



Princethorpe  
College



TEACHING AT **PRINCETHORPE COLLEGE**



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# ABOUT THE PRINCETHORPE FOUNDATION AND ITS ETHOS

The Princethorpe Foundation welcomes children of all faiths and backgrounds and provides co-educational independent day schooling with a strong Christian ethos. We support and nurture some 1,400 children from age two to eighteen years through Little Crackers Nursery, Crackley Hall School, Crescent School and Princethorpe College.

The Foundation schools pride themselves on providing caring stimulating environments in which children's individual talents confidence and self-esteem can be fully developed.

We encourage a lifelong love of learning and an independence of mind grounded in strong moral values and we aim to put young people on the road to happy and fulfilled lives.



“Ours is a spirit of family and a spirit of brotherhood formed by kindness and understanding, by compromise and mutual forgiveness, by gentleness, humility and simplicity, by hospitality and a sense of humour.”

Jules Chevalier, Missionaries of the Sacred Heart (founders of Princethorpe College)

# ABOUT PRINCETHORPE COLLEGE

Princethorpe College is a Catholic, co-educational, HMC independent day school for around 930 pupils aged eleven to eighteen, with over 200 students in the Sixth Form.

The College is renowned for its 'spirit of family' and the way in which it looks after its pupils and its staff. About one-quarter of the children at Princethorpe are Catholic and Christ's teaching in the Gospels on love, service, forgiveness and generosity of spirit is central to the school's character and approach to learning.

The school has a unique history, beautiful surroundings and unequalled character. The atmosphere is warm, open and friendly. We combine academic rigour and hard work with a caring and holistic approach to education. Pupils and colleagues play a full part in the broader aspects of school life.



“Society needs strong, independent, caring young people who want to make a difference. At Princethorpe College we guide our pupils on this journey, while having a lot of fun along the way – there is a real buzz on campus.

Our academic results speak for themselves and show we get the very best from every pupil. This is underpinned by excellent pastoral care and co-curricular opportunities that cater for all passions and talents. We are an energetic, friendly community with a fantastic location in the Warwickshire countryside, drawing pupils from all around.”

Grove du Toit, Headmaster

THE  
GOOD  
SCHOOLS  
GUIDE

The College was reviewed for the first time by the Good Schools Guide in May 2021. The review can be found on our website at [princethorpe.co.uk/good-schools-guide](http://princethorpe.co.uk/good-schools-guide).

“There are two rules at the school: be kind and do your best. The whole school runs on this ethos and it appears to be all that is needed as pupils and staff adhere to it.”

The Good Schools Guide Review 2021

# ISI Inspection Excellent in every area!

“All pupils’ behaviour is exemplary in every aspect; they show remarkable respect for one another, for staff, visitors and for themselves, are most courteous towards each other and towards adults and naturally help and support one another. They listen very well indeed, readily give thanks and express their appreciation for all that the school has to offer.”

Archdiocese of Birmingham Canonical Inspection  
Report 2019

“Pupils benefit significantly from an atmosphere in school which is positive and one where learning and trying one’s best are celebrated.”

ISI Inspection 2022

Our aim is simple: to treat every pupil as an individual, supporting them as they grow into mature, resilient and well-rounded young people with a strong set of moral values to guide them through adult life. Our reward as teachers goes well beyond excellent results: it is in producing strong, creative citizens ready to make a positive contribution to the wider community.

Our new 1,800 sq metres, ten laboratory Science Centre opened its doors in September 2023 and provides outstanding teaching and learning facilities.

This is the latest in a programme of capital investment in the infrastructure of the College, that has included projects such as the refurbishment of the Clarkson Theatre and the Roundhouse for the Performing Arts, the Limes Building for Modern Foreign Languages, English and ICT and the restoration of the wooded lake area known as Switzerland for outdoor education.



The College was last inspected by the Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI) in April 2022. Scan on the QR code to read the full report.



# WHAT KIND OF TEACHERS THRIVE AT PRINCETHORPE?

We are proud to have a diverse and talented teaching body with a wide range of skills and backgrounds. Colleagues have joined us from the state and independent sectors, as ECTs (Early Career Teachers), and sometimes from careers outside of teaching all together. What unites them all is their kind, caring professionalism, their passion for their subjects, their drive for constant professional development and their commitment to our excellent co-curricular programme.

We are an established training school through the School Direct Scheme in partnership with the Lion Alliance and we actively encourage applications from those just entering the profession.

# APPLYING TO PRINCETHORPE AS AN EARLY CAREERS TEACHER

The college welcomes Early Careers Teachers (ECTs) during either their first or second year of their programme. All ECTs receive support from subject mentors and an induction tutor. Continued Professional Development is carefully structured to support those colleagues who are in their first years of teaching. This involves twilight sessions and an online weekly programme which gives time for our ECTs to reflect on their pedagogy, classroom practice and professional attributes. The college offers a secure start for any young teacher with opportunities to develop their subject knowledge, classroom experience and co-curricular opportunities.



“Statutory induction at Princethorpe College is carried out with care and commitment and is part of a whole school approach to CPD and learning. The ECTs feel extremely well supported by subject mentor and induction lead alike and value the input – formal and informal - from both.”

**Independent Schools Teacher Induction Panel**

**SMALL CLASS SIZES**

**19** pupils

is the average Year 7 to 11 class size (max 24)

**9** students

is the average Sixth Form A-level class size

**LATEST EXAM RESULTS**

**visit**

[princethorpe.co.uk/exam-results](http://princethorpe.co.uk/exam-results)

# SUPPORTING YOUR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Princethorpe is totally committed to supporting your professional development at whatever stage of your career you may be. We actively reflect upon and hone our craft as classroom teachers and we encourage and support those aspiring to further challenges and responsibilities.

- + All new colleagues have two induction opportunities before starting at Princethorpe, allowing a smooth and welcoming transition into the Princethorpe family.
- + All new colleagues are allocated a 'buddy' to provide support and advice both before and during the first year in addition to that of their line manager.
- + All new colleagues are given a bespoke CPD programme during the Michaelmas Term in addition to range of CPD opportunities available to all colleagues.
- + All colleagues are encouraged to share Teaching and Learning ideas, supported by our Teaching and Learning Team. We actively promote a culture of educational research as part of our everyday practice.
- + All colleagues are part of the Princethorpe Professional Review programme: a constructive and collaborative process supporting them to set their targets, log their achievements, submit CPD requests and identify areas for further growth.
- + A comprehensive programme of INSET and twilight CPD sessions are offered each year, covering a variety of current topics and issues and linked to the school's Development Plan as well as other areas that colleagues would like to explore.
- + Opportunities are available to attend external CPD for example with exam boards or HMC's ISQAM and Pastoral Leadership Qualifications.



# FURTHER BENEFITS OF WORKING AT PRINCETHORPE

The Foundation values its staff and offers a rewarding benefits package, including:

- + A salary scale for teaching staff offering competitive rates of pay, which exceed those offered in the state sector.
- + Generous fee discounts for members of staff whose children attend the Foundation's schools.
- + Automatic enrolment in the Teachers' Pension Scheme.
- + An excellent working environment in a beautiful rural location.
- + Single accommodation in school is available for members of staff joining the College.
- + Subsidised home-cooked school lunches are available for all staff, all dietary requirements are catered for, and evening meals provided where required.
- + Staff well-being opportunities include sporting and musical activities and access to professional counselling services.
- + Teachers are part of a lively and friendly Staff Association.
- + Other benefits include on-site parking, a Cycle-to-Work Scheme, free eye tests, free flu vaccinations, Microsoft software for use at home and personal accident insurance.





# TRAINING TO BECOME A TEACHER AT PRINCETHORPE

As well as employing experienced teachers, the College is interested in recruiting good graduates who have a desire to enter the teaching profession. Opportunities are available in various subjects for the right candidate, whether straight out of university or looking for a career change.

Through our association with the Lion Alliance, we offer a year's training as part of the School Direct scheme. Placements would be at Princethorpe and also other schools within the Lion Alliance. Our training is supported by Warwick University, Birmingham City University and Coventry University and by our experienced mentors within the college.

Successful applicants are able to apply for bursaries and scholarships for certain subjects.



For more information visit: <https://getintoteaching.education.gov.uk>

Apply via the UCAS website:

<https://find-postgraduate-teacher-training.education.gov.uk/>

For further information and support with your application contact

Dr Liz Pyne, Assistant Head – Teaching and Learning

✉ [lizpyne@princethorpe.co.uk](mailto:lizpyne@princethorpe.co.uk).

# WHAT OUR TEACHERS SAY



“An acquaintance recommended Princethorpe College as a good place to work. When I visited for an interview, I was surprised at how well located it was - close to Leamington Spa, Coventry and Rugby. I joined the College as a teacher of Computer Science, keen to teach my subject at A-level, as many schools do not offer the subject as an option. I was initially a little apprehensive to move to the independent sector but was soon made to feel at home by welcoming and supportive staff.

During my first year, there were several avenues for professional progression, including opportunities in pastoral and departmental roles. After my first year, I was delighted to be promoted to Head of Department.

Princethorpe College boasts exceptional teaching facilities in a stunning campus, complemented by dedicated support staff that are always willing to assist. I consider myself very fortunate to be part of a community that values both professional development and a vibrant, supportive working environment.”

**Ed Musson – Head of Computer Science**



“I’ve always had a passion for Psychology, after university I spent a couple of years as a Researcher, but working in a lab was a lonely existence and what I really wanted to do was enthuse people about Psychology, which led me to teaching. After my PGCE I stumbled across Princethorpe by happy accident, knowing nothing about the school or the area.

As a new teacher I was pretty clueless, but I was incredibly well supported and learnt quickly and grew in the role to become Head of Department. Now in my eighth year, I have taken on a pastoral role as Head of Austin House, I’m fortunate in that there are excellent robust pastoral systems in place and my team of tutors are incredibly supportive.

Princethorpe is everything I had hoped for when I was starting out, the pupils are both interested and interesting and I have the professional freedom and trust to do things my own way.”

**Adam Rickart – Head of Austin House and Psychology Teacher**



“After ten years in the state sector I moved to Princethorpe four years ago, even though I have taken on a larger role my work life balance has improved enormously. The smaller class sizes has had a huge impact and I now have much more time for planning my lessons and investing in schemes of work.

I feel 100% supported and empowered by my line manager who I meet with every week and the children are a real delight to teach, down to earth, enthusiastic, polite and appreciative. One thing that I find really special is the time the College regularly spends away from the curriculum for whole school community activities, you just don’t get that elsewhere. I am definitely a much happier teacher and don’t think there’s any way I could go back to the state sector now!”

**Emma Cooper – Head of Science**

“I started at Princethorpe in September 2019, having previously worked in a British international school in Thailand and before that a state boys’ school in Oxfordshire. Coming back to the UK I knew I did not want to go back to the state sector, mostly because of behaviour issues. I find the pupils here particularly warm and eager to interact with staff which is a big difference to both my previous schools.



As a native French speaker the children take me seriously and are much more receptive to learning a language. The staff have been so kind and welcomed me with open arms, not just the MFL department, but everyone is so supportive and encouraging. Now that I am fully settled in I have set up a co-curricular after school knitting club, which is proving to be very popular.”

**Sarah Duran – MFL Second in Department**

“The decision to apply for a position at Princethorpe was not easy, as I was happy in my previous job and school. However, I also felt ready for a change and a new challenge and just weeks after I had started my new role, I knew I had made completely the right choice. The most significant change has been the considerable reduction in the number of pupils I teach. This has led to a decrease in the time I spend marking, enabling me to invest more time and focus on my lessons and on building positive relationships with pupils.



The smaller class sizes have been particularly advantageous in Textiles, as we use a lot of practical equipment. Since joining Princethorpe, I have introduced changes to the curriculum and to the learning journey of the department. Throughout this process, I have felt heard and experienced a high level of support for my decision-making. I am very happy to be working here.”

**Kati Nelson – Teacher in charge of Textiles**



“After my Sport and Exercise Science degree I was a graduate sports assistant and then did my PGCE whilst working at a local independent girls’ school. My contract was coming to an end when I saw the Princethorpe job advertised so I emailed the Head of Girls’ Games to ask for a look around. That visit convinced me to apply, the formal interview process was full on, but really enjoyable.

I now teach boys and girls from Year 7 to Sixth Form PE and Games, including GCSE Academic PE. The support I got from my two mentors was awesome and the dynamics and sense of humour in the Sports Department is fantastic. I 100% love it here!”

**Ellie Callan – PE and Games Teacher**



The  
Princethorpe  
Foundation

## INTERESTED IN TEACHING AT PRINCETHORPE?

Find out more about teaching at Princethorpe by coming to one of our regular Taste of Teaching at Princethorpe events, contact [recruitment@princethorpe.co.uk](mailto:recruitment@princethorpe.co.uk) or call 09126 634269 to find out the date of our next event or for more information.

Or, if you are ready to apply, please send your completed application form with a covering letter to [recruitment@princethorpe.co.uk](mailto:recruitment@princethorpe.co.uk) by the relevant deadline date.

If you are interested in working at Princethorpe but there are no relevant opportunities for you at present, please send your CV and a covering letter to the same address and we will keep your details on file should future opportunities arise.

## WE LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU.

*The Princethorpe Foundation is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and applicants must be willing to undergo child protection screening appropriate to the post, including checks with past employers and the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS). The Foundation is an equal opportunities employer.*



### Princethorpe College

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