



Year 8 and 9 2024 - 2026

A National Accreditation for Year 8 students reaching completion at the end of Year 9





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1. Introduction

The Townley Baccalaureate is an opportunity for you to learn more about yourself and the world around you. It will encourage you to think deeper, think widely and ultimately prepare you for what is ahead on the Townley journey and your life beyond. The project begins in Year 8 and finishes in Year 9 with a celebration of your work shared with your parents and the school community. At the end of the course, you will receive a National Accredited Award from the National Baccalaureate for Education which you can use on all applications in the future. This is a compulsory award and is completed in three parts.

Townley Grammar School is an accredited partner with the NBfE





2. The Core Curriculum

As part of the Townley Baccalaureate you must complete your usual lessons in Year 8 and Year 9. You do not have to study any extra or different subjects.

Completion of the compulsory Townley Lower School Curriculum makes up the Core Learning component of the Townley Baccalaureate.

It is important that students have a good attitude to learning and achieve an average of a 3 for effort across Year 8 and 9.

In other words, this part of the Baccalaureate is very straightforward indeed and does not require you to do anything differently to what you are doing right now.





3. Personal Development

Throughout Year 8 and Year 9, you will track your involvement in a wide range of activities that will help develop you as rounded, responsible young people.

You will participate in a full range of activities that help develop the Townley values of Compassion, Curiosity, Courage and Consciousness preparing you for the next steps in education and beyond.

Your achievements will be tracked and recorded in a personal learner profile. This will be monitored half termly by a member of staff and your form tutor.

The total number of hours spent on your Personal Development (PD) will be added up at the end of the Spring term in Year 9.





How many hours do I need to complete?

You need to achieve a minimum of 17 credits through activities that fall under the four Townley Values.

17 + hours of PD = Pass

21 + hours of PD = Merit

30 + hours of PD = Distinction

In order to log each credit, you will need to reflect on your personal development activity by filling out an online form which records your hours. You can also access this through your year group hub.

Townley PD record form

This will be quality assured by staff and added to your Personal Development record.



What kinds of activities count?

Basically, anything you do that is outside of your lessons but must be done in connection with the school.

The examples below are just some ideas - you may do something else that is connected to the school which counts towards your PD hours.

	Consciousness	Courage
First Give.	Charity work	Speaking in
Can Team.	through the	assembly.
Anti-bullying	school.	Performing in
clubs. ambassador Guiding for		school.
events.	Open events.	concert/show
School	Helping at	cases or
community	Open events.	events.
support.		Competitions.
	Can Team. Anti-bullying ambassador events. School community	Can Team. Anti-bullying school. ambassador events. School Community Can Team. through the school. Guiding for Open events. Helping at Open events.



4. The Townley Project

As part of the Baccalaureate Award students will complete an extended project in an area of their own interest.

Students will begin planning the project at the end of Year 8 and write the project in Year 9.

Time spent on the project will be a mixture of self directed learning with teacher guidance.

Students will work towards an end piece which may take the form of a presentation, speech, performance, film or piece of art or music.

All students will receive a final Accreditation award from the NBfE at a Pass, Merit or Distinction level.





What should my project be about?

Students will be given off-curricular time to make progress with the project as well as support during tutor time. Check in points will be provided throughout the year.

Students can choose their area of interest from the choices below:

- STEM
- Art and Culture
- Sport
- Environment
- Humanities
- Leadership



Once students have decided upon a focus, they will be directed to a number of research sources they can use throughout the process.



What might the final project look like?

This could be either:

A project which consists solely of a research based written report of approximately 2000 words; for example a research report of a scientific investigation, exploration of a hypothesis or an extended essay or academic report in appropriate form.

Or

An artefact which is accompanied by a research based written report of a minimum of 500 words. In order to appropriately evidence an artefact students may include photographs of each stage of development as well as the final product. It is not necessary to include large artefacts themselves as evidence, photographs or other media will suffice.





5. Assessment and Award

How is the project assessed?

A project production log will document the planning and progress of the project, including decision-making and the student's reflections on the process. This may include:

- Formal proposal and approval.
- Initial idea and outline plan for the project.
- Record of research carried out and resources used.
- Record of advice and support offered and action taken as a result.
- Note of any changes made to the plan and reasons for the changes.
- A review of the completed project product.





How is the overall assessment decided?

The Baccalaureate will be assessed over the three main areas and you will receive a result of Pass, Merit or Distinction:

1. Core Curriculum effort and participation

• Have you achieved an average of an effort grade 3?

2. Personal Development hours

• Have you achieved a minimim total of 17 personal development hours?

3. Townley Project

• Have you completed a project to the best of your ability?





The Final Presentation

At the end of the Baccalaureate journey, you will present your projects to each other.

You will need to include:

- Information about the curriculum you have studied throughout Year 8 and 9 which helped you develop your final project.
- Information about how you spent your Personal Development hours and how these activities helped you develop as a person.
- Information about your final project eg. why you chose your topic, how you researched it and how it impacted your thoughts and ideas.
- Overall, how the Baccalaureate has impacted you as a person exploring the challenges and positives of your Baccalaureate journey.



Baccalaureate Timeline:

December 2024 to June 2026

• Record your Personal Development hours accrued weekly during form time.

Summer 2025

• Begin project ideas.

Year 9 Autumn

• First draft of project.

Year 9 Spring

• Final drafting.

Year 9 Summer

- Final project and full Baccalaureate presentations.
- Celebration evening with parents.



Notes page:

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