




CHELTENHAM
COLLEGE

Welcoming international pupils



"Being at College has been incredibly enjoyable and has taught me how to be a more independent person. The atmosphere is so welcoming and I have made so many lifelong friends."

Current pupil, Thailand

A warm welcome



We recognise that choosing a school far away from home is not always easy. We hope this brochure will help you understand what international pupils can expect from their time at College and give you an overview of life in our vibrant community.

Built in 1841, Cheltenham College was the first of the great British Victorian boarding schools and we are immensely proud of our heritage. What makes us special however, is our successful blend of tradition with a dynamic, forward-thinking education. We prepare our pupils to gain the very best examination results, to attend the top universities and to achieve great things in the competitive modern world. We prepare

them to be culturally open-minded and responsible young people who are confident but never arrogant, who are patient and polite and who strive to excel themselves while applauding the success of others.

College provides a true English education but with a strong international outlook, both in terms of pupils at the school as well as the universities for which we prepare them. We are proud of our cultural diversity and the breadth of experience this provides to pupils from overseas and the UK alike. We have around 100 international pupils representing over 30 countries – a community big enough for them never to feel isolated, but nonetheless small enough for us to remain a quintessentially British boarding school.



What it's like being an international pupil at College?

In general, life is no different for international pupils than for those from the UK. The vast majority of our pupils board seven days a week and all international pupils join a boarding House community of around 65 pupils spanning all year groups.

We understand that international pupils will, from time to time, experience homesickness, culture shock and language difficulties. At College we pride ourselves on our warm, understanding and inclusive community. There is always someone to turn to, whether it be a fellow pupil trained in mentoring, a member of staff or a member of our International Pupil Society. All pupils have a Housemaster or Housemistress as well as a tutor who are responsible for their academic, pastoral and social welfare.

The Head of the English as an Additional Language (EAL) department and other members of the EAL teaching staff are additional points of contact and support.

Within each House, the weekend activities programme is full and varied, ensuring there is rarely a moment where pupils could feel lonely or bored. Academic results are, of course, absolutely paramount, but to get the best from College, all pupils arrive keen to embrace and contribute to all aspects of school life.

"The school food is much better than I expected. I especially like the fact that every term we have days themed around the food from different countries. Another special thing about this school is that we do sports every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday and activities every Monday and Wednesday after lessons, so we can learn more than just from textbooks."

Current pupil, Hong Kong



Academic support

Excellent exam results are crucial and open doors in the world beyond school. In Fourth and Fifth Form, up to the age of 16, pupils follow a 9/10 subject GCSE curriculum. Following this in Sixth Form, up to the age of 18, they follow the British A Level curriculum, embarking on three or four subjects plus an Extended Project Qualification (EPQ). Our academic programme is carefully balanced to enable pupils to access the top universities worldwide and embark on their onward careers. Once entry tests are successfully passed, our only stipulation is that all pupils join us with a good enough command of English to be able to access the curriculum.

Our curriculum is, however, flexible enough to enable us to cater for those pupils whose English needs additional support to reach their full academic potential. The EAL department helps such pupils to develop both their English language skills and confidence. Language support takes place in small groups as well as individual lessons and is tailored to address each individual's needs and any areas of weakness. In certain cases we may recommend that this is in place of one or more modern European languages. We develop each of the main skill areas – speaking, reading, writing and listening – while also helping pupils to understand specific subject-based terminology and language. Study skills and examination techniques are also included in support lessons.

In addition to the usual curriculum examinations, we offer preparation for the IELTS examination and on occasion, Cambridge ESOL suite examinations. More information on this can be found on our website:

www.cheltenhamcollege.org/EAL

International induction

Starting a new school, especially one in a new country, can be a little daunting. We want our international pupils to settle in, make friends and find their feet as quickly as possible. To facilitate this we offer an International Pupil Induction programme to help international pupils integrate into life at College. The residential programme takes place immediately prior to the start of the academic year and we strongly encourage all non-native English speakers to attend. It includes a mixture of lessons, activities, trips and social events as well as library and ICT inductions. Sessions are offered on linguistic issues, such as coping with unknown vocabulary, note-taking and study skills in preparation for the academic demands of the curriculum. The programme also gives pupils the opportunity to familiarise themselves with College life, from our traditions and history to timetables and the College campus.



"What's special about College is the huge variety of opportunities it offers and the fact that being an overseas student is no different to being a non-overseas student. After being here for three years, I can say that College has certainly changed me for the better. I am now much more confident, decisive and independent. Compared with my previous school, there is a much greater sense of community, there are more types of sport to choose from and there is more of an opportunity to develop leadership skills. It would be impossible to count the number of opportunities I have had, but the Combined Cadet Force trip really stands out in my memory."

Current pupil, Germany



International Pupil Society

Within the College community we also run an International Pupil Society, giving international pupils their own voice and helping raise their profile within the pupil body as a whole. Each year, the Society organises a number of social events including a welcome evening and the popular annual International Dinner where international and UK guest pupils come together to celebrate the cultural diversity of our community.

The Society also ensures that key dates, such as festivals and national days, are recognised at College and that international pupils are well represented through participation in Chapel and assemblies.

*"My life at College is amazing!
Before I arrived I was very nervous
and scared but now that I am here, I feel
much happier than I ever thought possible.
The teachers are really nice and very
patient with international pupils."*

Current pupil, China

Applying for a place

The majority of pupils are admitted to College at 13+ into our Third Form (Year 9) and around 30 new pupils are admitted each year at 16+ into the Sixth Form.

Many international pupils choose to join us for Sixth Form only as this provides a good platform from which to gain entry to premier universities, both in the UK and worldwide. Others, however, recognise that the full value of a UK education is best gained via entry at younger ages. This decision is a personal one and, space permitting, we welcome pupils from all over the world at both 13+ and 16+, with a limited number of places also available at 14+. International applicants follow the same procedures for entry as pupils based in the UK and we advise early registration to secure a place.

International pupils will be asked to sit entrance papers in order to demonstrate that they have the academic potential and English language level required to access the courses on offer at College. In all cases, admission is subject not only to passing the necessary entrance tests, but also receipt of satisfactory references from the pupil's present school. We also ask that pupils visit College on at least one occasion prior to receiving a confirmed place offer. Not only does this enable us to meet them but more importantly, it gives pupils the opportunity to get a feel for College. We will often set up an informal interview with the Head of EAL during the pupil's visit to College.

Further details about how to apply can be found both in our Admissions and Information booklet and on our website: www.cheltenhamcollege.org. We are also happy to discuss matters personally with you over the telephone or by email.



Entrance papers

Full details can be found in the Admissions and Information booklet but, in addition to the normal entrance papers, we ask non-native English speakers to sit an EAL paper. This includes an online proficiency test and a written English language test set by the Head of EAL. The results of these tests may be added to those of other exams taken and help us to determine whether a pupil will be able to cope with studying College's challenging academic curriculum in a second language. Whilst every pupil is treated as an individual, we generally look for a minimum of a B1 on the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) for 13+ entry; a high B1, preferably B2, for 14+ entry; and a high B2 or C1 for 16+ entry. Occasionally we will accept a mid B2 level for entry into the Lower Sixth if the pupil is planning to study Maths and Sciences and scores well on these subject papers.

Visas

Some pupils may require a Tier 4 Student Visa in order to be able to study in the UK. While it is the responsibility of parents to determine whether or not their child needs such a visa (and to apply for it), the College Admissions Office will be happy to provide the required Certificate of Acceptance for Study (CAS) to enable parents to do this, once a place has been formally accepted. The CAS is issued, on request from either parents or agents, in the Summer Term prior to entry and can be used by parents when making a visa application. Further details regarding visas and entry into the UK may be obtained from www.gov.uk/child-study-visa. As immigration and visa rules can be quite complex, we do encourage parents to read this thoroughly if they suspect that a visa might be required.

Guardians

In common with pupils from the UK, international pupils whose parents are not resident in the UK are asked to have a legal guardian resident in the UK. Guardians have an important role to play in the life of an international pupil and choosing one should be carefully thought through. A guardian acts in 'loco parentis' and, as such, ensures that all our overseas boarders are well cared for whilst they are in the UK. Guardians will need to assist with such things as travel arrangements, providing accommodation over exeat weekends or when it is not practical to return home or, should the need arise, in emergencies.

A good guardian goes beyond this however, providing a service to both the pupil and the school by taking a genuine interest in pupil welfare and liaising regularly with the school. This ensures that their charges get the most out of their education and their time in the UK. It also ensures that overseas parents can feel confident that their child is safe and well cared for at all times during their time in the UK.

Guardians may be friends or family who are happy to do this. Alternatively, they may be a third party approved by a recognised agency. In all cases, they must be over 25 years of age and resident in the UK. Further details of our Guardianship policy can be found on our website: www.cheltenhamcollege.org/college-policies
Additional guidance may be found at: www.aegisuk.net

Next steps

The College Admissions Office is responsible for all aspects of registration, entry, scholarships and visa application procedures. We are always happy to assist with any additional questions and can be contacted either by telephone: **00 44 1242 265662**, or if you prefer, by email: admissions@cheltenhamcollege.org. More information can also be found on the Admissions section of our website: www.cheltenhamcollege.org/admissions





CHELtenham
COLLEGE

Cheltenham College
Bath Road
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL53 7LD

Tel: +44 (0) 1242 265 600
Fax: +44 (0) 1242 265 630
Email: admissions@cheltenhamcollege.org
www.cheltenhamcollege.org

Registered Charity No. 311720