



Great Marlow School

Excellence • Compassion • Integrity

WHAT WILL YOU FIND AT GREAT MARLOW? . . .



Opportunities are Created • Potential is Realised • Excellence is Achieved

WELCOME TO OUR SCHOOL



Thank you for taking an interest in our school. I am extremely proud and consider it to be a privilege to be the Headteacher of Great Marlow. Over the last few years, the school has gone from strength to strength and now enjoys an enviable reputation as an excellent school that is hugely over-subscribed. We have consistently demonstrated that GMS creates opportunities for every child, supports them to release their potential and enables them to achieve excellence.

Great Marlow became an Academy on 1 August 2011 and today, in 2020, is a school of choice, with over 1,400 students, aged 11-19, of whom over 250 are in the Sixth Form. We are extremely proud of our success.

In recent the years, the demand for places at the school has considerably outstripped the number of spaces available, so the governors, in 2015, agreed to expand the intake to 230 students in Year 7 to allow more parents, carers and students to access their first choice school. To accommodate the increased number of students, the local authority funded an extensive building programme, which was concluded in February 2018. This programme included new performing arts accommodation and a stunning two storey block adjacent to the hall containing 7 new classrooms and the new school entrance. At the same time, very importantly, we doubled the size of the dining facilities, developed a number of excellent outdoor seating areas, and significantly improved the security of the site. All this enriches and enhances the learning environment with modern facilities designed specifically to accommodate our flourishing school.

The latest development of the school's facilities follows quickly after the opening of our 'state of the art' sports centre named after former student Sir Steve Redgrave and the Sixth Form Centre, with study facilities that would grace a university. These facilities, opened in 2013 and 2014 respectively, continue to inspire students to strive to achieve the very best possible.

Our curriculum has been carefully designed with significant flexibility to make sure it meets the needs of all our students. It provides a very broad and balanced curriculum at Key Stage 3, an excellent range of options at GCSE and, in the Sixth Form, a wide range of A-level qualifications. GMS also offers vocational courses in Key Stage 4 and in the Sixth Form. We are proud of the continuing academic success achieved across the three key stages.

The examination results at both GCSE and A-level, including the vocational qualifications, are excellent, due to inspirational teaching; outstanding relationships between staff and students; and the aspirational climate of the school. All students experience the highest level of care and guidance to support their personal and academic development, and this reflects the commitment and dedication of the staff: it is the essential ingredient that ensures every student makes exceptional progress.

Great Marlow continues to be an integral part of the local community. The governance of the school is a key strength and has played an integral role in shaping the vision, values and ethos of this establishment. The Governors are a dedicated, highly qualified, professional team of people who work extremely effectively with the Leadership Team to ensure continuing success.

Students thoroughly enjoy school and are clearly proud to attend GMS. Visitors always comment on the fantastic atmosphere that pervades the school, the purpose and commitment, but also the smiles and obvious enjoyment of everyone involved. We are extremely proud of our school and encourage parents and carers to browse this website for further information.

Kevin Ford
Headteacher



Great Marlow School

The school is set in a very attractive 36 acre site to the west of Marlow town centre. It has been located on the Bobmore Lane site, adjacent to Wycombe Road and Little Marlow Road, since 1961. There is a separate entrance to the Redgrave Sports Centre accessed from Wycombe Road.

The decision to expand in 2015 has been extremely successful, students have appreciably benefited from the £9 million investment, which has significantly strengthened the core teaching and learning function in every area of the curriculum.

However, this is a school that believes there is more to education than just academic success in examinations. GMS offers an opportunity for every year group to join at least one of the numerous trips organised by staff. Every student is encouraged to engage in fund raising for local, national and international charities. Every student has the opportunity to join an extra-curricular club; indeed, the school's commitment to an extra-curricular programme underpins its vision to be a "high quality learning environment that inspires students, staff and the community to be compassionate, successful and resilient contributors to a better society."

Learning and Teaching

The school provides a broad and rich curriculum. Teachers encourage creativity, awe and wonder, originating from an 'anything is possible' pedagogy approach. Our young people are encouraged to become absorbed in an engaging curriculum designed to foster an enquiring mind that will last a lifetime; it is a curriculum that challenges them to take responsibility for their learning. Responsibility is one of the 6Rs of the My Personal Best programme, integral to the school's teaching and learning philosophy, the others are 'Resilience, Reflection, Resourcefulness, Readiness, Responsibility and Respect'.

I FOUND AN INQUISITIVE MIND





I FOUND A LOVE OF READING



"We, as governors are all immensely proud to be part of this school and are fully committed to work with the leadership team, and the whole school community (staff, parents, carers and students) to ensure the drive and passion for greater success continues."

Sally Brooks, Chair of Governors



Great Marlow believes it is essential that students experience what the arts have to offer if a rounded education is to be accomplished. The arts offer so much in terms of personal development because the enriching experience of going to an art gallery, a museum, or theatre enhances the social, economic and cultural health of our young people; visits like these offer every child experiences that will remain with them all their lives and open up future career choices.

The school is rightly proud of the way our students excel in the arts. The evidence of this success is not just based on the excellent outcomes in examination results, but also in the acclaim that follows our art exhibitions, fashion shows and media events.

Nothing is more important in education than ensuring that every child can read well. Students who read competently are, overwhelmingly, more likely to succeed at school, achieve good qualifications and, subsequently, enjoy a fulfilling and rewarding career.

At Great Marlow School, we have an extremely well-resourced library housing both physical books and e-books. Students in Years 7 and 8 are engaged in the successful Accelerated Reading Programme. This programme supports and stretches their reading by introducing them to new books and authors. In addition, subject teachers create opportunities for reading in their classrooms and beyond.

Every child should experience the pleasure and enrichment that comes from reading, whether it be a great novel, autobiography, biography, play, poetry, quality articles in reviews, magazines, or broadsheet newspapers.



I FOUND MY CREATIVE SIDE





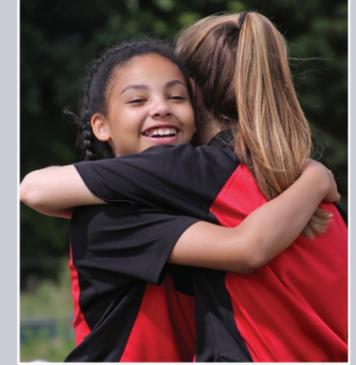
“I learnt so many performance skills and personal qualities from being a part of productions at GMS”.

Georgina, Year 13



“Starting in Year 9 I thought it would be difficult, but I very quickly developed a group of the most supportive and loyal friends”

Amy, Year 10



Our Core Values

Our core values are “Excellence, Compassion and Integrity”, these values guide us towards providing the very best learning environment possible. We recognise that this is best achieved in partnership with the parents and carers of our students. Working together, a strong partnership results in the development of confident, secure and compassionate young people who, on a daily basis, act in a morally and socially responsible way.

We have a very proud tradition of drama and musical productions that play a significant role not just in the development of students’ musicality or acting skills, but also in bringing our parents, carers and community members into the school. The annual Christmas production is always incredibly well supported with a full house, as are all events at the school.



I FOUND AN ABILITY TO PERFORM

I FOUND FRIENDSHIP

Care, Guidance and Support

Great Marlow School is renowned for the excellent relationships between students and staff; students with one

another; and the school with its parents and carers. The school provides the highest level of pastoral care: every member of staff is keenly aware of their responsibilities to care for and guide their students.

As a school, we have the very highest of expectations with regards to punctuality, attendance and uniform. The ‘Behaviour for Learning Policy’ is enforced consistently and appropriately by all members of staff.

Learning Support

The Learning Support Department helps students with special educational needs to access the curriculum by removing barriers to their learning. The learning support team works to develop strong links with the family of the child, to ensure that their tailored support is meeting the needs of the student.





I FOUND MY CONFIDENCE



“After just five days in year seven, I felt as if I’d been in the school for years”

Georgia, Year 7



The Sixth Form

Post-16 students are offered an extremely wide range of courses. They have the opportunity to mix traditional and applied A-levels with vocational BTEC courses, enabling them to have a strong profile when applying for jobs, placements, apprenticeships or university. The Sixth Form has maintained outstanding results whilst doubling in size: on average there are 250 students in the Year 12 and 13 cohorts. Students are guided through the application process for jobs, apprenticeship and UCAS by dedicated tutors, who also write their references.

Beyond the Classroom

There is an extensive range of clubs and activities provided before school, at lunchtime and after school for students of all year groups to participate in. As well, numerous special events and trips take place in the evenings, at weekends and during school holidays. Every curriculum subject strives to offer an enrichment activity: in sporting clubs and fixtures, as well as in educational trips that include visits to London and other European cities. We believe that visiting museums, art galleries and the theatre enhances cultural experiences. Field trips are an essential part of many curriculum studies and they take students to places in the UK and abroad.

The sheer range of activities that are on offer is a testament to the commitment and passion of the staff who give their time freely to create the most exciting and dynamic opportunities for the students to enjoy.

Sport at Great Marlow

Physical education and sport is an integral part of the curricular and extra-curricular programme. In the recently built Redgrave Sports Centre and on the outdoor pitches and courts, the school benefits from the very best sporting facilities. The Physical Education Department was awarded the Bucks and Milton Keynes LEAP Award and has been awarded Secondary School of the Year, for the quality of the delivery of physical education and sport. The diversity of activities offered and success achieved in competitive fixtures continues to grow each year and the examination results achieved by the department are amongst the best in the school.

Great Marlow School Boat Club

A unique part of the sporting life at the school is our rowing programme, which sees Great Marlow School regularly compete on the river alongside some of the most famous schools in the country.

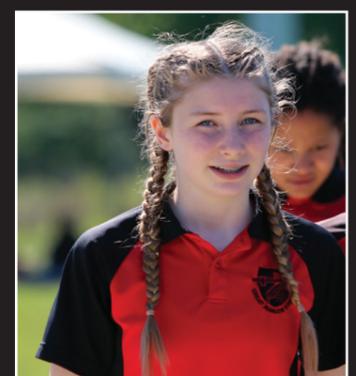
A particularly favourite memory is seeing a national schools' race results' board showing Great Marlow School finishing first, ahead of Eton and Westminster. Due to the dedication of coaches, students, parents and carers this success is a regular occurrence. Rowing is available to all students at the school. It is an incredibly demanding sport with older students training at least four times a week, but it is also a highly valued activity that plays a significant part in the history and legacy of the school.

There is increasing evidence that shows that regular participation in sport does not just have benefits for an individual's health but also on their academic progress and attainment.

“At GMS, I have learnt to win without boasting and lose without excuse”

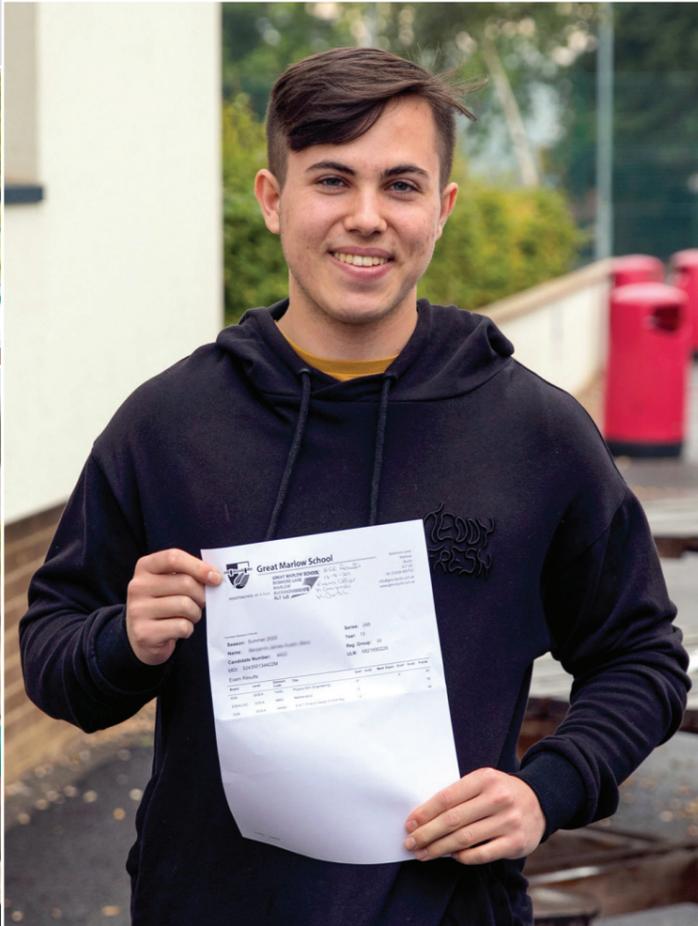
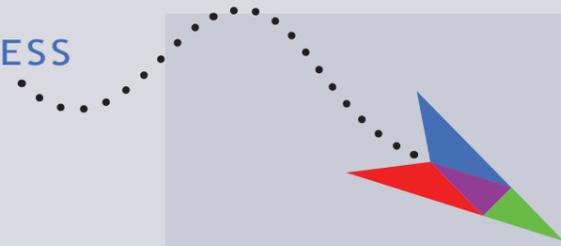
Ben, Year 11

I FOUND SPORTSMANSHIP





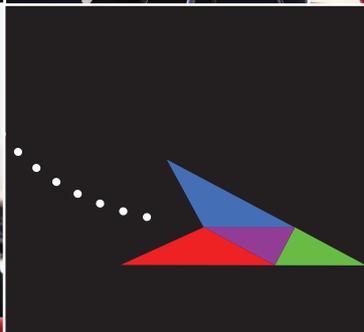
I FOUND SUCCESS



In recent years Great Marlow School has expanded significantly especially in the numbers enrolling in the sixth form. Their achievement has encouraged younger students to strive for academic success and has led to GMS being the school of choice for many parents, carers and their children. Other reasons for success lie with the clarity of vision, values and ethos of the governors and the leadership at the school; the incredible commitment of the staff; and the outstanding young people who enter the school at the age of 11, with a desire to learn and be the best person they can be, fostered in the homes they come from.

We enjoy celebrating the success of our students: on a daily basis through praise; through the weekly Headteacher's Awards scheme; through telephone calls home; on postcards sent to parents and carers; through reward points; with achievement certificates at the end of each term; and yearly at the Celebration of Success Evening, Sports Awards Evening and the Rowing Awards Dinner.

AT THE END OF IT ALL.



I FOUND ME!



JOIN US AT GREAT MARLOW SCHOOL AND DISCOVER WHO YOU ARE



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