

Invicta Grammar School Profile



Invicta Grammar School

Huntsman Lane

Maidstone, Kent, ME14 5DS

Telephone: 01622 755856

<http://www.invicta.kent.sch.uk/>

Local Authority:	Kent
Age range:	11-18
Number of pupils:	1214
Head teacher:	Ms K Cardus (Head of School)
Chair of governors:	Mrs J Taylor

What have been our successes this year?

In the Year 2008 - 09

In April 2009, the school was awarded Languages Specialist Status and Lead School for Gifted and Talented to complement our Business and Enterprise Specialist Status.

We achieved the Investors in People & the Investors in Careers Awards again for a further three years. We are a Healthy School & recognised as excellent in a recent audit.

We gained the International Schools Award for the 3rd time and another for outstanding international work over the last 10 years.

Mr. Ian Wesson (AST Science) won the very prestigious award "Kent Teacher of the Year"

At A Level, we achieved excellent results in 2009 with 73% A/B grades which is the best in the school's history beating last year's all time best of 66% A/B grades. This result places the school 6th in Kent and top in the Maidstone area at A Level.

At GCSE, we achieved outstanding results in 2009 with 57.6% A*/A grades which is also the best in the school's history and places the school 8th in Kent and top in the Maidstone area at GCSE.

The average total point score per student of 824.9 places the school 1st in the country. This is due to yr 11 students also taking on average 2 AS levels in addition to their GCSE's and achieving 55% A/B grades.

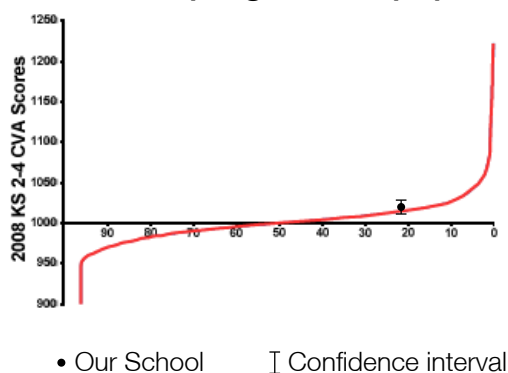
What are we trying to improve?

The school continues to strive for excellence in everything that we do.

In 2009/10 the main focus will be

- To exceed 75% A/B grades at A2
- To continue to further raise standards in the school through quality teaching and learning, and monitoring and tracking of student performance to enable early intervention strategies of support; monitoring quality of provision provided by each subject area through the school's quality assurance programme (METAL)
- To continue to make progress with our Business and Enterprise Specialist targets, Languages Specialist targets and our Lead School Gifted and Talented targets
- To embed a more individualised learning model for students; developing different learning pathways at Key Stage 3, 4 and 5; further develop the link with the University of Kent to develop Level 4 Foundation Degree courses; to introduce the AQA Baccalaureate, AQA Extended Project and Cambridge Pre-U courses.
- To continue to meet the Government's agenda - Every Child Matters: Healthy Schools; embed the prefect structure to provide students with an appropriate student voice forum and leadership pathways; embed the Head of Year roles.
- To continue to further enhance the student ethos through a focus on respect and responsibilities

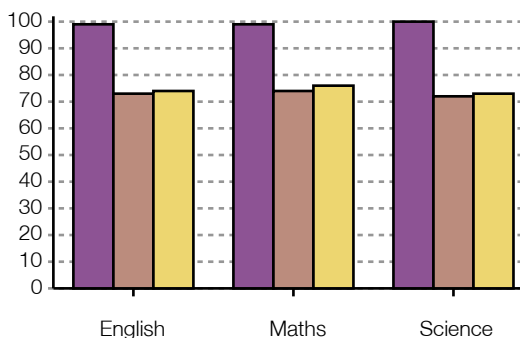
How much progress do pupils make between 11 and 16?



The chart shows our school's contextual value added (CVA) score relative to that of other secondary schools. CVA is a statistical means of assessing how effective a school is, by measuring pupils' progress using their test and examination results. The confidence interval shows the range within which we can be confident the score (calculated on the results of only one year group) represents the overall effectiveness of a school. The percentile rank shows the percentage of schools with a score equal to or higher than ours.

Our CVA is on the 22nd percentile and within the context of a girls' selective school, this CVA score is outstanding. This means that our students join the school with very high levels of attainment and still, by the age of 16, make excellent progress in meeting their target grades of A*/A grades in the majority of their subjects.

How well do our pupils achieve at age 14?

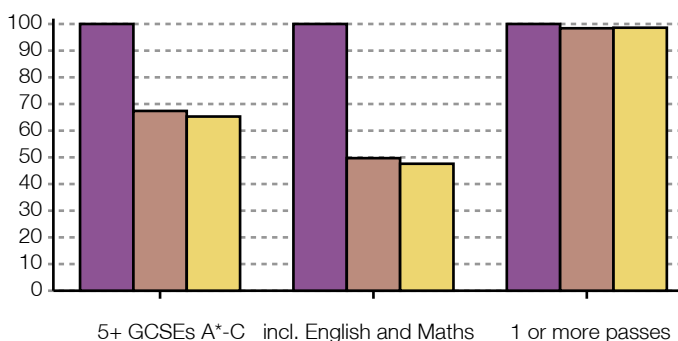


This shows Key Stage 3 results for 2007. It shows the percentage of pupils eligible for KS3 tests (usually 14 year olds) who achieved or exceeded level 5.

■ Our school ■ Local schools (Local Authority) ■ All schools

We are very proud of our Key Stage 3 results. They represent excellent progress, particularly in mathematics and science.

How well do our pupils achieve at age 16?



This shows the percentage of pupils (who were at the end of Key Stage 4) who in 2008 achieved 5 or more GCSEs (and equivalent) at grades A*-C, 5 or more GCSEs (and equivalent) at grades A*-C including English and mathematics GCSE, and one or more GCSEs (and equivalent) at grades A*-G.

■ Our school ■ Local schools (Local Authority) ■ All schools

These are outstanding results. We are very proud of our achievement at GCSE with 57.6% A*/A grades, particularly as the majority of students also studied two AS levels in addition to their GCSE courses with 55% A/B and 78% A - C grades.

How have our results changed over time?

At Advanced Level our results are excellent and are still improving.

Summary of A Level Results 2004 - 2009

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
A/B grades (excluding General Studies)	56.2	56.8	60.5	52.6	66.4	73.3
A/B grades (including General Studies)	46	49.4	52.2	47.8	58.2	68.3
Av TOTAL points score per student (A2 + AS)				960.3	1042.3	1083.4
Av point score per entry (A2 + AS)				219.3	225.7	237.7
Average number of entries			4.4	4.4	4.6	4.6

At GCSE Level our results continue to remain outstanding and are still improving with more results in 2009 recorded at A*/A grade level and with significantly more students gaining 8 or more A*/A grades or equivalent.

Summary of Yr11 Results 2004 - 2009

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
A*/A grades	54.5	53.6	54.0	51.1	43.2	57.6

Av TOTAL points score per student (AS + GCSE)	521	556	549	550	799	825
3+ A*/A GCSE grades (incl AS equivalence)			77	72	75	75
5+ A*/A GCSE grades (incl AS Equivalence)			49	58	61	64
8+ A*/A GCSE grades (incl AS Equivalence)				33	42	62

How are we making sure that every child gets teaching to meet their individual needs?

The school continues to strive to personalise the learning experience for each individual student.

Improvements have been made:

- Individualised curriculum offer at KS3, KS4 and KS5.
- Students take their GCSE courses when ready and can create their own individual learning pathway. For example they may choose to take some GCSE courses in yr 10 and some in yr 11.
- Students can study either Core and Additional Science over 2 years or Triple Science over three. They may choose to study GCSE's in maths and English over 2 years or over three.
- Language Strategy introduced at KS3 and KS4 to encourage all students to take one language to GCSE and improve their success in learning a foreign language. CBLC language introduced as a vocational language course (equivalent to a GCSE)
- Embedded Assessment for Learning across the curriculum, a target for every teacher on their Performance Management. AfL engages students in their own learning.
- New Learning Pathways introduced in years 11 - 13 to ensure that students follow a personalised curriculum with a suitable enrichment programme
- Appointed two Lead Practitioners to develop Teaching and Learning using Interactive Whiteboards & the "Invicta Learning Gateway"

How do we make sure all pupils attend their lessons and behave well?

The school has a positive ethos that aims to instil a sense of responsibility and commitment.

The school has a stimulating and challenging curriculum that inspires and motivates the students.

All lessons are registered electronically and overseen by the upper and lower school administrators. The school has an effective behaviour policy which includes a code of conduct that promotes respect.

We continue to look to improve attendance and urge **all** parents to continue to support the school by not taking children out of school during term time. The DCSF does not allow us to authorise these absences.

The school follows first day calling procedures to ensure that all students are either in school and are learning or at home unwell. Parents are strongly advised to phone or email the school on the first day of absence if their child is unwell.

The school has introduced "Parent Call" an automated attendance system that automatically contacts parents if a child is not in school and the reason is unknown.

Heads of Year regularly monitor attendance and punctuality as well as behaviour and academic progress. They also work closely with the Educational Welfare Officer to support any students with poor attendance

What have pupils told us about the school, and what have we done as a result?

- In April 2009 we commissioned a private company to co-ordinate a questionnaire involving all pupils, parents and staff making it an objective and independent survey. The data has been analysed and the results have been incorporated into our school improvement plan
- Independently of this, we have our own monitoring policy, which includes extensive interviews with students. They have given us valuable feedback about lessons, assessment, quality of teaching, care and guidance and work-related learning
- We have introduced a new prefect structure to allow students greater responsibility and involvement in all areas of school life. In particular, student voice will be the new formal forum via which the students can discuss and debate student issues. This is led by our Head Girl.
- We have changed the school catering provider and renovated the school canteen to improve the quality of food and service available to students
- We have updated the school's Rewards Policy in consultation with students, with additional reward trips, certificates and vouchers now provided.

How are we working with parents and the community?

- Heads of Year introduced to provide specialist support, care and guidance to students and parents
- Improved reporting system to include better information to parents.
- CAT results and CAT evening provided for year 7 parents. Learning Profile/advice booklet provided.
- Curriculum Forum Evenings introduced in yrs 7, 8, 9 and 12 to improve communication and understanding of the curriculum offer and learning pathways available.
- Gifted and Talented Evenings to provide advice to students and parents
- Friends of Invicta Grammar School, the parent/teacher association, organises activities to raise funds to support students' activities.
- Parental opinion is considered in whole school action planning.
- Our status as a Business and Enterprise and Languages specialist school and a Lead School for Gifted and Talented allows us to extend our links with the community. We have worked in partnership with:

Local primary and secondary schools

Schools in many countries across the world

Local and national companies

Organisations including the Citizens' Advice Bureau and Mid Kent Women's Refuge

Local and national charity organisations such as Heart of Kent Hospice

What activities and options are available to pupils?

A full programme of extra curricular activities is held after school. These include: sports, music, drama, art, technology, history, science, and Young Farmer at VP.

All subjects offer lunch time support/help sessions.

The Senior Prefects and Sixth Form Student Council organise a substantial number of charity events throughout the year. This includes rag week activities.

Invicta Grammar School is a member of World School and has the full International Schools Award. Students have access to a wide range of trips both in the UK and abroad. These include:

Comenius Project - Exchanges with schools in Finland, Italy, Germany, Romania

World School - Italy and Japan

Exchanges - France, Germany, Spain, Canada, Japan,

Trips - New York, Ypres, Belgium, Cornwall, France, Germany

Trips - Various theatre visits, art galleries, museums, Lego land, Alton Towers, Thorpe Park

Students have access to participating in Young Enterprise, Young Chamber, Certificate in Team Leading and work experience opportunities.

World Challenge and Duke of Edinburgh

Dance Shows, Fashion Shows

Drama Performances - Alice in Wonderland

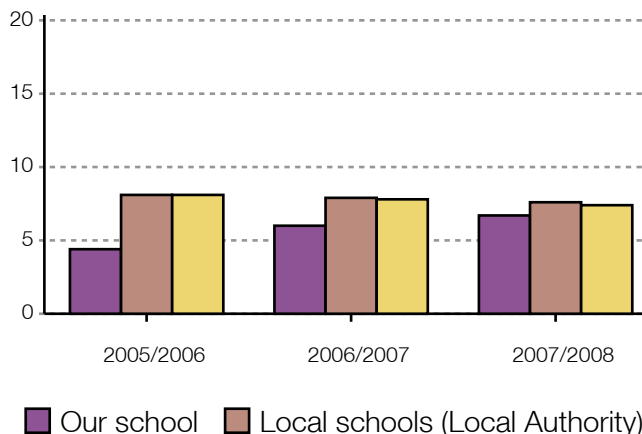
Breakfast club

Homework club

Debating club

STEMNET - Science, Technology and Engineering

How do our absence rates compare with other schools?



This chart shows the percentage of half days missed through authorised and unauthorised absence by all pupils at the school. Information is given for the school, for schools within the local authority and for all schools.

Our attendance rate is very good and is improving with 94.9% attendance in 2008 - 09 compared to 93.4% in 2007 - 08. This improvement is attributable to closer monitoring and tracking of pupil attendance by the Heads of Year; the introduction of first day calling via the "parent call" automated system and following DCSF guidelines we now do not authorise holidays in term time unless there are special circumstances.

Our school target is 97% which equates to a total of 5 days absence each year.

How do we make sure our pupils are healthy, safe and well-supported?

We have a fully qualified school nurse who is responsible for the day to day health issues including first aid.

We have a full programme of PSHEE & recognised as excellent in a recent Health Schools audit.

We have a comprehensive student support team consisting of 7 Heads of Year & 2 Learning Mentors. This team work closely with the teaching staff and parents to ensure that students are fully supported. Learning mentors provided one-to-one support for students with potential barriers to their learning and extra support for vulnerable students

The school also employs a fully qualified counsellor two days a week

We have a SENCO who works with 3 TA's to ensure that students receive their entitled provision and provide individual support for all students who may need help from time to time.

We have Sports Prefects who help the PE department run sports clubs and Prefects that are trained as anti-bullying counsellors

We have Investors in Careers Status and Healthy Schools Status.

We continue to survey parents/pupils every two years via the Kirkland Rowell Survey

The school canteen has been renovated & a new catering team introduced to improve the quality of

food available

In Oct 2009 a new Food Technology teaching room will be available

What do our pupils do after year 11?

In 2008/09

77% of year 11 students stayed on to study in our school sixth form

9% transferred to sixth forms in other schools

13% entered further education

1% entered employment with training

Ofsted's view of our school

Invicta Grammar School is a very good school. It provides very good value for money. Students attain very high standards at all stages and achieve very well. The school has an excellent ethos which provides strong support for achievement and personal development. Teaching and learning are very good. Leadership and management are very good in motivating students and staff to reach high standards and in planning continual improvements. Through its external links the school encourages a strong awareness of life within the community and around the world.

Date of last inspection: 10-Jan-2003

Ofsted graded our school as very good

Inspectors made judgements on a scale: excellent (grade 1); very good (2); good (3); satisfactory (4); unsatisfactory (5); poor (6); very poor (7).



[View the Ofsted page for Invicta Grammar School](#)

What have we done in response to Ofsted?

To ensure that there is good achievement across all subjects in the sixth form

- monitoring the quality of provision in each subject at Sixth Form Level which includes quality of teaching & learning, work sampling, student and staff interviews, schemes of work and action plans
- Improved system of monitoring and tracking student performance

Ensure that lessons are as interesting as possible and fully engage students in learning

- Staff training focused on improving teaching & learning
- Install interactive whiteboards in over 95% of classrooms
- Appointed two Lead Practitioners to train all teachers in the use of Interactive Whiteboards

Ensure that sufficient account is taken of the views of parents and students

- New Prefect structure; new student voice led by Head Girl
 - New learning pathways introduced in KS3, KS4 and KS5
 - Interviews with all yr 10 & yr 11 students and parents regarding learning pathways
 - Curriculum Forum Evenings in Yrs 7, 8, 9 and 12
 - Gifted and Talented Evenings
 - Use of parent mail to send letters home to improve communication with parents
 - Introduction of "Invicta Learning Gateway" to provide 24/7 on-line learning for students and improve communication with parents
 - Maintain information available on the school website
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Information about our sixth form

Our results this year

Our results at A Level are excellent and are still improving. We came top in the Maidstone area in 2009 and 6th in the county when compared to all other Kent & Medway Grammar Schools.

		Total Point	Kent & Medway Grammar
Year	%A/B	Score per student	School Rank /39
2009	73.3%	436.2	6th
2008	66.4%	419.3	7th
2007	52.6%	344.2	22nd

Full details of the results, including individual subject results, are available on the school website.

How have our results changed over time?

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What have been the successes of the sixth form this year?

- Excellent examination results in 2008 and 2009
- Successful introduction of new AS courses
- Successful introduction of Level 4 Journalism Course (Foundation Degree) with one student gaining a 1st, two students 2.1 and one student a 2.2
- Successful introduction of the new Prefect Structure
- Successful introduction of a new Rewards Policy as led by the students
- Refurbishment of the common room and improved ICT facilities in the sixth form silent study area
- Library moved next to Sixth Form study area to increase facilities available to students and to encourage independent learning.
- Boys' football team established
- Over £10,000 raised for charity
- Various fun fundraising activities organised by students - Rag Week, Enterprise Week, Fashion Show, Dance Show to name a few

What are we trying to improve in our sixth form?

- To continue to raise student expectations and to continue to improve levels of student achievement. Continue to increase the number of students who successfully apply to the top 25 universities.
- To continually improve curriculum provision. Introduce the AQA Baccalaureate, AQA Extended Project. To monitor the effectiveness of the new learning pathways yr 11 - 13 introduced last year.
- To provide a specialised comprehensive support package for the Gifted and Talented students
- To further extend the Sixth Form extra curricular and enrichment activities
- To continue to develop Level 4 Foundation Degree Courses offered

- To continue to improve student facilities and culture. Redecorate the Sixth Form Common Room; renovate the Sixth Form kitchen area and provide a basket service to improve the quality of food and service for all Sixth Form students; provide extra ICT facilities in the silent study area; continue to provide a laptop scheme to help improve ICT facilities; improve 6th form study facilities in the library; implement the student led Rewards Policy; continue to develop the new prefect structure introduced last year to provide leadership pathways and a formal forum for student voice

What do our students do after leaving the sixth form?

The majority of students go on to study at university after leaving Invicta Grammar School.

In 2008/09

2 students gained a place at Oxford/Cambridge

22% of students gained a place at one of the top 25 universities

45% of students gained a place at one of the top 50 universities

(Source: The Times Good University Guide 2009)

74% of students achieved a place at their first choice university.

In total

78% of the year group moved on to university

12% chose to take a gap year prior to university or employment

7% chose employment with training

3% moved on to further education at college

More Information

If you would like more information about school policies, including our policies on special educational needs and disability, admissions, finance, school food and our complaints procedure, please contact us:

By telephone 01622 755856

Our website <http://www.invicta.kent.sch.uk/>