Bradley Stoke Community School

Bradley Stoke Community School is a 4-18 all through school in South Gloucestershire with 1200 students on roll. The school was a brand new school in 2005, serving the catchment of Bradley Stoke, which did not previously have a secondary school, and added a Post 16 phase in 2010 and opened the Primary phase, starting with Reception aged children, in September of this year.
The school boasts some state of the art facilities in the Sport, Performing Arts and Product Design (Design Technology) areas and has had the benefit of recruiting a staff body from scratch, including an award winning non-teaching student support team and an excellent ethos of high quality teaching.
The intake of the school is comprehensive and we are proud to be a fully inclusive school, having excellent facilities to support those students with physical disabilities, and providing well-resourced learning support within the school. Our examination outcomes are consistently above national outcomes, with English being a particular strength of the school and a high percentage of post 16 students go on to university courses and further education. We foster our values of being Responsible, Reflective, Resilient and Resourceful in all of our learning and across the curriculum.

Science

At present science is taught by 9 full time members of staff. Students experience 5 one hour lessons per two week cycle of 50 periods at KS3 (Yrs7-8), 9 hours at KS4 (Yrs 9-11) and 10 hours at KS5 (Yrs 12-13). We also have three specialist science technicians who are also employed full time for the preparation of lesson materials.

The curriculum currently comprises of a bespoke KS3 curriculum which spans the first two years and is designed into key topic areas covering all aspects of the three core sciences. These topic areas are themed to provide a contextualised learning environment and promote external links and an understanding of the wider world.

At KS4 all students study the three separate sciences through the Edexcel exam board; Biology, Chemistry and Physics. The course is split up in to modules to allow students to develop and secure their knowledge and understanding of each of the three sciences in stages before moving on to the next developing module. Examinations are sat in each of the science disciplines at the point of certification, the summer of Year 11. Students have one designated teacher for the entirety of their KS4 Science education, and as a result staff know the learning needs of their groups incredibly. This ensures for clear personalised learning and allows staff to offer prompt, targeted support when needed. The one teacher will teach all three science subjects.

At A level we offer the three traditional subjects of Biology, Chemistry and Physics, these courses are accredited through the OCR examination board. We also offer the Level 3 Applied Science programme, again accredited through Edexcel.

The Science Department encourages a practical approach to enquiry and learning. Students are asked to question the world around them and then prove or find out for themselves just how things work. Learning is fun and exciting, as well as being individually challenging. Students are given opportunities to use and apply their understanding of key scientific ideas, either on their own or with others, and to carry out extended investigative work. Students reflect on their learning by self-evaluation of topics, and end of topic tests are set regularly. We have invested heavily in electronic resources to supplement the teaching and learning experience for all students. This includes ‘Exploring Science’, Edexcel Active Teach and other subject specific software, accessible remotely

through the school learning platform. The students also have access to PDAs and data logging equipment.

Accommodation comprises of seven good sized, well equipped, modern teaching laboratories. All laboratories are fully setup with gas, electricity and water utilities and storage space, four of the laboratories also have fume cupboards. All laboratories have electronic interactive whiteboards installed. There is a prep room with sliding chemical stores and a staff office area with desk space for each member of staff. There is also a designated room in the Post 16 centre with water and electricity for A level teaching and learning.

Computing and IT

The Computing and IT Department comprises a team of five experienced teachers who have successfully delivered a wide range of technical and multimedia-based courses.

We are proud to offer a broad and balanced curriculum that gives students the opportunity to learn across three key subject domains: computer science, information technology and digital literacy. The subject has evolved over the last few years to incorporate computer science elements into the curriculum, whilst considering software skills and awareness of the impact of IT on the wider world to be just as important in order to create a well-rounded and digitally literate student.

The department is well-resourced, with five dedicated ICT suites for teaching and a bespoke curriculum network, and computer systems, to support practical, lab-based, learning.

In Key Stage 3 students follow a bespoke curriculum that develops a wide-range of skills that draw on concepts and skills required for our Key Stage 4 courses. For example, Year 9 students complete a unit centred on the old-fashioned text adventure computer games. It is designed to develop both students' descriptive writing skills as well as learning to write algorithms in Python.

Key Stage 4 students can opt to study a GCSE in Computer Science, where they build on their prior learning in Key Stage 3 and develop their programming craft. Students are expected to be able to create original solutions from scratch to an exam board specification. Alternatively, students can complete a multimedia qualification from The Learning Machine (www.theingots.org) and students complete five multimedia focused units of work and sit one exam.

At Key Stage 5 we offer two courses to Post16 students. The first is an A Level in Computing, which focuses on the fundamentals of computer science and software engineering. Students complete one extended programming task and sit two exams to test their understanding and knowledge of computer hardware, data structures and algorithms. The additional course that is offered is a BTEC Level 3 qualification in IT, which comprises of six units of coursework (no exam), and is practically focused, enabling students to undertake the role of computer technicians or multimedia designers, depending on the preference and ability of the cohort.

Mathematics

Mathematics at Bradley Stoke comprises of teaching at all key stages from Key Stage 3 through to Key Stage 5, including Further Maths at A level. The department is fully staffed with eight full time Maths specialists and includes a suite of specialist rooms equipped with

interactive whiteboards and a variety of other specialist Maths resources, as well as a dedicated workroom for the Maths staff team.

The curriculum at Key Stage 3 is focussed on teaching for understanding and developing a mastery in key mathematical concepts. Students have 6 hours a cycle and classes tend to be set.

At Key Stage 4 students are prepared for the new specification of GCSE with a Free Standing Maths Qualification, offered to the most able students, in order to further the transition to Advanced Level. Students have 8 hours a cycle and classes are set.

At Post 16, the department offer AS and A levels in both Maths and Further Maths, taking students from across the Concorde Partnership of schools. Take up at Post 16 continues to be high with many students electing to study Maths at AS level and beyond.

In addition to the Maths teaching, extra-curricular opportunities for students to further their mathematical understanding are offered through enrichment clubs, support sessions and participation in both the individual and team UKMT maths challenges.

English

The BSCS English team co-teach language and literature at Key Stage 3 and 4. We have just re-designed our Year 7-9 curriculum, modelling it on the new GCSE courses, to include a strong emphasis on grammar and more challenging texts.

In Years 10 and 11 we set holistically, looking at attainment, progress and behaviour. We usually create a top set, a nurture/ SEN group and several mixed ability single gender groupings. We are currently teaching the Eduqas legacy specification to our Year 11 cohort and the reformed AQA specification to our Year 10 cohort.

At KS5 we teach both English Language and English Literature.

Once a fortnight, students in KS3 use the library for a reading lesson and we have close links with the Media team, utilising the TV studio and green screen when appropriate. We also have strong links with the Drama team and incorporate performance and explorative drama into our lessons.

Product Design

We have a suite of dedicated rooms for PD – Computer Aided Design (PCs), Textiles, two Resistant Materials rooms and two Food Technology rooms. We also have a small Post 16 room. These are bright and well equipped.
There are 6 members of staff and one FT and one PT technician. One member of staff leads on the UWE PGCE course.

KS3
Groups are around 24 and mixed ability. They follow a project based curriculum which is delivered across the specialism by one teacher in Years 7 and 8. In year 9 the specialisms are taught by specialist teachers.

KS4
PD is a popular subject and usually commands one Textiles (offered as an Art and Design qualification), two Resistant Materials and two Catering groups in Years 10 and 11. Results are very good.

KS5
All courses are offered through the Concorde Partnership. Textiles (offered as an Art and Design qualification) is shared with Patchway Community College. Resistant Materials is delivered at BSCS. Food is a new course beginning in 2015. The courses are popular and successful.

Bristol Technology and Engineering Academy

Bristol Technology and Engineering Academy opened in 2013 and is the only University Technical College in the West of England. We specialise in engineering and receive significant support from a range of organisations including GKN Aerospace, Airbus, Rolls Royce, The Royal Navy and UWE.

Our students start with us at the beginning of Year 10 and study both academic and high quality vocational courses complimented with a number of employer supported projects. At KS5 the employer projects are directly linked to units within BTEC Engineering, which students study alongside A-Levels in Maths, Science and Product Design.

All students work towards a Bronze, Silver or Gold Award in our 'QED' Passport – Qualities Employers Demand. This also contributes to the Duke of York Award for Technical Education which only UTC students are eligible for.

Engineering/Design and Technology
Within the Engineering, D&T and Computer Science faculty at KS4 we currently deliver compulsory OCR Cambridge Nationals in Engineering alongside GCSE options in Resistant Materials, Electronic Products, Graphic Products and Computer Science. At KS5 students can choose to study BTEC Nationals in Engineering as well as A-Level Product Design (Graphic Products or Resistant Materials). We have 4 fully equipped workshops including a wide range of modern manual and CNC machines. These include a suite of Boxford mills, router, lathe, plasma and laser cutter. We also have a heat treatment area as well as a range of cutting, forming, welding and surface grinding equipment in our fabrication area. As part of our ICT and CAD provision we use Autodesk Inventor in 3 computer rooms, each equipped with a 3D printer.

Mathematics
The Mathematics department comprises five specialist Mathematics teachers, and lessons are taught in dedicated Mathematics classrooms.

Mathematics pathways at BTEA:
Year 12 and 13:
•GCSE:
Students starting at the Bristol Technology and Engineering Academy in September 2015 who have a D or less in their GCSE will study a GCSE resit programme in year 12, studying the Edexcel linear course.

•Core Mathematics:
Students starting at the Bristol Technology and Engineering Academy in September 2015 who have a C in their GCSE will study ' Core Maths :Mathematics in Context ', which will give them a level 3 qualification equivalent to an AS in Mathematics, but involving a more problem solving approach than the traditional AS.

•AS and A2 Mathematics:
Students starting at the Bristol Technology and Engineering Academy in September 2015 who have a B or above in their GCSE will follow the Edexcel AS course in their first year and, providing they are successful, will complete the full A Level in their second year.
The AS course comprises 3 modules. Two of these are followed by all students and are entitled Core 1 (C1) and Core 2 (C2)
The third AS module will be Mechanics 1 (M1).
In Year 13 Students continuing on to A Level study three more modules in their second year, two of which are again compulsory - these are entitled Core 3 (C3) and Core 4 (C4). The final module will be Mechanics 1 as Statistics 1 was studied in Year 12.
At the end of the year students sit a 1.5 hour exam in each module.

•AS and A2 Further Mathematics:
Over the 2 years this involves the study of 6 more modules and provides a second A level qualification in Mathematics. This course is suitable only for students achieving an A or A* at GCSE.

In additional lessons students take: Further Pure 1, Decision 1 and Decision 2 in Year 12 and: Further Pure 2, Mechanics 2 and Further Pure 3 in Year 13.
•Year 10 and 11
All students follow the Higher level GCSE Edexcel linear course, which is examined after two years.

In addition the top sets will study the AQA Further Mathematics qualification.

Science
The Science faculty at BTE Academy comprises of 4 fully equipped Science Labs and a Prep Room. We have seven members in our team, 6 teachers and a lab technician.

At KS4 every teacher teaches Chemistry, Biology and Physics to students who are either studying Double or Triple Science. We currently follow the Edexcel specification at KS4.
At KS5 we offer A-Levels in Chemistry, Biology and Physics as well as BTEC Qualifications in Environmental Sustainability and Applied Science.

Teachers generally teach their specialist subjects at KS5. We follow the OCR specification for all of our A-Level subjects and the Edexcel BTC qualification for our vocational courses.

Patchway Community College

Patchway Community College is a 16-19 academy with approximately 650 students.

We are committed to securing the highest standards of education and care for our students within an inclusive learning environment. We focus on the success of the individual and strive to equip every student with the skills for learning and their future success. We have developed a broad and balanced curriculum supported by some personalised provision and interventions. We have actively developed opportunities for student leadership and participation partly through our house system. Positive relationships and team work are central to our college community; this includes working with parents to support student learning and wellbeing. We also work hard to sustain an environment in which everyone is happy, cared for and safe. Finally we continue to foster dynamic relationships with the local community, schools and organisations.

We deliver some of our KS4 our post 16 curriculum through collaboration with 3 other secondary schools and an FE college within the Concorde Partnership.

The college has a challenging socio-economic context, but this is not reflected by our FSM level of 19%; in many families both parents work long hours in low paid employment and claim a working tax credit so do not access benefits such as FSM. A high proportion of our students' parents have not accessed higher education. Overall students' attainment on entry is below national expectations. Approximately half of our students live within the Patchway Priority Neighbourhood ward, one of the most deprived wards in South Gloucestershire and in the second most deprived quintile nationally.

English

The English team have developed a range of exciting learning opportunities and plays a central role in the life of the college. English are a very strong and supportive team who believe in delivering the best possible curriculum for all of the students in our care.

There are 7 specialist teachers in the English team. English is taught in its own block, which is adjacent to the library.

At post 16 A level English Language, English Literature and Media Studies are taught. At GCSE, all pupils take English Language and English Literature. Pupils entering KS3 in Year 7 at Level 3 are given a catch up program within English time, incorporating targeted literacy work with small classes and support. Pupils in Years 8 through to 11 are taught in broad bands.

The English team is supportive, talented, hardworking and committed to learning. It has a culture of improvement at its heart, both in terms of improving pupil performance and of continually improving the delivery of learning and the curriculum.

Design Technology

The DT team are very proactive and supportive and work well together to develop schemes of work and new ideas. There is also an emphasis on engagement in the team with staff actively using their roles in school to promote student welfare and enjoyment.

There are 3 full-time specialist teachers in the DT team. There is also a dedicated DT Technician. Design Technology is delivered in its own suite of rooms including two workshops, textiles rooms, ICT suite, Catering room, and two classrooms. In addition, there is a large breakout open area for students to use as well as a staff workroom.

At GCSE and A Level textiles, product design and catering are delivered. At KS3, students also have the opportunity to experience the full breadth of the DT curriculum.

The department prides itself on strong business links, including working with BAE, Airbus, Rolls Royce, Atkins, and EE (Orange) over many years. There is a strong ethos of enterprise in the team, with students setting up their own businesses in conjunction with support from the Real Ideas Organisation. This has also involved significant involvement with school events such as Fusion Festival.

Abbeywood Community School

Abbeywood Community School looks forward to a promising future. The school has gone from strength to strength, recently achieving record GCSE and A level results demonstrating the impressive and significant progress that has taken place throughout the school. Abbeywood Community School is amongst the most improved secondary schools in the whole of the Bristol area. Our aim is for Abbeywood to become the school of choice for local families, offering an exceptional learning experience for all students. The staff are committed to providing students with an inspiring and stimulating learning environment in which they can all succeed, achieve and excel. Abbeywood Community School has established itself in its state-of-the-art new building, providing students with stunning learning and recreational facilities, complemented by a new ethos, culture and a clear focus on rigour and attainment. Students are encouraged to have high aspirations and to believe in their own ability. This is encouraged both within the classroom and through our growing number of opportunities beyond the classroom.

All students in Years 7-13 receive a broad, balanced and dynamic curriculum. Learning is personalised to meet the full age and ability range and there are two 'pathway' processes in Years 9 and 11 when students select their academic route and options linked to their skills, interests and future ambitions.

Despite a changing landscape in terms of educational provision and Government directive, we remain committed to providing a school experience that parents and students will recognise but also one that will prepare students for life in the 21st Century. Our iLearn curriculum in Year 7 is central to this pulling together key learning opportunities from a number of subjects and offering students the chance to develop their skills as learners, team players while reflecting on how we think and learn.

We embrace the need for academic rigour ensuring that students who are potential English Baccalaureate candidates know what this involves and the benefits it can bring. Equally, we offer a broad range of courses and qualifications that will prepare students for further study at Post 16 and beyond.

It is our expectation that every student will continue in full time education or employment related training until the age of 18. We interview every Year 9 and Year 11 student and work hard to develop a personalised pathway for their progression route through to Key Stage 4 or Key Stage 5. For the vast majority, this means making Abbeywood their home centre for Key Stage 4 but for Post 16 studies but we can offer even greater variety by studying some courses in other centres within the Concorde Partnership.

South Gloucestershire and Stroud College

Within our Sixth Form Centre we deliver over 20 academic subjects covering Maths, Science, English, Humanities and Business. We deliver these subjects across our GCSE (KS4), AS and A2 (KS5) programmes. In additional to these academic courses we also deliver a suite of vocation level 2 and 3 BTEC qualifications, thus providing students with wide variety of choices to suit their specific career pathways.

As a recognised STEM centre we are able to offer outstanding facilities and students have access to state of the art laboratories; we deliver biology, chemistry, physics, and maths across all programmes and have recently started to deliver Applied Science and Core Mathematics at AS. With technology playing an ever-increasing role in today's society, we also offer AS and A2 Computing; this is also delivered on our vocational programmes, giving

us vital access to the latest facilities and software. Our teaching staff draw their experiences from education, but perhaps as importantly, industry and commerce.

There are nearly 1300 students in the Faculty of Academic Studies and we have a rich and diverse cohort of learners. Our broad curriculum offer not only makes SGS an excellent place for learners to study, but also, an ideal placement for someone starting out in teaching. For the last decade we have supported scores of PGCE students, giving them access to outstanding mentors, and almost without exception, ensuring they successfully secure their first teaching post.