



**Great Marlow School**

*Excellence • Compassion • Integrity*



Opportunities are Created • Potential is Realised • Excellence is Achieved



# Welcome to our School



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I am extremely proud and consider it to be a privilege to be the Headteacher of Great Marlow.

**Kevin Ford**

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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 is now firmly a school of choice, with over 1,450 students, aged 11-19, of whom over 270 are in the Sixth Form. We are extremely proud of our success.

In recent 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 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.





# Our Core Values

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Staff resolutely focus on  
doing what is best for  
the children

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School monitoring visit  
March 2022

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.

Excellence  
Compassion  
Integrity

The trustees and the leadership of GMS lead with a clarity of vision that has enabled the school to flourish. The incredible commitment of the staff has enhanced the learning experience and supported students to embrace success. We are incredibly proud of the outstanding young people, who enter the school age of 11, with a desire to learn and be the best person they can be.





## 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.

On August 1st 2011, the school acquired Academy status. In 2015 GMS benefited from a £9 million investment. The decision to expand 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. 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."

An embracing of the eco-cause has resulted in an enhancement of the school site. The accreditation of the prestigious Eco-Schools Green Flag means GMS is officially an eco-school, with Eco-Warriors actively working and encouraging everyone to take care of the school and the wider community, for the benefit of all, including wildlife.



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

Chair of Trustees

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# Opportunities for everyone

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I am extremely happy at Great Marlow and felt I belonged here as soon as I joined in Year 7.

Sasha, Year 10

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## Learning and Teaching

At Great Marlow School, we know we are inspiring the leaders of tomorrow, which is why we provide 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 ownership of 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 and Respect'.



# My personal best

## Responsibility

Our students are encouraged to accept responsibility. Responsibility means being truthful and honest both to oneself and to others. It requires owning an action and consenting to the consequences of that action because it is the right thing to do.



"I recently played Captain Hook in our school production and was responsible for bringing that role to life."

Aaron, Year 11

## Resilience

Resilience requires finding an inner strength to forge a way forward after experiencing a setback, mishap or upheaval.



"When I am in a position where I believe I can't do something, I pause take a step back, and go again to push through it."

Ashton, Year 10

## Reflection

Reflection is a life skill; it's learning from being reflective. By revisiting actions, behaviour and work understanding is deepened and better knowledge of oneself reinforced.



"It is important not to obsess over mistakes but to use them to grow."

Giana, Year 13





## Resourcefulness

Resourcefulness is about finding pathways to success, even when barriers seem difficult or insurmountable.



"I'm resourceful by finding quick and clever ways to overcome difficulties."

**Ben, Year 9**



## Readiness

Being ready and prepared for learning helps our students thrive on the educational and extra-curricular opportunities they are offered.



"I show readiness by walking into lessons with the right attitude and mindset to learn."

**Emily, Year 8**



## Respect

Mutual respect is the cornerstone of GMS's ethos. We expect members of our community to treat each other with dignity and respect; this involves listening to each other's viewpoints and recognising there may be disagreement.



"I treat my peers with respect by being courteous and considerate of their feelings or opinions."

**Ellees, Year 10**





# Reading expands the mind

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





# Creativity cultivates ideas

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 on the acclaim that follows our art exhibitions, fashion shows and media events.

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. All our events are incredibly well attended, and we thank everyone who supports our students and us.



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

Aaron, Year 10

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# Sport promotes inclusivity

## Outstanding sporting facilities at Great Marlow School

Physical education and sport are an integral part of the curricular and extra-curricular programme. In the Redgrave Sports Centre and on the outdoor pitches and courts, the students benefit 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. The examination results achieved by the department are amongst the best in the school.



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

Ben, Year 11





# Beyond the classroom



## Great Marlow School Boat Club

A unique part of the sporting life at the school is our rowing programme, which is available to all students and offers them practice and competitive races on the river alongside some of the most famous schools in the country including Eton and Winchester. Due to the dedication of coaches, students, parents and carers success is a regular occurrence, with our crews increasingly racing at a faster pace than other rowing schools. It is a demanding sport with older students training at least eight 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 regular participation in sport benefits an individual's health and improves their academic progress and attainment.



## Enrichment activities at Great Marlow School

There is an extensive range of clubs and activities provided before school, at lunchtime and after school. Every curriculum subject strives to offer an enrichment activity, whether it be a sport, a competition, or an educational trip. We believe that visiting museums, art galleries, the theatre and other European countries enhances cultural experiences. Field trips are an essential part of many curriculum studies, and they take students to places in the UK and abroad.

Being charitable and supporting charitable organisations is a cornerstone of our school. Every student is encouraged to engage in fund raising for local, national and international charities.

The sheer range of activities 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.



# Post 16



## The Sixth Form

Post-16 students are offered an extremely wide range of courses. Traditional A-levels stand alongside vocational BTEC courses; our students have a strong profile when applying for jobs, placements, apprenticeships or university. The Sixth Form continues to flourish with students being awarded outstanding results. Now, there are over 270 post-16 students on-roll. Students are guided through the application process for jobs, apprenticeships and UCAS by dedicated tutors.

# Success boosts confidence

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 end of term achievement certificates; and yearly at the Celebration of Success Evening, Sports Awards Evening and the Rowing Awards Dinner.







# Guidance supports individuals



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 expectations with regard 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 meets the needs of the student.





# Creating lifelong experiences

Our enriching curriculum and extensive extra-curricular programme provide students with the opportunity to grow and flourish in many and varied ways. We believe education is about encountering, participating in, and gaining knowledge of, new and exciting activities, which have the potential to become lifelong passions.

We empower students to engage in making choices that allow them to confidently acquire new skills, discover new activities, make new friends and build a sense of belonging across a range of pursuits.



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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

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Join us at Great Marlow School where everyone can realise their potential and achieve personal excellence.

# Something for everyone

**This is where the magic begins!**







# Great Marlow School

*Excellence • Compassion • Integrity*

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