

REPORT

Introduction

The main object of this report is to give a general overview of the British school system and in particular its high schools. To prepare for this report on the 5th of February we went to visit Glenmoor and Winton Academies in Bournemouth, a city in Dorset, a region in the south of England. Here we interviewed 6 students, who gave us a tour of the school. Thanks to their answers we managed to gather information on the school system and students' school day.



The building

Glenmoor and Winton Academies are made up of several buildings and each one is dedicated to one or two school subjects or activities. There are a lot of large playgrounds and well-equipped labs where students can learn various skills such as cooking, sewing or industrial design.

The school system

The school we visited is a secondary school, this means that the youngest students are 11/12 years old and are in Year 7; in the first four years everyone studies the same compulsory subjects. Starting from year 11, students can choose different pathways and study a combination of optional subjects while still doing the four compulsory ones (Maths, Science, English and Ethics (Religion)).

At the end of Year 11, at the age of 16, students must sit the General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE). After this school is no longer mandatory but teenagers must stay in the education system until they are 18, either in the mode of apprenticeship where they learn a job or the pupil continuing schooling known as sixth form and sit the A-levels.

School life



According to the people we interviewed, their usual school day is structured a bit differently to ours. Lessons usually start at 8.30 am, they have a 15 minute break after a couple of hours. At lunch time they eat in the school canteen, the younger students leave school after period 4 while the older ones have a fifth period. All the pupils might have something called period 0, which normally lasts 1 h 15 min that starts before the beginning of the school day. On some afternoons students remain at school to deepen their understanding of one or two subjects.

School trips are not frequent, unless you take subjects like art or history which require you to visit galleries or museums in London.

All the pupils are grouped in houses named after inspirational people like Wilson and Ennis, two famous sports people, Rowling, the author of Harry Potter, and lastly the house called King is named after the activist Martin Luther King and the one named after David Attenborough the popular broadcaster.

Tests and exams



For each subject they have a test every one to two weeks, these tests are old GCSEs to prepare for the real ones that will take place in the school gym. It's impossible to cheat in these tests, students face disqualification for so much as making eye contact with another pupil. Moreover the school gives everyone the materials they'll need to further avoid cheating.

Laboratories

In this school there is a lab for each subject that requires one:

Each laboratory is large enough to accommodate around thirty students. Depending on the subject the laboratory is dedicated to, there are different tools.

Here are some labs:

- The music lab:



In the music lab the students have the possibility to access a variety of instruments, some of which are guitars, keyboards, pianos and drums. There is also a recording room, where the students can create and record their own songs. In this lab they can discover and improve their musical skills.

- The cooking lab:



In the cooking lab the students have the possibility to learn how to cook and discover new recipes from all over the world. It's really a modern room, with counters with a hob, an oven and several shelves. There are also refrigerators, dishwashers, planetary and microwaves.

- The art lab:



In this room pupils, using their creativity, can draw, paint and make art. The walls are decorated with drawings done by students over the years which make the room welcoming and rich in colour.

-The textile lab:



In the textile labs students have the possibility to learn how to sew and how to use different fabrics. In the textile lab there are 6 counters; on each counter there are a sewing machine and various pieces of fabrics. At the end of this course the students will be able to create their own clothes and recognize different material and their unique characteristics.

- The theatre lab:



In the theatre lab the students have the possibility to express themselves and their emotions by creating and acting in their own theatre show. This course doesn't offer the opportunity to learn just how to act: there are also people who learn how to do make-up, costumes and how to manovre lights, microphones and curtains.

- The woodworking lab:



The school also offers a place where students can learn how to make objects or pieces of furniture with wood. This room is equipped with lots of sturdy workbenches that come with vices, saws and other tools useful for woodworking.

- The science lab:



In the science lab the students have the possibility to put into practice their scientific knowledge with interesting experiments. In the laboratory there are 15 stations, where 2 students can work at a time. In every station there is a sink from which comes out very hot water used for the experiments. Furthermore, students must wear protective equipment to work, such as safety glasses or lab coats or gloves to protect themselves from all the substances they will use during the experiments.

- Sports:



Another area used by students during the school week is the playgrounds, the school offers space to practise lots of sports like: football, tennis, basket, rugby, cricket and badminton.

School slogan



This school really cares about the education and motivation of their students, so this is their motto: Act with integrity, speak with compassion, work with courage. The school's motto is a sentence that represents the values in which the school believes and it's a source of inspiration for all the students.

Conclusions

We would strongly recommend this school because it helps you grow as a person and helps you discover your passions by providing you with a wide range of choices. The perfectly equipped labs give you the opportunity to practise and improve your skills.

