

 DOWNSIDE SCHOOL

A LEVEL FOUNDATION COURSE  
FOR INTERNATIONAL PUPILS



## INTRODUCTION

I would like to introduce our new A Level Foundation course here at Downside School. This brand new programme is specifically tailored to benefit international students who need to develop and perfect their English language skills. Pupils will be fully embraced in our inclusive and welcoming community, which is made up of individuals from across the globe. We go to great lengths to provide a holistic education and to provide a range of full and inspiring activities impacting every aspect of school life. Our staff are exemplary role models and encourage all pupils to be the best version of themselves at all times.

I believe that through belonging to a school in which each individual feels valued and included, all pupils will grow in confidence and develop their unique gifts, motivated by the joy of learning. We are highly ambitious for our pupils and encourage them to seek out and welcome challenges. The School's distinctive culture is built on its Catholic and Benedictine roots and supports the exploration of faith and spiritual growth.

I look forward to welcoming your child to our School where all our pupils feel happy, safe and challenged to fulfill their potential, whatever that may be.

**MICHAEL RANDALL**  
Interim Head

## AIMS

Our programme for international pupils provides them with an excellent education and gives pupils the confidence and study skills to prepare for onward study at Downside or elsewhere. We prepare pupils for A-Level post-16 education in the UK through a focus on core subjects that are fundamental to success in later life. We provide pupils with a true UK boarding school education and atmosphere as exemplified by the British education system and enjoyed by all pupils at Downside.

Our programme allows pupils to discover their strengths, set high ambitions and create lifelong friendships. We enable pupils to discover academic interests beyond the classroom and develop skills that will enable them to thrive and grow as global citizens in the future.



## WHAT THE PROGRAMME INCLUDES

- Highly experienced tuition in the Sciences, English as an Additional Language, Mathematics, Physical Education, Computer Science and Religious Studies.
- Boarding accommodation with Downside pupils.
- Excellent pastoral care.
- Boarding house activities, trips and excursions.
- An extensive range of extra-curricular activities, clubs, societies and outdoor pursuits.
- Excellent tuition in English as an Additional Language from highly qualified teachers that fosters progress in all areas.





## SPORT

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Pupils will have full access to all school facilities. Pupils will have plenty of opportunities to make full use of indoor and outdoor sport and exercise facilities within the School campus. All pupils will be encouraged to find a sport or physical activity in which they can participate, excel and learn the values of being part of a team.

The main sports for boys are rugby, hockey, cricket, tennis and athletics. The main sports for girls are hockey, netball, cricket, tennis and athletics. Many pupils can also participate in badminton, basketball, cross country, football, golf, rugby 7's, swimming & table tennis, with regular fixtures throughout the year.

## WEEKEND

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There will always be a wide variety of off-site trips offered to all pupils. This will include trips to Bath and Bristol, cinema, bowling, Stonehenge and other local tourist attractions. On-site activities will include the usual range of exciting options including kayaking, archery and sports.

## FACILITIES

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Downside's site is set in the countryside yet within easy reach of Bath, Bristol & London. Our facilities include a 450 seat theatre, an indoor heated swimming pool, squash courts, gymnasium, hockey, football, rugby & cricket pitches, tennis courts and a health centre.

## CATERING

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We proudly partner with Holroyd Howe, an award-winning caterer, to manage food at Downside. We understand that good nutrition is a vital part of your child's wellbeing and happiness. We pride ourselves on including input from pupils, parents, staff and suppliers to ensure that every child looks forward to, and enjoys, every meal.

## PASTORAL CARE

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Downside is proud of the outstanding level of pastoral care it provides for student health and well-being. The School is well-known for its strong sense of community and for the supportive relationships between the age groups and with staff. The Houses sit at the heart of this and provide the best possible support for both boarding and day pupils to allow them to develop true Christian values.

## HEALTH CENTRE

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Located in the heart of the school, with beautiful views over the school grounds and Abbey, the Health & Wellbeing Centre is fully accessible to all pupils and is always busy supporting a wide range of health and emotional wellbeing needs.

We endeavour to identify and respond to the health needs of all our pupils from their first day at Downside to the end of their time in our school community. The Health Centre has a holistic vibe which reflects its nurse-led approach offering a provision to support physical, emotional and social needs of all our pupils, with the ability to provide 24 hour care should it be required.

## GUARDIANSHIP

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Parents of pupils at Downside School who are resident outside the UK must appoint an Education Guardian for their child in the UK. This is the case for all pupils, irrelevant of age, even for those aged 18 or over by the time they leave the School.

Please [click here](#) for more information.

## ENGLISH LANGUAGE OPTIONS

Our programme allows all pupils to advance their level of English and prepares them for further education and careers in this global language. Tuition is given by highly skilled and qualified staff in the EAL (English as an Additional Language) Department, which enables pupils to take the most suitable Secure English Language Tests (SELT) which align with the individual needs and levels of pupils. Pupils will benefit from a rigorous timetable, gaining one or more internationally recognised English qualifications.

It is preferable for pupils who enrol in our programme to have a Common European Framework level of B2, but on arrival all pupils will sit the Oxford Placement Tests, as part of a needs analysis, so that the most appropriate SELT can be determined.

Pupils can potentially take IELTS Academic or General, Cambridge C1 Advance, Cambridge IGCSE English as a Second Language (0991) or Cambridge B2 First For Schools. Some pupils will be able to take two or three qualifications over one year, with close communications between our EAL Department, pupils and their parents/guardians.



Examination Board	Course	Code
CAIE	IGCSE English as a Second Language	0991FX
Cambridge	B1 PET for Schools	CEFR B1
Cambridge	B2 First for Schools	CEFR B2
Cambridge	C1 Advanced	CEFR C1
Cambridge	C2 Proficiency	CEFR C2
Cambridge	IELTS ( Academic/ General/ UKVI)	

## GCSE EXAMINATIONS

Pupils will not automatically be entered for any GCSE examinations. However if the School feels a pupil is at the appropriate academic level, pupils may be invited to take a GCSE examination.



## FEES 2025/26

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Full Boarding:

Junior pupil (Years 7&8): £12,995 per term

Senior Pupil (Years 9-13): £17,385 per term

## REGISTRATION FEE

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A non-refundable Registration Fee of £150 is payable upon acceptance of a place at Downside School.

## DEPOSIT

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A Deposit of a terms fees can be paid [here](#).

## COURSE FEES INCLUDE

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- All tuition
- Accommodation
- Meals
- Laundry
- Excursions
- General activities

## ADDITIONAL CHARGE

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- Uniform
- Insurance
- Airport transfers
- Extra 1:1 transition

## ADMISSIONS PROCESS

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Our admissions process is designed to be uncomplicated. Applicants are required to complete the online Registration Form and to submit the following documents:

- A copy of the applicant's passport.
- A copy of their most recent School Report.

Following receipt of the completed registration form, candidates will be required to complete entrance assessments. These include a written English paper, online CAT 4 assessments and an interview. Following these, we will offer a guaranteed place or decline the application.

We encourage prospective pupils and their parents to visit the School to meet the Head and the academic team and to explore our excellent facilities either in person or virtually.

Please call Issy Hartnell on +44 (0)1761 235103 to discuss any aspect of the A Level Foundation course.



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