

GOSFORD HILL
SCHOOL

Gosford Hill School Prospectus 2025-26



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Gosford Hill School Prospectus

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Vision, Ethos and Values

We aspire to be an inspirational school at the heart of the community, giving our students an excellent educational experience and equipping them to be resilient, lifelong learners.

It is our belief that students should leave Gosford Hill School having pushed the limits of their potential, whatever that might look like for each individual student.

We aim to provide our young people with the skills, qualifications and confidence to go on to great things. Our students should leave with happy memories of Gosford Hill School, as well as friendships that are firm and plentiful.

We seek to develop a sense of responsibility and respect for communities, and we look to send our young people out into the world with a knowledge of how it works and a desire to make it better.

We are proud to serve the community in and around Kidlington and are privileged to play a part in its social, moral, cultural and spiritual development. We support British and human values of justice, tolerance, democracy, fairness and understanding.

We have three school values:

Responsible

Respectful

Resilient

Our ethos is to:

"Be the best you can be"

Our promise to our young people is:

G Great curriculum – we will teach our students well

H High expectations – we set high standards

S Strong relationships – we know our students as individuals

A Warm Welcome



It's a pleasure to welcome you to our school at an exciting time as we are part of the Department for Education's Schools Rebuilding programme, which will see a brand new school building, built on the existing site. Our high expectations of our students, together with our ambitious, well sequenced curriculum and high quality teaching and learning has led to some of the strongest examination outcomes that the school has ever seen.

Our values of responsible, respectful and resilient encompass everything that we stand for as a school. We pride ourselves

on the emphasis that we place on the needs, aspirations and achievement of individual students, with learning very much at the heart of our work. We want our students to develop as resilient and independent learners, keen to overcome challenges, and take risks, so that they gain the skills needed to enable them to lead fulfilling lives as confident and articulate individuals in our society.

Every student has strengths and talents, and it is our job to find and unlock that potential in every student. Whether it's sport, art, music, Duke of Edinburgh or World Challenge, we celebrate success and recognise that learning goes beyond the classroom. Students will receive a rich and diverse range of extra-curricular opportunities and will be presented with exciting challenges.

Our promise to our students is to deliver a Great curriculum, with High expectations and where there are Strong relationships. This enables our young people to be the best they can be.

We work closely with parents, and it is our belief that where the school, individual students and their parents work closely together, young people will succeed.

The school is part of River Learning Trust (RLT), a multi-academy trust that also includes The Cherwell School, The Swan School, The Marlborough School and Chipping Norton School. We are proud to be the buckle in a belt of excellent secondary schools stretching from the heart of Oxford out into the Cotswolds.

“

Leaders have significantly improved the quality of education.

– Ofsted Report

”

It's a privilege to lead such a wonderful school and I do hope that you find the information in our prospectus helpful. There is so much more to learn about our school, though, so I would therefore urge you to come and visit us in order to find out and experience for yourself why students, parents, staff and our wider community are so proud of our school.

There is only so much that you can learn about the school from our prospectus and website, so you are warmly welcome to arrange a visit by emailing us via office@gosfordhillschool.org.

– Mr Nigel J. Sellars, Headteacher





▲ An artist's impression of the entrance to our brand new school



▼ CGI of proposed pupil arrival from Bicester Road

A new Gosford Hill School

In October 2023 we were privileged to be able to share the great news that Gosford Hill School is on phase three of the Department for Education's Schools Rebuilding Programme. Our brand new purpose built school building will be constructed on our existing site and will be phased over three years to enable the school to be operational throughout the build. We are the first school in Oxfordshire to be on the programme.

This is a huge moment for the school and the fantastic community that we are privileged to serve. It's no exaggeration to say that this is a transformative moment for Kidlington and for the many future generations of young people that will go through our school. Every community deserves a great school at its heart, and this rebuilding project means that Gosford Hill School can continue to be a great school at the heart of Kidlington for years to come.

Bowmer + Kirkland have been selected by the Department for Education as the main contractor who will bring the ambitious plans for the school to reality.

The existing school was opened on 7th September 1932, and despite being extended and developed over the years, the current layout and building stock are inefficient and energy intensive and don't suit the needs of education and learning in the 21st Century.



▲ CGI showing exterior of new school building, football pitch and MUGA

for the next generation...

The design of the new school is very much bespoke to our needs in terms of being able to deliver our ambitious curriculum. The external landscaping will support our wider curriculum such as Duke of Edinburgh, geography field work and sport. As we are very much at the heart of the community and provide a focal point for many community groups, our facilities have also been designed with the community in mind as this will be a building that serves the community beyond the school day.

Part of the brief centres around sustainability, and the new school will be more energy efficient, achieving net carbon zero in operation. The solar panels on the roof of the building will provide the power to the school, whilst the ground source heat pumps will heat the school. The materials and building technology will create a low acoustic environment and take advantage of natural light. We are also involving our young people in opportunities to work with the project team, as a way of inspiring our students into many careers associated with the design and construction industry.

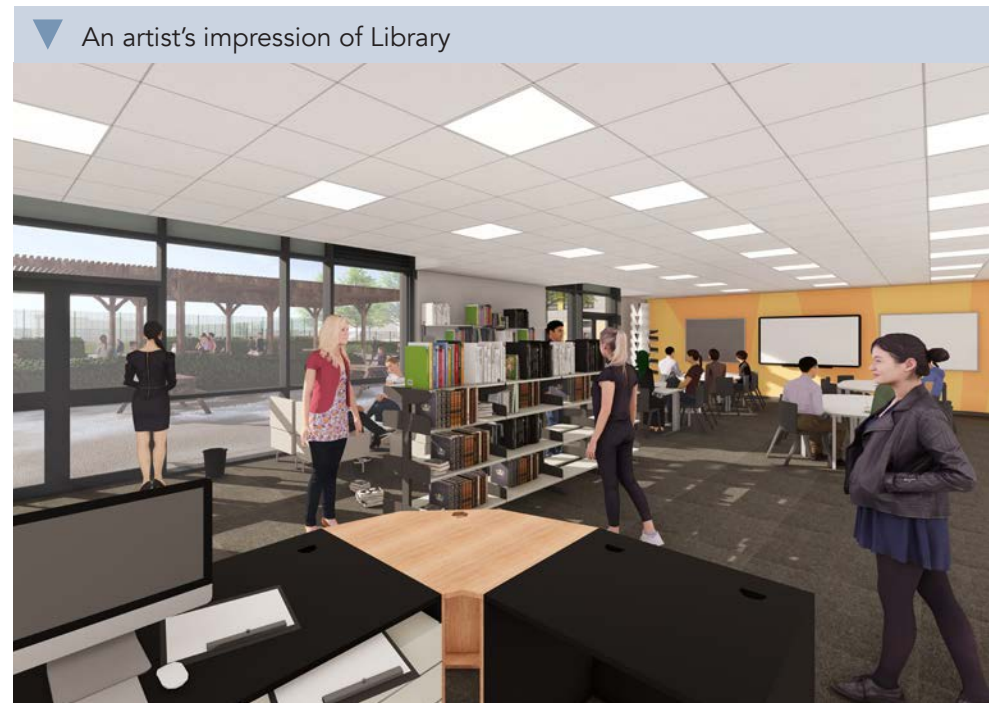
If you'd like to find out more information about this exciting project, there is a project website (www.gosfordhillplans.co.uk) where you can register for updates and review the plans in more detail.



▲ CGI of proposed Main Hall



▲ Artist's impression of Dining Hall



▼ An artist's impression of Library

A Day in the Life of a Student



Arrival: 08:25

Arrive at school and meet up with friends. When the movement bell sounds, we make our way to our tutor rooms.



Student Development Time: 08:30-08:50

(PSHE: 08:30-09:15 on Friday)

The bell sounds again at 8:30am, signifying the time for us to be in our form rooms. During this time, we do various activities, such as filling in Academic Progress Logs, and have the daily bulletin read out. However, on Fridays this is an extended PSHE lesson in our tutor groups.



Period 1: 08:50-09:50

(09:15-10:15 on Friday)

At Gosford Hill School, we follow a timetable that repeats every 2 weeks. These are classified into Week A and Week B, spanning 48 periods over the fortnight. The school day consists of 5 periods from Monday to Thursday and 4 periods on Friday. Each lesson lasts 1 hour, except for PSHE on Friday which lasts 45 minutes.



Period 2: 09:50-10:50

(10:30-11:30 on Friday)

Each lesson starts with a 'Do Now Activity' or DNA, as a method of embedding important key knowledge into our long term memory from previous lessons. The structure of the lessons also include teacher explanation and modelling examples, and we then complete high value activities based on this information.



Period 4: 12:15-13:15

(13:00-14:00 on Friday)

Throughout the school day we also study a range of subjects including History, Music, Geography and Computing. For each of these subjects we have 3 hours of lesson time across the fortnight.



Period 3: 11:15-12:15

(11:30-12:30 on Friday)

Each day we have a variety of different lessons. For the core subjects of English, Maths and Science we have 7 lessons of each across the two week timetable.



Break 1: 10:50-11:15

(10:15-10:30 on Friday)

After Period 2, it is time for the first break of the day. This break lasts for 25 minutes and gives us time to socialise with friends, and to go to the canteen to purchase snacks or drinks.



Break 2: 13:15-13:55

(12:30-13:00 on Friday)

During Break 2 we have more time to socialise with friends, use the canteen and have access to the Astro turf pitch, or the field during the summer. At lunchtime, there is also a wide selection of lunchtime clubs and activities going on including Chess Club in the Library, Junior Choir and Orchestra, and Soul Band.



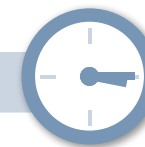
Reading: 13:55-14:15

This takes place in our form rooms and the Tutor Read Aloud sessions provides us with the opportunity to access a variety of different books throughout the academic year.



Period 5: 14:15-15:15

Throughout the two week timetable we also have lessons of PE which gives us the opportunity to participate in many sports such as Football, Cricket, Hockey and Netball.



End of the School Day: 15:15

(14:00 on Friday)

There are more extra-curricular activities and opportunities for us to attend at the end of the school day.

Curriculum



Our curriculum is broad and balanced, designed to deepen knowledge and skills as well as engage and inspire. It is well planned and structured to ensure that all individuals are able to succeed and fulfil their potential and in doing so, achieve success in the future and in their lives beyond school.

At **Key Stage 3**, all students follow a curriculum based upon the National Curriculum. Alongside the core curriculum, students study a broad range of subjects across a variety of disciplines such as: Art; History; Languages; Performing Arts and Technology. Students in Year 9 are supported in making their option choices for Key Stage 4 through our personalised programme.

The **Key Stage 4** curriculum is organised to enable students to follow more individualised learning programmes that meet their individual needs and aspirations. All students follow a core curriculum as well as four option subjects chosen from a wide range of subjects. Our aim is to maximise the potential of all our students through the range of opportunities we provide.

The **Key Stage 5** curriculum offers students the opportunity to choose from an even broader range of subjects including all the facilitating subjects and a variety of vocational options and is complemented by a selection of enrichment opportunities such as Extended Project Qualification; Duke of Edinburgh Award; work experience and bespoke support for future university and training applications.

Reading

At Gosford Hill School, we believe that reading is at the heart of everything, because it improves and broadens a child's vocabulary and enhances their cultural capital. Tutors spend 20 minutes every afternoon reading to their tutor groups, which will allow your child to read a diverse and exciting range of books, in addition to what they learn in their lessons.

Homework

Gosford Hill School takes an innovative and flexible approach to home learning using Google Classroom, which allows students to reflect and build on the knowledge that they acquire in lessons using the principles in our teaching and learning framework. Our students are supported with their homework and have access to our school library after school, supervised by a member of staff to complete their assignments.

“
Leaders and teachers know their pupils well and work together to raise aspirations and support them to achieve their goals. Pupils develop their talents beyond their chosen subjects.

– Ofsted Report



Extra-curricular Activities

Our ethos at Gosford Hill School is to encourage our students to 'be the best they can be'. To this end, we offer a broad range of activities outside the classroom that encourage students to participate and achieve beyond the curriculum, wherever their talents and passions may lie. We also offer a variety of trips to students, which include those connected to the curriculum, sports, culture and adventure.

Every school day, whether during break, lunchtime or after school, our students can explore and develop their talents and passions by participating in a range of clubs and activities. This may be in sports, music, drama and outdoor pursuits to chess, art and creative writing, amongst others.



Extra-curricular activities include:

- Art
- Athletics
- Badminton
- Brass Band
- Chess & Board Games
- Christian Union
- Creative Writing
- Cricket
- Duke of Edinburgh's Award (Bronze, Silver and Gold)
- Dungeons and Dragons
- Duolingo Club
- KS4 & KS5 Film Club
- French Club
- Football
- Gardening Club
- German
- Hockey
- Junior Choir
- Junior Orchestra
- Language Leaders
- MFL Film Club
- Music Appreciation
- Netball
- Rounders
- Rugby
- School Production
- Soul Band
- Table Tennis

Music

Gosford Hill School provides excellent music education and opportunities for students beyond the curriculum. We offer a great choice of extra-curricular music activities and clubs for musicians of all levels during the school day, whether at lunchtime or after school. These include; Junior Choir, Soul Band, Brass Band and Junior Orchestra, to name a few. Students who want to learn an instrument are able to do so as specialist teachers from the Oxfordshire County Music Service come into school to give private or group lessons.

There are numerous opportunities for students to visit and perform at festivals across the local area, whether that be visiting Henley Music Festival, performing at the Festival of Music for Youth as well as having the opportunity to perform at local venues throughout the year. Musicians who study at GCSE are also given the opportunity to attend the annual Creative Arts Trip abroad.

School Productions

Gosford Hill School has a reputation for putting on exceptional whole school performances. These take place annually and the cast and crew is made up of students from Years 7-13. Through these productions, we aim to stimulate and challenge our students and provide the opportunity for them to develop new skills and experience in all aspects of performance and theatre work, whether on stage or in a technical support role. Recent productions have included Bugsy Malone, Mary Poppins, Oliver, Peter Pan and our most recent production of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory was a sell-out success.

Trips and Visits

At Gosford Hill School, we believe the lessons learnt outside the classroom are as important as those learnt within. As such, we aim to offer as many opportunities as possible to our students to take part in a variety of trips and visits.

Our curriculum-centred trips include art galleries, museums, theatres, field study centres for Geography, RoboCon competitions and many more subject specific based visits. The Modern Foreign Languages Department also arranges regular visits overseas such as French trips for KS3 students.

Gosford Hill School runs four annual international trips:

- The **French trip** for Year 7 students travels to Calais in France and is an opportunity for team building, developing language skills and being immersed in French culture.
- The **Sports Tour** for Year 8 students, which recently visited Cologne in Germany during the Easter Holiday.
- The **Ski trip** for students in Years 10, 12 and 13 which this year, during the February Half Term break, went to Bardonecchia in Italy.
- The **Creative Arts trip** for Drama, Art and Music students in Years 9 and 10, which goes to either Lake Garda in Italy or Barcelona in Spain.

Many of our students also go on expeditions locally or further afield as part of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme.



▲ Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, our 2024 school production



▲ Gosford Hill School Ski trip 2024 to Bardonecchia, Italy

Sport and Physical Education

Physical Education at Gosford Hill School

Physical Education and Sport are an exciting part of life at Gosford Hill School. The PE Department is passionate about providing students with a range of opportunities both in lessons and through our extra-curricular programme, that allow them to enjoy and excel in physical activity and challenges our students to live out our school ethos of 'being the best they can be'.

Our approach is rooted in our commitment to inspiring lifelong participation in physical activity for all of our students. We have designed a curriculum that is engaging, knowledge rich and packed with a breadth of experiences and sports. This ultimately provides a holistic education where students become healthy, confident learners, equipped with the transferable life skills needed for success in challenges faced in sport and outside of school.



“

Positive relationships ensure typically calm, courteous behaviour across the school.

– Ofsted Report

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Sports Leadership

Sports leadership is an important element of our holistic approach. We are delighted to offer our students the opportunity to apply to be Sports Leaders, supporting our SSCo in running local primary sports festivals. There is also an opportunity for students to apply to become Sports Captains, helping to organise and deliver interform sports events in school. These students also work with the PE department and fellow students to shape the PE experience at Gosford Hill School.

As part of our enriching and extensive extra-curricular programme, we work closely and productively with community sports clubs in the local area, as well as the North Oxfordshire School Sports Partnership. This allows our students to experience clubs and fixtures in Rugby, Football, Netball, Athletics, Cricket, Badminton, Rounders, Trampolining and Table Tennis. Furthermore, we offer an annual Sports Tour in Year 8 to various European cities and a Ski trip in Year 11 to various European resorts.

Sixth Form

Gosford Hill School Sixth Form students feel happy and supported by our dedicated pastoral support, allowing them to develop an interest in, and passion for, their subjects. We aim to build their self-confidence, both personally and academically, so they are able to take responsibility for their own success and achieve the very best results. As such, 84% of our Sixth Form students are intending to go to university, while the remaining 16% are looking at apprenticeships or a gap year.



“Pupils’ personal development is promoted well, including in the sixth form. Impartial careers advice and guidance helps them plan and prepare for their next steps when they leave the school.”
– Ofsted Report

Student Welfare & Safeguarding

Student Welfare

Students at Gosford Hill School are supported by a wide network of Pastoral Support. All students have a form tutor, who delivers bespoke pastoral care for their tutor group. Students remain with their form tutor throughout their time at Gosford Hill School, meaning that this relationship is a significant form of support for students.

Students are also part of the phase system, and receive support from specific Heads of Phase and Assistant Heads of Phase, who are specially trained to support students at their age and stage of education. As part of the wider student support team, we have non-teaching pastoral assistants, three Student Welfare Managers, a dedicated School Counsellor and a School Health Nurse. All of the support is coordinated by either the Deputy Headteacher (Behaviour, Attendance & Culture) or the Assistant Headteacher with responsibility for Student Welfare and Safeguarding.



Safeguarding

Safeguarding is at the heart of everything that we do at Gosford Hill School. We strongly believe that all students have the right to be the best that they can be, and work with external agencies to support all students to fulfil their potential.

As appropriate, we would welcome a conversation with you about how we can support your child on their journey through secondary school. Our Designated Safeguarding Lead is Mr La Porte (Assistant Headteacher – Student Welfare & Safeguarding) who will be happy to answer any questions you may have.



Inclusion and Special Educational Needs Provision

Our philosophy is that the best place for our students is in lessons with their teachers, whose expertise is the most important variable in effective teaching. At Gosford Hill School, there is an ongoing commitment to and emphasis on 'quality first teaching', ensuring that lessons are delivered using tested, research backed methods to enable all of our students, particularly those with SEND, to progress.

Our Inclusion Team works with our students to address and break down barriers to ensure that all of our students can progress. We strive towards independence for all of our students. This can involve, but is not limited to, support in lessons from a teaching assistant, bespoke literacy and numeracy interventions, a Fresh Start literacy programme and involving relevant outside agencies. Interventions are carefully planned and the impact of these is assessed regularly to ensure that they are having a positive impact on the education of our students.

We also provide a high level of support for our students with SEND at key milestones in their school careers. For example, transition into Year 7, during the options process when students select their GCSE subjects and, where students have specific needs, we ensure that we have appropriate special arrangements in place for external examinations.



“

*Behaviour is typically good throughout the school;
most pupils are respectful and polite.*

– Ofsted Report

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Wider School Community

Some of our notable alumni include:

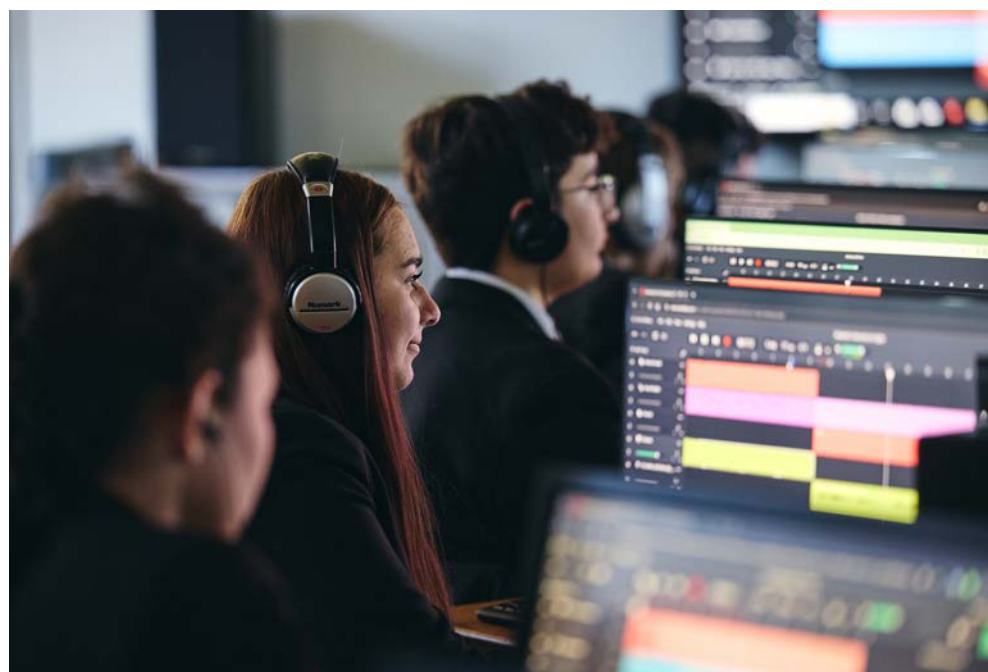
- Professor Irene Tracey, Vice Chancellor of Oxford University
- Nick Cope (English Musician and presenter of 'Nick Cope's Popcast' on CBeebies)
- Timothy Supple (Theatre and opera director)
- David Rodigan (Reggae DJ and radio presenter)
- Callum O'Dowda (Professional footballer for Cardiff City)
- Jade O'Dowda (Paris 2024 Olympian and English international athlete)
- Kevin Hook (Account Controller (Microsoft and Intel) UK & Ireland)
- Marie Hamilton (Actor, writer and performance maker)

Destinations

In recent years, students leaving us at the end of Year 13 following their A Levels have gone on to study courses such as: Natural Sciences at University of Cambridge; Medicine at King's College and University of Edinburgh; Law at University of Warwick; Languages at University of York; Economics with Politics at University of Exeter; English at University of Bristol and Computer Science at University of Reading.

From our Year 11 cohort, 60% usually join Gosford Hill School Sixth Form, 32% go to college and 8% go on to take an apprenticeship. Recent destinations other than our Sixth Form include:

- College to study T Levels in Digital, Childcare and Engineering
- Level 3 courses in Performing Arts and Production and Creative Media Production
- Level 2 courses in Electrical Installations and Professional Cookery
- The Oxford Scholar Programme (Oxford United) and Ignite Sports
- Apprenticeships in Engineering, Motor Vehicle, Childcare, Electrical, Plumbing and Hospitality



Visiting the School

The best way to learn more about Gosford Hill School is by visiting us and seeing the school in action. We warmly welcome prospective parents and their children to visit us at any time, to talk to our students and staff and to see us at work. Please email the school office via office@gosfordhillschool.org to arrange a mutually convenient time.

Application Process

12
SEPT

Secondary School Applications Open

Applications to secondary school open on the Oxfordshire County Council website on Thursday 12th September 2024.

31
OCT

Secondary School Applications Close

Secondary school applications close on Thursday 31st October 2024.

3
MAR

National Offer Day

Monday 3rd March 2025 is National Offer Day. You can log in to the OCC website to see your offer and then accept or reject it online.

17
MAR

Deadline to respond to offer

You will need to respond to Oxfordshire County Council's offer by Monday 17th March 2025.

Admissions

Applications to join Gosford Hill School should be made through Oxfordshire County Council via their website (<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/schools/apply-school-place>). Once the application is received, Oxfordshire County Council inform the school and we will be in touch. If you have any specific queries, you are welcome to contact us in school via admissions@gosfordhillschool.org, where Mrs Kyle, our Pastoral Administrator, will be able to help you.





Responsible



Respectful



Resilient



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office@gosfordhillschool.org



www.gosfordhillschool.org

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