



Clifton High School

co-educational nursery pre-school to sixth form

# Strategy 2021-2026



## Curiosity, Empathy, Love, and Direction

The Diamond Edge Model



Realising Individual Brilliance





# Our Context



## Clifton High School

Clifton High School is set in the beautiful surroundings of Clifton, situated in the heart of the village. Our central position in a city that is renowned for its culture and vibrant nature has helped to make Clifton High an exciting and dynamic school that embraces tradition but is unafraid of change.

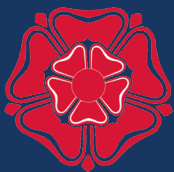
Clifton High School was founded over 140 years ago as a girls' school, and today is a thriving co-educational 3-18 school of around 600 pupils. We pride ourselves on our family ethos, valuing the emotional and personal development of each child as much as the academic; fostering excellent relationships between staff, pupils and parents enabling each pupil to reach their full potential.

Our small class sizes allow for a strong rapport between teachers and pupils, providing encouragement and support to every single child, pupil and student, creating an atmosphere where everyone can develop happily and progress successfully.

“Realising Individual Brilliance” is more than just a catch line for our school. Focusing on the individual child is embedded in everything we aim to do at Clifton High School. Whether it is developing a pupil's passion, catering for individual learning needs, stretching and challenging academic ability, exploring and enjoying sports and outdoor activities or embracing environmental issues, we are proud that the experience a Clifton High education provides is a bespoke offering, with no two pupils taking the same path through school.

Our Diamond Edge Model and focus on academic rigour, combined with outstanding pastoral care, means that the individual is at the centre of our work.





## Our History

Clifton High School was founded in January 1877 as a school for girls by the first Headmaster of Clifton College, John Percival. Along with other visionaries of the time, both male and female, the school was established with a belief in instilling in young people the value of education for life. The School ethos was based on two main principles, that:

The School should not discriminate on the basis of class but should be open to all pupils of good character, without social discrimination

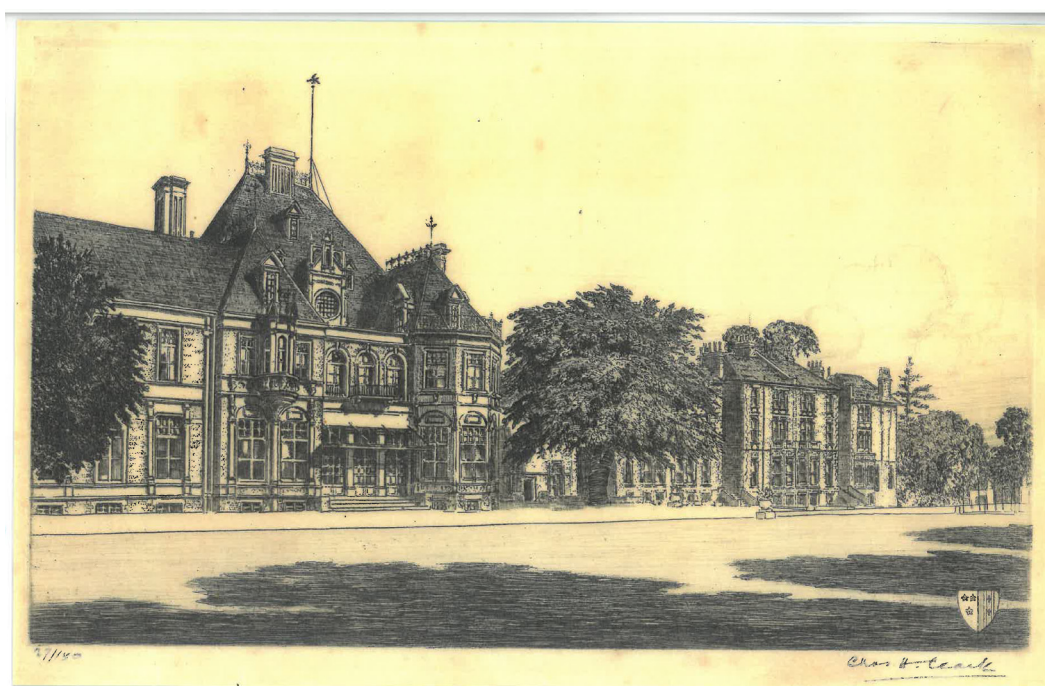
It should be non-denominational, according religious freedom to staff and pupils

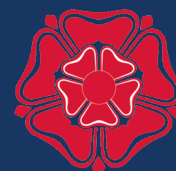
From its earliest days the School was ahead of its time, believing in strong ideals, a nurturing approach and high academic standards. When describing its first Head, Miss Wood, one of the pupils is quoted as saying:

*I don't think many of us forget those inspiring words...when Miss Wood used to take us into her confidence and tell us what she expected us to be rather than to do. It was always the loftiest of ideal, sometimes over our head but it developed leaders and inspired others with a new outlook on life.*

Education at Clifton High remains true to these principles today. We believe that aiming to be curious, empathetic, loving, and having direction in life, all children will grow to do extraordinary things.

Unlike many schools in Bristol, Clifton High was founded, not from a generous endowment or legacy, but from the simple will of a few people to provide a first-class education for children. Without the financial foundations that many schools enjoyed, from its earliest times Clifton High is a School that has had to move with the times, be responsive to change and be dynamic in its approach. It does not stand still and is always looking to the future.





Clifton High originally opened its doors in 1878 at 65 Pembroke Road. Around this time Clifton was at the height of its expansion with the Victoria Rooms, RWA, Christchurch and Whiteladies Road all recently constructed. Within a year of opening its doors the School needed to expand and moved into a large house that had recently been built on College Road. That house is where the school remains today, and makes up the core part of what is now the Main Building, alongside the beautiful beech tree and our newly landscaped school grounds.

In the sixty years following its move significant expansion took place, the original hall was built in 1889 and a new wing added to the original house in 1927. In the mid-1930s the famous tunnel under the road and gymnasium were constructed. During this time the School also expanded into the houses on School Green and into properties on Clifton Park. By 1951 the School site was largely as it is today, enhanced by the purchase of new buildings, a partnership with the University of Bristol to share sports grounds

at Coombe Dingle, and a rolling programme to ensure our school environment meets the needs of all learners.

Although originally established in 1877 as a School for girls aged between seven and seventeen, just ten years later, by 1887, a preparatory class was set-up where boys were soon admitted. In 1994 boys joined the Junior School and in 2008 and 2009 respectively they were welcomed into the Sixth Form and Senior School.

Drawing from its rich history, the School retains the names of its founders in the names of its houses: Woolaston, Winkworth, Pears, and Percival.

At the end of each summer term, the School celebrates the academic year as well as its founding, and bids farewell to Year 13 leavers, with the annual Rose Day service at Bristol Cathedral.





# Aims, Ethos, and Values



Our overarching school aim is simple:

to **realise individual brilliance**

Our small class sizes and focused tutoring allows us to know our pupils in ways not always possible in larger schools. Our **School Ethos** will help to create a community to support this:

*At Clifton High School, we want to ensure that all pupils enjoy learning, see the worth in a holistic education and to try their very best. We want pupils to learn how to deal with success and defeat, and over time to discover their individual brilliance so that they can become passionate in their interests and, consequently, have fulfilling careers, providing the potential to live full and satisfying lives. Our School Ethos will celebrate the individual, in all the ways that we are different and ultimately all the ways each of us is unique. We should be proud of who each of us is; our sex, gender, gender reassignment, age, race, colour, nationality, ethnic or national origin, disability, sexual orientation, religion, faith or other beliefs. Clifton High School's ethos will look to create a safe culture in which our school aim, to realise individual brilliance, can be achieved.*

Our aim and ethos are further supported by four

**key values** which are embedded in our

school community: **Curiosity, Empathy, Love, and Direction**

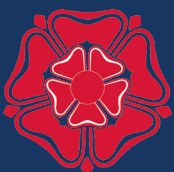


**Curiosity:** From curiosity comes learning, the bedrock of any school. We aim to promote a sense of curiosity in all our young people, to instil a love of learning in all areas of school life, promoting informed questioning and debate alongside self-motivation and the passion to explore new ideas independently.

**Empathy:** You never really understand a person until you consider things from their point of view. We aspire to foster empathy in all our young people which will allow them to operate in a world which is dependent on human interaction and will give them the necessary skills and desire to change the world in positive ways. Empathy is the foundation of kindness and kindness the route to a fulfilling life.

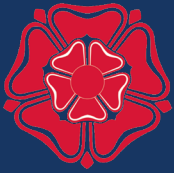
**Love:** Love is the value that makes our relationships better, whether those relationships are with others or with oneself. Love for others means wanting what is good for them and can be achieved more effectively when one has love for oneself, providing self-confidence and resilience to face the challenges in the world. We also celebrate a love for the natural world, encouraging a passion for being outdoors and, consequently, nurturing a desire to preserve our planet for the generations to come.

**Direction:** We value aspiration and achievement in all things, both within and beyond the curriculum. We encourage the highest ambition and personal commitment and aim to support individuals to achieve the goals they set themselves. Having direction gives purpose and drives motivation.





# Strategic Aims



The creation of a culture and community based on our school aim, ethos and values is underpinned by a School strategy which focuses on promoting excellence in six Strategic Areas of School life. For each of these strategic aims, we have set ourselves ambitious goals. The six aims below summarise these ambitions.

- **Raising Expectations and Academic Outcomes**

School Aim 1: *It is our aim to raise the expectations of our teachers and pupils, such that all pupils can achieve their full potential, and improve academic outcomes across the curriculum in each phase of the School.*

- **Mental and Physical wellbeing**

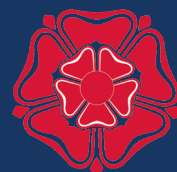
School Aim 2: *The mental and physical wellbeing of each individual is a central focus for our whole community. Through our values of Curiosity, Empathy, Love, and Direction we will look to promote a positive psychology, creating high quality connections with others, focusing on what went well and what we are grateful for, self-compassion and building resilience to allow our children, pupils and students to flourish.*

- **Technology for learning and communicating**

School Aim 3: *The use of technology for learning and communicating has advanced rapidly and we are determined to take full advantage of the benefits this brings for education. Our intention is to move from conservatives, to pragmatists, to visionaries.*



# Strategic Aims



- **The Business of Education**

School Aim 4: *We aim to increase pupil numbers to 630 by 2026 and will work with a collective effort to ensure the quality of education that we provide supports marketing and admissions such that all prospective parents can see how proud we are of our school.*

- **Learning and Teaching**

School Aim 5: *We seek to create lifelong learners who will be prepared for learning beyond school, with the necessary personal skills to thrive in higher, further and continuous education, the workplace and society. Our teaching will aim to support this ambition.*

- **Our Environment**

School Aim 6: *Our School environment will adapt to the needs of all our learners. Clifton High is one of the few schools to have a 'Sustainability Policy' and to have achieved the 'Green Flag' three times! This must be kept in mind when considering all building and refurbishment projects, as well as day-to-day decisions.*







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**The Diamond Edge Model**  **Realising Individual Brilliance**

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