides real challenges for outdoor enthusiasts such as the Ten Tors Challenge and the Duke of Edinburgh Award up to Gold standard. Within the curriculum, there are gallery and museum visits in Art, Science and D&T, Geography and History fieldwork, as well as specialised activities during Science Week.

Arts Extra

Students in Years 7 & 8 are given the opportunity every fortnight to work in mixed year groups completing Arts and Sports activities. These activities enable students to develop their communication and participation skills. The activities available rotate three times per year and students are able to choose from a range of activities:

- Archeological digs
- Film making
- Cartoon design
- Emoji cushions
- Giant sculptures
- Radio production
- Clay modelling
- Song writing
- Variety of sport activities

Activities Week

Throughout the last week of term students have the opportunity to participate in educational visits and school based activities, giving students the experience to practise different skills and learning opportunities away from the normal curriculum.

Students have a wide range of activities in school and out of school to choose from, including foreign visits and residential experiences which includes our annual camp to Swanage on the South Coast.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme and Ten Tors

Through the Partnership, 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.



Sporting Excellence

Our world class 3G Astro Turf facility opened in 2014 giving Somervale School the capacity to run a variety of sports through the winter months. In Years 7 to 9, students enjoy a wide range of sports in PE lessons including: netball, football, rugby, athletics, basketball, trampolining, tennis, cricket, rounders, table tennis and health related exercise. This continues into Years 10 to 13 where students can also study PE to GCSE and A level. The school makes extensive use of sports coaches, for example, from Bath Rugby Club.

There is a very wide range of sporting extra-curricular activities and Somervale School has an enviable record in winning numerous leagues and competitions.

The school was awarded the prestigious Sports England Sportsmark Award in recognition of the very wide range of activities on offer and the high standards achieved. There are regular inter-tutor competitions.

The PE Department also looks to develop students through leadership programmes. A high proportion of Year 10 students, are involved in the Sports Leader Award. Somervale students also help organise festivals and run training sessions for children from local primary schools. Our School Sports Co-ordinator (SSCO) runs numerous festivals and competitions with our partner primary schools.

Somervale understands the importance of recognising and celebrating success throughout the academic year and this culminates in a prestigious sports awards dinner where numerous awards are distributed.



"The wide range of extra-curricular activities helps students to interact with each other across the age range."

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Midsomer Norton Sixth Form

new vision bright future

The majority of students choose to stay at the school to continue their Post-16 studies across the Partnership at the Midsomer Norton Sixth Form.

The Sixth Form students have the opportunity to experience the greater freedom of Sixth Form life as well as a wide range of over 40 courses at both the Norton Hill and Somervale sites. They can also take advantage of excellent facilities across both campuses, such as the fantastic media suite, Sixth Form library, extensive ICT facilities and our new Sixth Form Centres at both sites. We opened the brand new 3000 sq ft state of the art Sixth Form Centre on the Norton Hill site in May 2014. This large facility has dedicated rooms and study areas solely for Sixth Form use. Students can 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 when entering the world of work. Additionally, as part of our work as the Gifted and Talented Lead School, students can opt to take part in a separate Oxbridge preparation process. Our partnership with Corpus Christi and the University College Cambridge helps to maximise students' chances of successful applications. We also offer students the opportunity to take part in our Russell Group preparation programme which supports students in preparing for application to the top universities in the country. We are also a Harvard partner school and are experienced in supporting students in this process.

Cambridge Pre-U Diploma

Cambridge
Pre-U

This course is designed to offer students a linear approach to study with opportunities for more in-depth analysis. The programme has been identified by the top Russell Group of Universities as the ideal preparation for study at their institutions, and is the only Sixth Form to offer the Cambridge Pre-U in the area.

Business Career Academy

Students who are interested in a career in Business can enrol in the Business Academy. As part of their preparation to be the business leaders of the future, they receive master classes from local and national business leaders. They also have a mentor from the business world who meets them regularly.

"The Sixth Form is good. Students make good progress as a result of good or better teaching.

Students are provided with a rich curriculum that meets their needs and aspirations well."

"The federation is used well to provide good breadth and a wide range of subjects. Students are provided with good information, advice and guidance about Post-16 courses."

Ofsted







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