



**TRURO
SCHOOL**

**TEACHING AT
TRURO SCHOOL**

2016 / 2017

Truro School is an exceptional and distinct place – not just because it is the only HMC day and boarding independent school based in the unique Cornish environment; but because it is a hugely successful school with a vibrant and highly involved community that includes both current and former pupils, parents, staff and governors.

History

The Senior School is based in Truro, Cornwall; on its own site that overlooks the cathedral and city, and is about 10 minutes' walk from the city centre. The Prep School is found on the other side of the city near the Royal Cornwall Hospital, within its own extensive grounds.

Truro School was founded as a boys' school in 1880 by Cornish Methodists, in the same year that the foundation stones were laid for Truro's Victorian Gothic cathedral. Originally known as Truro College, the school gained a reputation for "godliness and good learning". Today, the school remains a Methodist School that welcomes members of all faiths, and those with none, in a spirit of openness and tolerance. Following the retirement of Paul Smith in December 2012, Andrew Gordon-Brown became the School's eleventh Headmaster, in its 133 year history.

In 1990 the School opened its doors to girls, and it is now the largest coeducational day and boarding school in Cornwall. We believe that educating boys and girls together provides them with the best preparation for a world of work in which men and women compete as equals.

Truro School Prep, originally called Treliske Prep School, was opened in 1936 and Willday House, its pre-preparatory department, started its life in 1991. Truro School Prep has had only four Headmasters in its 75 year history. The Headmaster of Truro School Prep reports to the Senior School Head.

Structure / Where we are now

The two schools are comprised of a Prep School that covers ages 3 to 11, and a Senior School with students from 11 to 18 years old. The Senior School has a total student population of 790 in the academic year 2015 - 2016, with 220 in the Sixth Form. This includes 404 day boys, 309 day girls, 47 male boarders and 31 female boarders. About 45% of the boarders are from overseas, with a diverse mix of nationalities represented – including German, Italian, French, Russian, Saudi, Malaysian, Greek, Lithuanian, Thai, Chinese, Hong Kong, Nigerian and Spanish

Almost all children from our Prep School go on into the 1st Year at the Senior School, where they are joined by a further 65 or so external 11 year olds from Primary Schools around the county and beyond.

We have a retention rate of approximately 70% from the 5th Year into the Lower Sixth, and we recruit about 30 students from other schools.

The Senior School had a successful Independent School Inspection in October 2012. The Prep School also gained outstanding reports in its 2011 inspection (All inspection reports, once published, are available on the school website).

Who teaches at Truro School?

There are approximately 25 teachers at the Prep school (including Pre-Prep) and 85 teachers on the senior school staff.

Truro School teachers are gifted individuals who are able to inspire pupils with their enthusiasm and subject knowledge. They are committed to providing a high quality of teaching as well as playing a full and purposeful role in the School's extensive extra-curricular programme and pastoral and personal development of pupils.

Most are graduates with postgraduate certificates or doctorates and their previous experience is extensive, ranging from similar independent day schools to boarding schools, maintained sector schools and industry.

Those arriving without a PGCE are encouraged and supported to gain such a qualification soon after appointment. In-service training and professional development are strongly encouraged and the School has good links with local universities and teacher training institutions. The School also follows the national guidelines for the induction of Newly Qualified Teachers.

We have a healthy balance of staff from NQTs to very experienced teachers, as well as a wide spread across the age range; this mix of experience and background provides for a happy, stimulating and rewarding environment.

What will you do?

Although primarily a day school, Truro life is busy and our co-curricular activities wide ranging. As well as teaching, you will be expected to contribute in some way to the School's co-curricular life. You will be encouraged to utilise your personal strengths and interests and may even wish to become qualified in areas previously unimagined! Sport, music and drama are significant strengths and the addition of our own purpose built theatre and Astroturf over recent years provides still further opportunities.

A vast array of clubs and societies take place each week, including Wednesday afternoons, and Truro School pupils and staff are rich in experience and expertise. Whatever the activity, the School is true to its Methodist foundation and ethos and places emphasis on Christian values, and the chapel services provide a central focus for the school's caring community.

Where do you do it?

Both schools have superb facilities and have undergone recent building work to add to their existing sites. The Senior School boasts its own bespoke theatre with an audience capacity of over 200, and a professional theatre company in residence. There is a separate music school, and excellent sporting amenities within our Sir Ben Ainslie Sports Centre including a gym, sports hall, swimming pool, Astroturf and extensive sports fields. Recent refurbishments include the Dodd Library and a new dining hall area called Heath Hall. The Prep School is fortunate also to have impressive sports fields alongside its own sports hall and swimming pool on site, and a discrete Design and Technology workshop. The addition of a custom-built extension to the Pre-Prep building in 2009 has greatly enhanced the provision and delivery of education for our 3 to 7 year olds.

We are fortunate in having all our teaching facilities and games' fields on a single site (apart from the Minions outdoor centre on Bodmin Moor) and all academic departments are housed in their own separate areas with specialist equipment and technical support where appropriate. Computers are in extensive use throughout the school. There is a Chapel and Medical Centre on site also.

The School has an exciting and ambitious strategic plan for future development to maintain our position at the forefront of education in the South West.

What about salary and conditions?

Salaries are paid at least in parity with the National Scales and fully reflect qualifications, responsibility and experience. Currently we operate our own threshold assessment for access to the Upper Pay scales and there are many opportunities for management allowances where extra responsibilities are carried, which are based on the school's own management salary scale.

All members of staff are able to educate their children at significantly reduced fees (currently 50% concession; pro rata for part-time staff) should they gain entry to either the Prep or Senior School; the two schools cater for boys and girls from the age of 3 to 18.

The school participates in the Teachers' Pensions Scheme. All appointments are subject to pre-employment checks, including references, a satisfactory medical clearance and an Enhanced DBS check.

The School is an equal opportunities employer and a non-smoking establishment.

The School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

The teaching timetable is based on a forty period week with the average teaching load of 32 periods from Monday to Friday. The daily lesson routine is from 8.50am to 3.45pm, plus after-school and lunchtime activities.

What about the Common Room?

The Common Room exists as a separately constituted body within Truro School. The Committee consists of a Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary. There are approximately 85 members and it provides a cohesive, stimulating and enjoyable environment. A variety of social functions are organised throughout the year and you are most welcome to contribute ideas and/or stand for election.

Is it a good place to live?

There is no doubt that Cornwall is an outstanding community in which to live, from the rugged and bracing North Coast to the Cornish Riviera of the South Coast, from the distinctive history to the unique character of its culture: the county offers something for everyone. Its relative isolation, however, being based at the end of the country and adjacent to only one county, raises its own challenges.

Cornwall has a thriving culture. Truro's Hall for Cornwall attracts a variety of international performers; and there is a vibrant Cornish drama scene, notably The Minack Theatre and through such renowned companies as Kneehigh. Music is very important to the Cornish, with excellent choral traditions at Truro Cathedral, the St Endellion Festival, and many celebrated brass bands and male voice choirs.

The 21st Century has seen a dramatic change in the economics of the county. The traditional industries of agriculture, fishing and mining have declined or disappeared, to be replaced by tourism with special attractions such as the Eden Project, the Tate Gallery at St Ives, and a range of gourmet restaurants, as well as the world famous surfing beaches and sailing waters.

The cultural and educational development of the county has continued apace in the last 11 years through the establishment of the Combined Universities of Cornwall, including the Peninsula Medical School; as well as developments at University College Falmouth and at the University of Exeter's Cornwall Campus, which includes the Camborne School of Mines.

Thus, although the county is the most socially and economically diverse in the country, many areas flourish, and Truro is a small, friendly, thriving and vibrant city.

There is a unanimous feeling among staff that Cornwall is a wonderful place to bring up children.

The popularity of the Duchy has pushed house prices up in recent years but there are still many and varied options in the city and its environs. There is also an excellent choice of schools, both private and maintained, at all levels. The collective experience and knowledge of the Common Room is warmly offered to newcomers, should you need advice on the local property market, schooling, health care or any other similar issues.

There is a regular rail link to London, including the overnight sleeper from Penzance. The road links via the A30, M5 and A303 are efficient.

How well are we doing?

Truro School teachers are dynamic and innovative and were commended in the last inspection for the quality of teaching and their caring attitude. The school is extremely fortunate in attracting and retaining teachers of the highest quality and many have moved on to lead their own departments.

Truro School has an outstanding academic reputation and is particularly strong in the traditional subject areas, such as the Sciences, English, Maths and Languages. Staff are dedicated to getting the most and best out of their students, and the school is committed to pursuing effective and imaginative teaching practices.

Our curriculum is continuously evaluated to ensure we offer the optimum mix of subjects to equip our students for the modern world and to give them best chances in their next stages of life. The introduction of the Extended Project Qualification into the Lower Sixth, as part of the Extension Studies Programme, has greatly enhanced our Sixth Form teaching and learning provision and proved to be popular as well as challenging with students.

Most pupils go on to university with some 20+ applying to Oxford or Cambridge each year.

Where are we going?

This remains a very exciting time for education in Cornwall. It is the intention and vision of the school to play a full part in educational excellence in the county. As we describe in our strategic plan, we are committed to excellence and continuous improvement and for this we need high quality staff who are ambitious and innovative. Many of the best ideas come from the teachers and we regularly benefit from new colleagues bringing suggestions and initiatives with them.

How do I apply?

Applications should be addressed to the Headmaster at the school and emailed to sew@truroschool.com or posted c/o Sarah Wheatley, Human Resources Manager, Truro School, Trennick Lane, Truro, Cornwall, TR1 1TH. We hope you feel encouraged to apply to join us.

September 2016