



# The North Halifax Grammar School

## ***Background Information***

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### **1. Calderdale**

The Metropolitan Borough of Calderdale nestles along the eastern flanks of the Pennines. The borough was created in 1974 and currently has a population of about 190,000. Halifax is the largest town and administrative centre. Hebden Bridge, Brighouse and Todmorden are the other major towns in the borough.

Calderdale is a delight with majestic, open moorlands overlooking deep wooded valleys. The industrial legacy of textiles and engineering provides a fascinating heritage for the area. The splendid natural beauty of Hardcastle Craggs sits alongside the busy curio shops and restaurants at historic Hebden Bridge. The bordering 'Bronte Country' to the north and 'Summer Wine Country' to the south boasts a wealth of interesting places to delight the rambler, mountain-biker, rock-climber, bird-watcher, canal-lover, amateur historian and day visitor.

Halifax itself has wonderful historic buildings (the Piece Hall and Halifax Minster), an indoor market, modern shops and entertainment for all ages from variety at the Victoria Theatre to many clubs and pubs for the young at heart.

The M62 runs through the south of the borough connecting Manchester (40 minutes) to Leeds (30 minutes). These two regional capitals are also linked by rail through Halifax. Two airports, Manchester and Leeds-Bradford are also easily accessible. Metropolitan shops and entertainment are readily available at Leeds and Manchester, as are the natural delights of the Peak District and Yorkshire Dales National Parks.

There is a wide variety of housing in town and country locations. Prices are reasonable and below the national average.

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### **2. The North Halifax Grammar School**

The North Halifax Grammar School is a successful, high-performing selective school. The school was formed in 1985 with the amalgamation of the Highlands School and the Princess Mary School. In its 25 year history it has established a well-deserved reputation for high academic standards and concern for the development of the individual.

The school is an 11-18 co-educational grammar school. It operates joint admissions arrangements with the Crossley Heath School. A minimum of 310 students are admitted each year (155 to each school) based on their performance in admissions tests in verbal reasoning, Mathematics and English. Currently there are 1145 students on roll with 362 in the Sixth Form.

The school became a foundation school in September 1999, so that the Governing Body is the owner of the buildings and site, employer of the staff and the admissions authority for the school. The school became an Academy on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2011.

The school was inspected in December 2007. Following that inspection the school was re-designated as a Specialist Science School for a further three years and as a High Performing Specialist School in Languages from April 2009. The most recent inspection was in January 2011 and the school was judged to be 'Outstanding' overall. In February 2011 the school governors took the decision to apply for Academy status and this process has now begun with a view to completion by June 2011.

The school's motto is Living to Learn Learning to Live. All activities in the school promote and facilitate opportunities for students to learn how to learn and lead full and successful lives.

NHGS operates a Smoke Free Policy for all its employees. This applies to the buildings and associated grounds within the immediate vicinity of the buildings which are wholly owned by the Governors of the school.

**The North Halifax Grammar School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and applicants must be willing to undergo child protection screening appropriate to the post, including checks with past employers and the Criminal Records Bureau. All staff have a responsibility to ensure the safeguarding of children and are expected to share the school's commitment to providing a secure and supportive environment in which children can develop and grow into mature and responsible people.**

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### 3. The Curriculum

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The working week is based on a cycle of five one hour lessons. The curriculum is broad, balanced and offers the same opportunities to all students.

Students are placed in one of the five tutor groups on entry to the school and these act as teaching groups for most subjects in Years 7-8 (the Lower School). There is some setting for core subjects in Year 8 and above.

In year 7 students follow a common curriculum of Art, Drama/Library, English, French, Geography, History, Information and Communications Technology, Mathematics, Music, PE, Personal, Social, Citizenship, Health and Enterprise Education, RE, Science and Technology.

In year 8, all students are introduced to German or Spanish, and Latin, and there is the opportunity to continue to study these languages in year 9 and beyond, in addition to French. The other subjects studied in Year 7 continue in year 8.

In the Upper School (Years 9 to 11) students are placed in one of six tutor groups. The average teaching group size is lower (c 26) in the Upper School. In Years 10 and 11, students follow a core curriculum of GCSE courses in, English Language and Literature, a Modern Foreign Language (French, German or Spanish), Mathematics and Science, a full course in ICT and non-examination courses in P.E., PSCHEE and Careers education.

In Science, all students take Science and Additional Science GCSE, while some take Biology, Chemistry and Physics as separate sciences.

Students also take three GCSE options chosen from Art, Astronomy, Geography, Geology, a second Modern Foreign Language, History, Latin, Psychology, Technology (Food, Graphics, Resistant Materials and Textiles), RE, PE, Music and separate sciences.

All students have a week's work experience in year 11.

In the Sixth Form, all students will take four or five AS levels in year 12 and at least three A2 subjects in year 13. The subjects currently offered are:

Art	Food Technology	Mathematics (in all its forms)
Biology	French	Media Studies
Business Studies	General Studies	Music
Chemistry	Geography	Philosophy
Design and Technology	Geology	Photography
Economics	German	Physical Education
Electronics	Government and Politics AS	Physics
English Language	History	Psychology
English Literature	Human Biology	Sociology
Film Studies AS	ICT	
	Latin	

In Year 12 all students follow a Progression Module and in Year 13 a non-examination course in PSCHEE is also compulsory.

The vast majority of students leaving the Sixth Form continue their education at University and the remainder enter employment with further training.

Students are well-motivated and respond well to effective teaching. A wide range of extra-curricular activities and experiences enables students to develop talents and abilities in PE, drama, music and games. Training, conferences and events are also organised, throughout the school, to promote their personal and social development.

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#### **4. Student Support**

The school is divided into three sections – the Lower School (years 7-8); Upper School (years 9-11) and Sixth Form (years 12-13). Heads of Section lead teams of Year Heads and tutors who are responsible for the monitoring, progress and day-to-day support of students. Staff work closely with parents in encouraging students to reach their potential. The school has developed close links with primary schools, the police, the local community and employers.

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#### **5. General Information**

NHGS has an active Parents' Association, and an experienced, supportive, non-political Governing Body.

Completed application forms, together with a letter in support of the application, should be sent to the Headteacher, Ms P Robbins, The Personnel Manager, The North Halifax Grammar School, Illingworth, Halifax, HX2 9SU. Tel (01422) 244625, Fax (01422) 245237. Email: [mail@nhgs.co.uk](mailto:mail@nhgs.co.uk)