

# Sixth Form

Dauntsey's

Guide book

**“I feel very lucky to be here.  
Right from the beginning I knew  
I had made the right decision”**

## Your Sixth Form

**Your time in the Sixth Form will be the last two years of your school life, so make them the best years. Work hard, play hard – and have fun!**

It's an opportunity to study what interests and excites you in greater depth, so choose subjects you love. It's easier to work hard if you enjoy it.

Not having to sit public exams in the Lower Sixth means more time to spend on what you want to do. Be open minded, try something new and you'll be surprised at what you can achieve. There's drama, expeditions, debate, so many different sports, clubs and activities, academic and sporting trips – the list goes on.

Work definitely steps up several paces from GCSEs so it's important to learn to manage your time and balance study with your other interests. You'll find the closer relationships with staff really helpful. You can rely on their support and advice, whether you're struggling with a tough piece of work or a personal problem. There's a feeling of genuine teamwork.

There is a lively social life too which offers a good opportunity to have a break from A Level study. The 17 Club is the social centre of Sixth Form life, allowing for Upper and Lower Sixth to come together as one. The 17 Club Committee is also responsible for organising social events from a Halloween Party to the Val Ball. There are House Parties and trips too as well as charity fund raising events which are usually great fun – the Farmer House Boules tournament is a notable highlight for example and of course there's sailing on the *Jolie Brise*, as well as DW, Brecons Challenge and the Paris Half Marathon, if you're so inclined.

Don't be shy and don't be afraid to ask for help from anyone – the Sixth Form is a genuinely friendly and positive place to be. If you're new, you'll find a warm welcome, a buddy from your House to show you the ropes and more opportunities than you could have imagined. If you've moved up from the Fifth Form, you have an idea of what to expect – but you should view the Sixth Form as a new beginning; a chance to get involved in something different and to push yourself to try new things and meet new people too.

One final piece of advice and in the words of a friend,  
“Be open minded and put yourself out there!”

**Charles and Annabel**





# Your Sixth Form programme

Unless you know that your future degree or career demands specific A levels, go for what you enjoy – it's better to get three good grades than less good ones in what look like appropriate subjects. If you're torn, ask the staff for advice. They know what universities are looking for and how your choice might affect your future career.

## 3+1

Three core A levels are at the heart of your studies but everyone in the Sixth Form also chooses another qualification from a choice of six. We call it 3+1.

You can do a fourth A level if you're really academic or a language AS. Lots of people choose the *Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)*, which means working independently to produce a 5,000-word essay on a topic you choose or a 1,000-word essay plus an artefact, such as a short story or film. Universities really like the EPQ and some will even lower an offer if they like what you've done.



# 3+1

## LUKE

THREE A LEVELS + EPQ

The EPQ allows you a breadth of study that isn't available in your A levels. I'm taking German, Spanish and history and my EPQ is on *The modernisation of the Chinese military*. It really interests me so the additional research and study is never a burden. I look forward to it.

## CATRIONA

THREE A LEVELS + LANGUAGE AS LEVEL

I want to be a doctor, which not only demands good science A levels but also great verbal and written communication skills. I chose an AS in French – a modern language is good for my ability to communicate, especially in a globalised world. I'm also doing an EPQ on *Maternity healthcare of incarcerated women*. There's always enough time if you're motivated.

## ELLIOT

FOUR A LEVELS

Taking German alongside biology, chemistry and maths may seem strange but quite a few scientific articles are published in German and it helps to read them in the original. The tutors ensure that you have support in managing your routine – for me, that includes drama and playing the flute, clarinet and tenor saxophone.

## ALEX

FOUR A LEVELS + ARTEFACT-BASED EPQ

I wanted to keep my options open, so that's why I'm taking history, drama, maths and physics, plus an EPQ that involves looking at the apocalypse as a theme in film and television, before writing short stories about it. The workload is quite substantial but I want to do it. And I'm appearing in plays at the same time.

## MADDY

THREE A LEVELS + LSA

I want to go straight into the Air Force rather than to university, so taking the LSA as well as A levels makes a lot of sense, especially the leadership aspect. I enjoy the practical aspects of it as well as the leadership tasks. I can see how I'll be using what I've learned in my career.





If you're more interested in sport or the outdoor world, there's *Leadership, Sports and Adventure* (LSA). Maths for science is for those taking physics and chemistry but not A level maths. And The International English Language Test System (IELTS) is for international pupils, who need it to get the right visa to study at a British university.

Wider horizons

The general studies programme for the Lower Sixth really gives you a chance to expand your horizons, with everything from Mandarin to money management, current affairs to cookery, plus visiting speakers who give an insight into aspects of life you may not have come across – what it's like to be an addict, trans-gender, or a New York District Attorney for example.

“The workload is quite substantial but they are subjects I enjoy, which makes all the difference”



“The tutors really enjoy helping you, so go to them when you have a problem instead of worrying”







| Period     | Time          | Monday   | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday   | Time          | Saturday |
|------------|---------------|----------|---------|-----------|----------|----------|---------------|----------|
| 1          | 8.55 - 9.30   | German   | History | P.S       | Spanish  | History  | 8.35 - 9.10   | German   |
| 2          | 9.35 - 10.10  | German   | History | P.S       | Spanish  | History  | 9.15 - 9.50   | German   |
| 3          | 10.15 - 10.50 | EPQ      | P.S     | German    | History  | P.S      | 9.55 - 10.30  | Spanish  |
| Break      | 10.50 - 11.15 |          |         |           |          |          | 10.30 - 10.50 |          |
| 4          | 11.15 - 11.50 | EPQ      | P.S     | German    | History  | P.S      | 10.50 - 11.25 | Spanish  |
| 5          | 11.55 - 12.30 | History  | German  | Spanish   | EPQ      | G.       | 11.30 - 12.05 | P.S      |
| 6          | 12.35 - 1.10  | History  | German  | Spanish   | EPQ      |          | 12.10 - 12.45 | P.S      |
| 7          | 1.15 - 1.50   | L        | U       | N         | C        | H        |               |          |
| Long Break | 1.50 - 2.45   | Japanese |         | Japanese  |          |          |               |          |
| 8          | 2.45 - 3.20   | Spanish  | Games   | P.S       | Games    | Japanese |               |          |
| 9          | 3.25 - 4.00   | Spanish  | Games   | P.S       | Games    | Japanese |               |          |
| Prep 1     |               |          |         |           |          |          |               |          |
| Prep 2     |               |          |         |           |          |          |               |          |
| Prep 3     |               |          |         |           |          |          |               |          |
| Prep 4     |               |          |         |           |          |          |               |          |

| Period     | Time          | Monday  | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday      | Time          | Saturday |
|------------|---------------|---------|---------|-----------|----------|-------------|---------------|----------|
| 1          | 8.55 - 9.30   | PS      | HIT/ART | PS        | ART      | PS          | 8.35 - 9.10   | English  |
| 2          | 9.35 - 10.10  | PS      | HIT/ART | PS        | ART      | HIT/ART     | 9.15 - 9.50   | English  |
| 3          | 10.15 - 10.50 | EPQ     | ART     | English   | HIT/ART  | PS          | 9.55 - 10.30  | PS       |
| Break      | 10.50 - 11.15 | B       | R       | E         | A        | K           | 10.30 - 10.50 | PS       |
| 4          | 11.15 - 11.50 | EPQ     | ART     | English   | PS       | Gen Studies | 10.50 - 11.25 | PS       |
| 5          | 11.55 - 12.30 | HIT/ART | English | ART       | EPQ      | Gen Studies | 11.30 - 12.05 | PS       |
| 6          | 12.35 - 1.10  | HIT/ART | English | ART       | EPQ      |             | 12.10 - 12.45 | PS       |
| 7          | 1.15 - 1.50   | L       | U       | N         | C        | H           |               |          |
| Long Break | 1.50 - 2.45   |         |         |           |          |             |               |          |
| 8          | 2.45 - 3.20   | ART     | Games   | HIT/ART   | Games    | English     |               |          |
| 9          | 3.25 - 4.00   | ART     | Games   | HIT/ART   | Games    | English     |               |          |
| Prep 1     |               |         |         |           |          |             |               |          |
| Prep 2     |               |         |         |           |          |             |               |          |
| Prep 3     |               |         |         |           |          |             |               |          |
| Prep 4     |               |         |         |           |          |             |               |          |

“I couldn’t decide on three subjects, so taking four to start meant I had the luxury, during the first term, of working out which ones were best for me”

“It’s not a problem finding the time for my EPQ – it’s a topic that really interests me and I look forward to it”

“If you’re picking subjects that take a lot of time, stick with three from the start”

“Don’t be discouraged in the first half term; everyone finds the jump to A levels difficult at the start”

“The tutors are really helpful and ensure you have a well-scheduled plan and support in managing your routine”

| Period     | Time          | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday          | Time          | Saturday |
|------------|---------------|--------|---------|-----------|----------|-----------------|---------------|----------|
| 1          | 8.55 - 9.30   | PS     | DT      | Maths     | EPQ      | DT              | 8.35 - 9.10   | physics  |
| 2          | 9.35 - 10.10  | PS     | DT      | Maths     | EPQ      | DT              | 9.15 - 9.50   | physics  |
| 3          | 10.15 - 10.50 | Maths  | PS      | Physics   | DT       | PS              | 9.55 - 10.30  | PS       |
| Break      | 10.50 - 11.15 |        |         |           |          |                 | 10.30 - 10.50 |          |
| 4          | 11.15 - 11.50 | Maths  | PS      | Physics   | DT       | PS              | 10.50 - 11.25 | PS       |
| 5          | 11.55 - 12.30 | DT     | Physics | PS        | maths    | general studies | 11.30 - 12.05 | maths    |
| 6          | 12.35 - 1.10  | DT     | Physics | PS        | maths    | general studies | 12.10 - 12.45 | maths    |
| 7          | 1.15 - 1.50   | Lunch  | Lunch   | Lunch     | Lunch    | Lunch           |               |          |
| Long Break | 1.50 - 2.45   |        |         |           |          |                 |               |          |
| 8          | 2.45 - 3.20   | EPQ    | games   | PS        | games    | Physics         |               |          |
| 9          | 3.25 - 4.00   | EPQ    | games   | PS        | games    | Physics         |               |          |
| Prep 1     |               |        |         |           |          |                 |               |          |
| Prep 2     |               |        |         |           |          |                 |               |          |
| Prep 3     |               |        |         |           |          |                 |               |          |
| Prep 4     |               |        |         |           |          |                 |               |          |

| Period     | Time          | Monday             | Tuesday             | Wednesday          | Thursday          | Friday             | Time          | Saturday            |
|------------|---------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------|---------------|---------------------|
| 1          | 8.55 - 9.30   | Chemistry Lee C2   | Economics Hoole F1  | Biology Gordon H2  | Spanish Evans M1  | Economics Lewis F1 | 8.35 - 9.10   | Chemistry Leaper C3 |
| 2          | 9.35 - 10.10  | Chemistry Lee C2   | Economics Hoole F1  | Biology Gordon H2  | Spanish Evans M2  | Economics Lewis F1 | 9.15 - 9.50   | Chemistry Leaper C3 |
| 3          | 10.15 - 10.50 | Biology Gordon H2  | EAL Barker          | Chemistry Lee C1   | Private study     | Private study      | 9.55 - 10.30  | Spanish Fulle M2    |
| Break      | 10.50 - 11.15 |                    |                     |                    |                   |                    | 10.30 - 10.50 |                     |
| 4          | 11.15 - 11.50 | Biology Gordon H2  | EAL Barker          | Chemistry Lee C1   | Private study     | Private study      | 10.50 - 11.25 | Spanish Fulle M2    |
| 5          | 11.55 - 12.30 | Economics Lewis F1 | Chemistry Leaper C3 | Spanish Evans M2   | Biology Gordon H2 | General studies    | 11.30 - 12.05 | Biology Gordon H2   |
| 6          | 12.35 - 1.10  | Economics Lewis F1 | Chemistry Leaper C3 | Spanish Evans M2   | Biology Gordon H2 | General studies    | 12.10 - 12.45 | Biology Gordon H2   |
| 7          | 1.15 - 1.50   | L                  | U                   | N                  | C                 | H                  |               |                     |
| Long Break | 1.50 - 2.45   |                    |                     |                    |                   |                    |               |                     |
| 8          | 2.45 - 3.20   | Spanish Fulle M2   | Games               | Economics Hoole F1 | Games             | EAL Barker         |               |                     |
| 9          | 3.25 - 4.00   | Spanish Fulle M2   | Games               | Economics Hoole F1 | Games             | EAL Barker         |               |                     |
| Prep 1     |               |                    |                     |                    |                   |                    |               |                     |
| Prep 2     |               |                    |                     |                    |                   |                    |               |                     |

| Period     | Time          | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday     | Friday          | Time          | Saturday |
|------------|---------------|--------|---------|-----------|--------------|-----------------|---------------|----------|
| 1          | 8.55 - 9.30   | P.S    | chem    | maths     | P.S          | chem            | 8.35 - 9.10   | P.S      |
| 2          | 9.35 - 10.10  | P.S    | chem    | maths     | P.S          | chem            | 9.15 - 9.50   | P.S      |
| 3          | 10.15 - 10.50 | maths  | French  | P.S       | Fr. sp.      | P.S             | 9.55 - 10.30  | French   |
| Break      | 10.50 - 11.15 | B      | R       | E         | A            | K               | 10.30 - 10.50 | BREAK    |
| 4          | 11.15 - 11.50 | maths  | French  | P.S       | music lesson | P.S             | 10.50 - 11.25 | French   |
| 5          | 11.55 - 12.30 | Games  | P.S     | French    | maths        | General studies | 11.30 - 12.05 | maths    |
| 6          | 12.35 - 1.10  | chem   | P.S     | French    | maths        | General studies | 12.10 - 12.45 | maths    |
| 7          | 1.15 - 1.50   | L      | U       | N         | C            | H               |               |          |
| Long Break | 1.50 - 2.45   |        |         |           |              |                 |               |          |
| 8          | 2.45 - 3.20   | French | Games   | chem      | Games        | P.S             |               |          |
| 9          | 3.25 - 4.00   | French | Games   | chem      | Games        | P.S             |               |          |
| Prep 1     |               |        |         |           |              |                 |               |          |
| Prep 2     |               |        |         |           |              |                 |               |          |
| Prep 3     |               |        |         |           |              |                 |               |          |
| Prep 4     |               |        |         |           |              |                 |               |          |

“Be proactive; ask if you don’t understand something”

“My private study periods help me keep afloat with my three subjects – use them well!”



# There's more to life

The year kicks off with a Sixth Form Activity Day, where you tackle challenges, play games and learn a bit about the people you're going to spend the next couple of years with – not least how easily embarrassed they are!

For a snack at break, a catch up with a friend, or the chance to meet new people at a party, the 17 Club is the place to be. The Valentine's and Summer Balls are other highlights of the Dauntsey's social calendar, along with House parties and trips – but there are so many other ways to make new friends.

## Join the club

Whether you're into intellectual pursuits, sports, the Arts or adventure, you'll be spoiled for choice. There are literally dozens of clubs and activities covering everything from table tennis to ballet, debating to drama, chamber choir to circuit training, so you'll meet people with similar interests.

Some are exclusive to the Sixth Form. The Monday Club is a discussion forum, the Head Master's Essay Society gets you to produce a presentation on a topic you choose and gives you access to workshops with visiting academics. You are also offered the opportunity to attend seminars and suppers with visiting speakers in the Mercers' Lecture programme – it's a chance to pick the brains of some of the most interesting public figures in the country.

## Be adventurous...

All Sixth Formers have a chance to sail on Dauntsey's 1913 pilot cutter, the *Jolie Brise* – she has become a YouTube star and even has a pub named in her honour. It might just be a cruise, but you could end up taking part in the *Tall Ships Races*.



Other challenges include the Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award, the Brecons Challenge (a weekend of canoeing, cycling and running through the Welsh mountains), the Paris half-marathon, Dauntsey's Triathlon, winter mountaineering in Scotland or the gruelling Devizes to Westminster canoe race; for the last of these, think training in all weathers, working through exhaustion and the biggest sense of achievement ever.

There are also expeditions, such as an annual visit to work at a Romanian orphanage, and one-off visits to countries that have included Tanzania, Bhutan and Madagascar. Departmental trips include a geography trip to Iceland, history trip to Paris, art trip to Florence or Rome, physics to CERN and many language trips to relevant countries too – often these are open more widely to Sixth Form too.

“Try something new; you will be surprised to see what you can do!”





## ...be sporty

With our beautiful grounds and great facilities, there's sport for everyone, starting with two timetabled sessions every week, plus matches on Saturdays and some Thursdays too. If you're not involved in the main team games, there are lots of other options from swimming, aerobics, tri-cross, fencing, training for the Devizes to Westminster canoe race and rifle shooting to golf, karate and rowing.

Many pupils compete at county, regional and national level and there are international tours, too. Among them are tours to the West Indies for cricket, hockey everywhere from the Netherlands to Malaysia, rugby in Australia, and football in Spain.

If sport really isn't your thing, you can get involved with voluntary service or work on the school magazine, *The Dauntseian*.

“Sport gives you such a boost – it makes you more energetic, stronger, clearer-headed”



“Don't leave regretting you've never been in a play. Get involved backstage if you don't want to be on stage – it's a great way to get to know people”



## ...and be dramatic

We have staged the school, youth or amateur premieres of a string of big name musicals including *Cats*, *Evita*, *Les Misérables*, *Mamma Mia!* and *Billy Elliot*, which bring the entire School together. The annual musical is just one of six or seven productions every year, so there are lots of opportunities to get involved behind the scenes as well as in the spotlight.

If you enjoy dance, there's an annual showcase featuring the work done in street, modern dance, ballet, and contemporary dance. There's also a chance to get involved in (strictly) ballroom.

For musicians, there are more than 30 ensembles and bands including jazz, folk, rock and dance, plus orchestras and choirs, with concerts and recitals throughout the year.





# Support

## Your house

Your house really is your home from home at Dauntsey's – the place where you can relax with your School family and where your Housemistress or Housemaster, and the team of tutors behind them, are your number one source of support and advice, personally and academically.

As a Sixth Former, you'll find yourself looking out for younger members of your house, just as if they were your younger brothers or sisters (the houses are single sex). It seems to come naturally. You also have the opportunity to do a week of duty at The Manor, as a big brother or sister figure; this is certainly hard work, but also a lot of fun!

There's always something going on, often organised by a team of pupils – parties, waterpark visits, cinema trips, curry nights, outdoor movies, trips to the theatre and Nando's!, seaside or shopping trips and much more. For boarders the school runs a regular bus service to Devizes so you can go to the bank, buy a birthday present or stock up on your favourite snacks. Even though local boarders can leave after Saturday school and matches (and occasionally during the week), the majority stay in house so we can get together or work together if we need extra encouragement. There are also lots of inter-house competitions that are fiercely fought and a lot of fun.

## Body and soul

If you're not feeling great, you don't have far to go – the medical centre is brilliant and nurses are available 24/7. Plus there are regular doctors' surgeries and a visiting physiotherapist.

And if you're upset or unhappy, there are counsellors as well as our chaplain and the Listening Service, which is led by pupils who are on call every day to offer a sympathetic ear. There's time for reflection and peace at the regular chapel services if that's what you need.



"It's the little things that really make my house feel like home – the cakes and hot chocolate, watching TV together – and helping each other with our work"





“Don't stress if you don't have things mapped out by the end of the Lower Sixth – it's normal not to know what you want to do when you leave”

## Planning your future

As soon as you start in the Sixth Form, the further education and careers tutors will get in touch and start finding out about your interests and ambitions, helping you to decide on your next steps and to set your future plans.

It's a fascinating way to discover more about yourself and where you want to be – they have an open door policy, so if there's anything you want to talk through, there's always someone with valuable experience and good advice.

There are visits from a careers agency and gap-year planners, administrators from universities, companies who recruit apprentices and a brilliant speed networking event every Summer where you get a chance to talk to a selection of more than 100 mentors from just about every profession and industry you can imagine. It's a great way to make contacts. Then there are workshops on specific professions, such as law, medicine or engineering, and trips to the City and individual companies or jobs fairs.

Work experience is a big deal, not just because it helps you to learn more about a potential career and the world of work but also because it shows future employers that you're committed. Dauntsey's can help with that too, if you're struggling to find

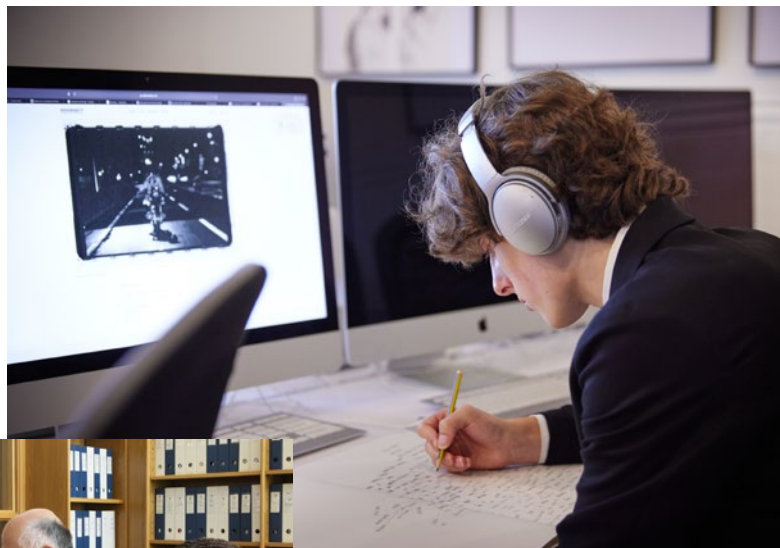


the right opportunity. They have contacts everywhere from art galleries to architecture, stockbroking or retail.

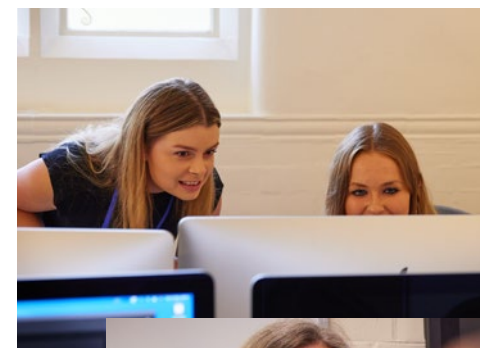
## Finding the right degree

You start looking at UCAS and potential degrees in the Spring of the Lower Sixth and by the Upper Sixth you're working on your personal statement and getting interview practice. There's specific support for students interested in Oxbridge, medicine, dentistry and veterinary science, because you have to get your applications in earlier.

And if your grades aren't what you'd hoped, then they're there to help you find alternative degrees or universities through clearing.



“The brilliant thing about finding a career is it's about *you*. They just help you to work it out for yourself”





# Who's who

Here are just a few of the key people you are likely to come across in your Sixth Form career



Mark Lascelles  
*Head Master*

The job title says it all



Andy Collins  
*Second Master*

Responsible for the day to day running of the school, discipline and prefect liaison, history teacher



Ann Jackson  
*Deputy Head, Pastoral and Head of Boarding*

All pastoral care issues, Spanish teacher and former Housemistress



David Noble  
*Deputy Head, Academic*

Administers all aspects of academic life, rock music enthusiast and maths teacher



James O'Hanlon  
*Head of Careers*

Further education and careers advice, compelling and persuasive when liaising with universities on results day



The Revd David Johnson  
*School Chaplain and Head of International Society*

Accomplished preacher, RS teacher and events organiser for the International Society



Marcus Olsen  
*Director of Sport*

Co-ordinator of all sport, Lower School Housemaster, and former Saracens scrum-half



Kerri Bradley  
*Deputy Director of Sport and a Tutor, Jeanne*

Champion of all girls' sport and netball enthusiast



Sam Moore  
*Head of Adventure*

Intrepid adventurer and expert team builder and, according to Lower School pupils, 'Head of Fun'



Emma Crozier  
*Housemistress*

Evans (Girls' Boarding), history teacher and accomplished cross-country runner



Dan Darwall  
*Housemaster*

Fitzmaurice (Boys' Boarding), physics teacher and (very) keen sailor



Annie Evans  
*Housemistress*

Jeanne (Girls' Boarding), Spanish teacher and long distance trekker



Mark Kinder  
*Housemaster*

Mercers (Boys' Boarding), chemistry teacher, keen hockey player



Will Whyte  
*Housemaster*

Farmer (Boys' Day), PE teacher, and as a former pupil can be considered poacher turned gamekeeper



David Benedict  
*Housemaster*

Hemens (Boys' Day), Head of EAL and Crystal Palace supporter



Sue Walton-Knight  
*Housemistress*

King Reynolds (Girls' Day), french and german teacher; loves spending time in the great outdoors



Liz Gardiner  
*Housemistress*

Lambert (Girls' Day), English teacher; Francophile and (rather rusty) musician



Tracy Whittle  
*17 Club Manager*

Runs the Sixth Form social 'epicentre', the 17 Club; always ready with a smile



Aggie Barron  
*Food Service Assistant*

Mel Holloway  
*Pavilion Supervisor*

Aggie and Mel are responsible for Sixth Form dinners; approachable and friendly; nothing is ever too much trouble



Bill Blumson  
*Exams Manager*

Coordinator of all external exams, calm, organised and a familiar face to all GCSE and A level pupils



*School Counsellors*

Kind and discreet; find them both at the Medical Centre



Carole Coupe  
Ruth Archer



# 26

A LEVEL  
SUBJECTS

# 9

THE AVERAGE NUMBER  
IN AN A LEVEL CLASS

# 80

DIFFERENT CLUBS  
AND ACTIVITIES

Dauntsey's School  
West Lavington,  
Devizes, Wiltshire,  
SN10 4HE

T. 01380 814500  
[admissions@dauntseys.org](mailto:admissions@dauntseys.org)  
[www.dauntseys.org](http://www.dauntseys.org)

