



Gillingham School
Prospectus



Welcome from the Headteacher

Welcome to Gillingham School in North Dorset, set in the heart of the beautiful Blackmore Vale.

Founded by benefactors in 1516, Gillingham School is proud and privileged to offer a quality and enjoyable educational experience that is open to all young people from the town of Gillingham, its surrounding villages and indeed, to young people further afield in Dorset, Wiltshire and Somerset.

At Gillingham School, we recognise that children have many abilities, talents and personalities. Knowing that each student is different and that they learn in many ways, we aim to develop their abilities, raise their expectations and provide the support that is necessary for success. By offering a wide range of experiences to our students both in and out of the classroom, students will receive a broad spectrum of learning.

'Docendo Discimus,' our school motto, means 'through teaching, we learn' and this recognises that learning is a shared, life-long process. The partnerships between students, teachers and parents are vitally important in ensuring that all students aspire to achieve the best possible chances for their future.

Gillingham School, furthermore, is a friendly, welcoming and inspiring school. Characterised by good behaviour, respect towards each other and enthusiasm for new experiences, the positive ethos of Gillingham School has been a feature here for many years and we remain committed to sustaining this into the future.

It is our privilege as teachers to welcome children into our school and to encourage them to learn, grow, develop and mature into the young adults who will eventually leave us and thrive in the 21st century

world. It is a delight when we meet former students some years later and hear how they have progressed and how Gillingham School helped them to achieve their goals.

I was delighted to have been appointed as Headteacher in September 2017.

The unique and incredibly special ethos immediately resonated with me and I am thrilled to have become a part of the school.

Above all else, Gillingham is a very happy school and we expect our children to feel safe, secure and confident. Partnerships are very important to us: Gillingham School has a history of working closely with parents/carers and with all members of our local and wider community in order to provide the best possible education for our students. This is something that we pride ourselves on.

I look forward to welcoming you to our school.



Paul Nicholson
Headteacher

Life at Gillingham School



Gillingham School provides education for all types of young people in our area: boys and girls, rich and poor: academic, sporty, artistic, practical or caring. Students achieve across the whole breadth of school life and all its facets - they are a credit to their school, their families and themselves, and we are very proud of them.

We continue to see a huge amount and pace of change in education, alongside the increasing emphasis on using results data to tell our story, and that of our students. Of course, excellent exam results are crucial to the future life choices of students, but data can reduce us to less than we are. Exam results aren't the only things of value that comes from an education, and for some they aren't even the most important thing that they will take away from their time at school.

We believe in the value of education in its broadest sense:

- that may be excellence in sport, or enthusiasm for engaging in a healthy lifestyle;
- it may be the skills to play a musical instrument or a lifelong appreciation of the arts;
- some will take a particular skill or knowledge that they have learned, that is important to them;
- some will leave with a sense of what is right, of how to treat others and how to manage oneself
- and, of course, we are determined that each individual will leave with the very best exam results that they could possibly achieve, to support them as they progress

through their adult lives.

We aim to ensure that the values, traditions and successes of Gillingham School are maintained and built upon, while responding and reacting to the needs of a modern society, which will be as different to the next generation as today is to the previous one. However, change should not alter the core principles on which this school has been built over the centuries. The school was founded by people in the community, who believed that education should be available to all, independent of wealth; and today it is the one secondary school in the town, providing education for all. Even in the early days, the curriculum did not always follow the accepted norms of the time; instead the children were taught those things that were felt to be important both to them as individuals, and to the wider community; today we resist pressures to make decisions for the benefit of the statistics; rather we set a curriculum that we believe is in the best interests of students. Founders, headteachers and governors have been people of honour who have tried to educate the young people of Gillingham to be worthy citizens and good people; today we strive to follow the Golden Rule, to treat each other as we would be treated.

Gillingham School has always been part of its community, and over the years has helped to shape the town that we live in today. Over its 500+ year history, generations of local residents have been educated here, and those young people then become the parents of the next generation of children, with each generation giving its own unique contribution to the town, and our community. While retaining a sense of history, we constantly look to the future, and how we can make this great town even better for its people. By working together, both can become stronger. The voice of young people is vitally important in shaping Gillingham's future, which is their future, and recently developed links between the school's student council

and Gillingham Town Council has given even greater opportunities to make this a reality.

We may not be able to predict how the school will have changed by the time the current generation of students have become proud parents themselves, but we hope that Gillingham School's history, principles, values and ethos will remain a strong foundation for whatever challenges - and opportunities - the future brings.



Our History

Gillingham School is one of the oldest schools in Dorset and indeed, in the country. The history of how it started continues to have benefits for the school we have today, and we hope that the spirit in which it was founded is still reflected in our culture and ethos.

In 1516, a group of local landowners gave certain lands to form a trust fund, for the purpose of funding a schoolmaster to teach the children of Gillingham (of course in those days that meant boys). These landowners were the men who founded the original Gillingham School; they are the founders that we commemorate each year at our Founders' Day awards ceremony.

These were men who believed in the importance of the future of young people, and in their local community as a whole. As well as founding the school, they contributed funds for maintenance of the church, the local roads and bridges, and to provide support for the poor. There was no central government as we know it today, nor any Dorset County Council, to be held responsible for these things at that time. Small towns like Gillingham would only grow and develop if the wealthier local residents chose to contribute.

Many schools were established in this way: many of them didn't stand the test of time and are no more; others invested in expanding, by a combination of larger donations and through charging tuition fees, and gradually developed into the famous public schools of Britain; some, like Gillingham, continued quietly and efficiently as schools serving their community, eventually becoming grammar schools and comprehensive schools.

Over the centuries, the school has had several incarnations, but the link back to its foundation is continuous. Gillingham Free School was established in a building opposite St Mary The Virgin church. The school expanded through to the 19th century; in 1876 it moved into new buildings on this present site and became Gillingham Grammar School. In 1903 the school became a grant-aided school, with education paid for from public funds from that time onwards, also opening its doors to students from the nearby part of Wiltshire. In 1916 girls were admitted for the first time (although there had been a separate school for younger girls for some time which was then absorbed). In 1940 a second (secondary modern) school was built on the same site, so that children of all abilities were catered for; but then, in 1959, these were amalgamated back into the single Gillingham School - then as now providing education for all types of young people in the area: boys and girls; rich and poor; academic, sporty, artistic, practical or caring.

Gillingham School is now a large state-funded school, however the trust fund started by the Founders has remained and been added to throughout our history. Each year it provides a small but extra income that allows us to do a few extra things – like give prizes on celebration days; provide financial support for students who need extra funds to pursue a particular talent; or pay entry fees so that teams of students can enter national competitions in sport, music, maths or others. Our board of governors has a special responsibility to administer the trust, to maximise the income and to ensure that it is spent for the good of the education of the children of Gillingham and its surrounding area.

School Houses

Baxter
Clarendon
Davenant
Fletcher
George Butler
Hurley
Lyndon
Matthews
Seager
Wagner



Learning at Gillingham

Our Values

We recognise young people have many abilities, talents and personalities and learn in many different ways, and are committed to enabling all of our students to achieve their full academic and personal potential. We aspire to enable all students to make the best possible progress regardless of previous achievement or additional learning needs.

Gillingham School is committed to developing resilient, adaptable and resourceful learners. We aim to develop ability, raise expectations and provide the support necessary for life-long success by offering a wide range of enriching experiences both in and beyond the classroom.

We have a broad, challenging and inclusive curriculum shaped according to the key knowledge, skills and competencies students need to know, understand and do in order to thrive for the rest of their lives.

Students at Gillingham School have equal access to a curriculum which is designed to offer breadth, balance and relevance.

Years 7 & 8

Students in Years 7 & 8 study the subjects listed below:

English Language & Literature
 Mathematics
 Science
 Art
 Computer Science
 Design Technology
 Drama
 Food & Nutrition

French
 Geography
 History
 Music
 Physical Education
 Personal, Social & Health Education (PSHE)
 Religious Studies.

In addition, students in Year 8 are given the chance to study a second foreign language (German or Spanish).

Years 9 to 11

From Year 9 onwards, students are given some element of choice of subjects studied, whilst ensuring they maintain a broad and balanced programme of study so they have the widest possible range of choices post-16.

All students study these subjects:

English Language & Literature
 Mathematics
 Science (Triple Science i.e. separate GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics, moving to Combined Science (2 GCSEs) if appropriate)
 Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE)
 Religious Studies
 Physical Education (practical)

In addition, students will be able to choose five option subjects to study in Year 9 from the extensive list below, which would normally include at least one Modern Foreign Language (French, German or Spanish) as well as Geography or History (or both).

Option Subjects

Art
 French
 Business Studies (BTEC or GCSE)
 Geography
 Computer Science
 German
 Design Technology: Electronics
 History
 Design Technology: Graphic Products
 Music
 Design Technology: Resistant Materials
 Photography
 Design Technology: Textiles
 Physical Education (BTEC or GCSE)
 Digital Applications
 Psychology
 Drama
 Religious Studies
 Food and Nutrition
 Spanish

Towards the end of Year 9 students will then decide which four option subjects they wish to continue into Year 10 and 11 (this may include full course GCSE Religious Studies).



Gillingham Sixth Form

Gillingham has a popular and successful Sixth Form and we are proud of our record in enabling all students to reach their potential.

We offer over 30 A Levels and an increasing number of BTEC and other vocational qualifications. We also offer a Level 1&2 (GCSE equivalent) programme for our students.

There are excellent study facilities available to our Sixth Formers, including two purpose-built study areas that include access to over 70 computers.

We pride ourselves on the individualised support and guidance available to all our students. More than 70% of our students progress onto university courses including many who join Russell Group institutions and some who progress to Oxford or Cambridge. Increasingly, students are also successfully accessing, with support, a range of apprenticeships and degree apprenticeships after university.

As well as experiencing outstanding academic provision, our students also enjoy a full enrichment programme. This includes in-depth consideration of a range of social and personal issues, from an impressive array of external speakers and agencies.

Our students also have fun! We are proud of our enrichment activities which range from the biannual Surf trip to Spain to the annual 'extravaganza.'

A separate Sixth Form Prospectus is available, with further details of courses and the extensive opportunities for enrichment & learning outside the classroom.

List of A Level/Level 3 courses:

Art (Fine Art)
 Art (Photography)
 Biology
 Business Studies (A-Level and BTEC)
 Chemistry
 Computer Science
 Design & Technology: Product Design
 Design and Technology: Textiles
 Economics
 English Language
 English Literature
 Food & Nutrition
 French

Geography
 German
 Government & Politics
 History
 ICT (BTEC)
 Mathematics
 Mathematics with Further Mathematics
 Media Studies
 Music
 Music Technology
 Philosophy
 Physical Education
 Physics
 Psychology
 Science (Applied: BTEC)
 Spanish
 Theatre Studies





Support for Learning at Gillingham

Support for Learning is provided through a variety of ways.

Firstly, one such way is through the pastoral system which is made up of year groups: 7 through to 13, within that, students are placed in tutor groups and tutors are the first point of contact for anything relating to a student's welfare.

Each year group has an allocated Head of Year who is supported by Deputy Heads of Year. The pastoral system works alongside the curriculum system in order to complement students' performance, achievement and wellbeing.

Expectations of conduct at Gillingham are based on our beliefs that all members of our community are important, are to be valued, have the right to learn, work, progress and develop to the best of their ability, and to be treated with respect and dignity.

As a school, we endeavour to ensure that all students feel safe whilst they are with us.

One of the school's undoubted strengths is the support we offer to meet the individual needs of each student.

We have a strong SEN department and a skilled, experienced team of teaching assistants trained to work with individual students to increase their skills, confidence and motivation. There is a particular emphasis on literacy and numeracy skills, especially with younger students.







Enrichment at Gillingham

At Gillingham, we offer a bewildering range of enrichment activities that enhance our curriculum provision, provide students with opportunities to further their sporting and creative talents, and enable them to have fun!

Trips

We run numerous trips throughout the year including a number of foreign trips. Our students have, in recent years, visited theatres across the country, attended numerous art galleries, completed fieldwork in a variety of locations, listened to talks at Chalke Valley History Festival and visited the Harry Potter Film Studios.

Biennial foreign trips include a ski trip, a surf trip to Spain and a music tour. There is an A Level trip to Belgium, a Mediterranean trip, which includes canoeing down the Ardeche Gorge and, every year, our students partake in the German and French Exchange.

Activity Groups and Clubs

We have a strong sporting reputation at the school with highly successful teams throughout the years in sports such as football, rugby, hockey, netball, cricket, rounders, equestrian and athletics. We compete with local schools and in national competitions throughout the year. Large numbers of students may take up the opportunity to participate in numerous lunchtime clubs, coaching and after-school fixtures, many going on to achieve county and national success. For others, school sport is a foundation of an active and healthy adult life.

Increasingly, we are expanding the range of sports and physical activities on offer at our school. Students now have the opportunity to play table tennis at lunchtimes, climb on our indoor wall, mountain bike, and attend a local gym or dance group.

Creative Arts

Our superb Creative Arts building provides students with the latest facilities in Music, Drama and Art. Students are encouraged to utilise these facilities during lunchtime clubs. We have many musicians, artists-in-residence and theatre companies visiting the school all of which enrich our Creative Arts Programme.

Our annual school productions and concerts are wonderful opportunities for students to involve themselves in the arts whether they want to perform, design, work backstage or help front of house.



Student Stories

Charlotte Year 7 Student

Charlotte is a member of our Year 7 Science Club, just one of the Enrichment activities at Gillingham School.

Why did you pick Science Club?

You get to participate in exciting experiments that you don't always get to do in class. They're a bit more interesting - we wear goggles!

How has Science Club benefitted your studies?

I've learnt about products in my house, like plastics. There is a plastic-eating enzyme that eats plastic bottles in the sea. I made my own plastic using potato starch!

Are you thinking of following a Science-based career path?

I would like to become a vet so it's great to become more knowledgeable.

Sum up Science?

Fun, entertaining, informative and explosive!

What is your top Science fact?

Snakes can sometimes have more than one head. It's called Polycephaly!





“Students report that they enjoy school enormously as a result of the excellent relationship they have with their teachers and each other and the wide range of extra-curricular opportunities provided by the school.”

OFSTED

Learning Outside the Classroom

During their time at Gillingham, students will have numerous opportunities to partake in various curriculum related and non-curriculum school trips. The range and quality of these trips is a really strong feature and strength of our school.

We run an unbelievable range of foreign trips, theatre and art gallery visits, and a comprehensive programme of outdoor pursuits. There are curriculum trips that include fieldwork opportunities, STEM and Science focuses, and places of historical significance. There are also trips for fun and rewards to various theme parks and sporting events.

Preparing for Work

All of our students undertake Work Experience in Year 10 for two weeks. This takes place at a wide range of local and not-so-local workplaces including businesses, banks, libraries, offices, schools and veterinary surgeries. The opportunity to experience a working environment first hand is invariably a valuable one.

We are committed to ensuring that students receive the quality impartial advice and guidance relating to career choice and career planning from a broad range of sources.

Students will gain confidence to examine their strengths and weaknesses, set themselves targets and develop the ability to respond to learning opportunities and employment trends.

Students have access to specialist support services when required.

Careers and Aspirations

Our Aspirations and Careers Programme includes visits to universities and employers, as well as, employers and ex-students visiting our current pupils to inform and inspire them about possible future career options.

All of our students undertake Work Experience in both Year 10 and 12; the opportunity to experience a working environment first hand is invariably a valuable one.

We are committed to ensuring that students receive high quality impartial advice and guidance relating to careers planning from a broad range of sources which, includes access to a fully qualified careers advisor.



Working in Partnership

We encourage communication between home and school through our newsletters, homework diaries, parents' evenings, events, ParentMail and more - after all, we rely on your support in your child's education.

Progress

As parents, you will receive your child's Progress Report in December, and a full Annual Report later in the year.

The Progress Report monitors effort, achievement, behaviour and organisation for each subject and the Annual Report is a more detailed account of the progress made over the academic year with National Curriculum levels and predicted exam grades.

Homework

All of our students throughout Key Stage 3, 4 and 5 can expect to receive homework in the subjects they are studying. This is an essential part of learning which allows students to reinforce and extend the work started in the classroom.

Students receive homework diaries and class timetables each September which assists with their organisation and the development of individual study skills.

Usually students will not be asked to complete homework for the next day, enabling them to develop the important skill of planning their time to include clubs and activities.

We encourage you to take an active interest in your child's school work by checking and signing their diary weekly.

Child Protection Act

Our first priority is your child's welfare and therefore, there may be occasions when our concern about your child means that we have to consult other agencies before we contact you.



Student Stories

Rhianna Sixth Former and Deputy Head Girl

Why did you want to be a part of the Sixth Form Committee?

I wanted to be a part of the Sixth Form Committee because I am at my best when I am creating something. Prior to applying for the role, I knew that the committee were going to be making some big decisions and developing ideas that required a creative edge and I wanted to be able to provide that. Furthermore, I wanted the opportunity to work with people who I hadn't worked with before because I love interacting and being around new people.

What subjects are you studying now?

Photography, Psychology and Philosophy.

What are you looking forward to most in your new role?

Something I have been really looking forward to since being assigned the role of deputy head girl is knowing that I will be involved in quite a lot of big decision making. We, as a committee have the job of re-inventing the famous extravaganza and so that has been the subject of all of our meetings but we are all very

passionate about making it the best yet. Moreover, I am also really interested in fundraising events and being able to create wonderful cake sales and charity events that will mean all of the money will go to very deserving causes close to the school's heart.

What would you like to do when you leave Gillingham Sixth Form?

I am undecided as to what I want to do when I leave school. One half of me wants to go travelling and see the world but the other half of me is looking at going to university to do a foundation Art year or four-year Photography course. The end goal for me is to be a photographer, preferably a commercial/editorial or fashion photographer working for Vogue or Elle.

What has been your most memorable experience so far at Gillingham?

My most memorable experience whilst being at Gillingham is definitely the Year 11 Med Trip. We went to the South of France for a week and spent time canoeing down the Ardèche Gorge and the second half of the week we spent learning and mastering

watersports such as sailing, banana boating and my most favourite - learning how to catamaran. There were around 50 of us that went from all different friendship groups and backgrounds and to have the chance to get to know, chat and sit with them on the 24-hour bus journey was very interesting and certainly strengthened my character.

Apart from your studies, what do you like to do in your free time?

In my free time, I avidly read. I constantly have a book on the go and I always have a queue of around 10 books waiting to be read. Reading for me is a passion and something I am very keen for everyone to be able to do and enjoy. In a world full of advanced technology, there is nothing I enjoy more than picking up a book and losing myself in the story.



Student Stories

Matthew
Sixth Former and Head of School Council

Why did you want to be a part of the Sixth Form Committee?

To give back to the school for all the great experiences it has given me.

What subjects are you studying now?

Chemistry, History and Maths

What are you looking forward to most in your new role?

Bringing the lower school and the Sixth Form closer together.

What would you like to do when you leave Gillingham Sixth Form?

I think I would like to take an apprenticeship degree.

What ideas do you have to improve the Sixth Form and contribute to the whole school?

I would like to raise awareness of the facilities available for students to cope with exam stress.

What has been your most memorable experience at Gillingham so far?

Going on the Music Tour to Prague was a fantastic experience which I'll never forget.

Apart from your studies, what do you like to do in your free time?

I enjoy reading, exercising and playing the guitar.





Student Stories

Alice
Year 10 Student

What has been your most memorable experience at Gillingham?

My most memorable experience would probably be the Med Trip. It was so good because it was quite a small group of us who went and everyone got on so well; we became so close and and we all tried things outside of our comfort zone.

Receiving my Green Tie which then completed my full set of ties was a big moment for me.

What options did you choose and why?

I chose Music, History, PE and Spanish. I chose Music because I have been involved in Music since the age of 9 - I want to carry on doing this in future. I also chose PE for this reason and I am interested in a sports career after school.

Do you feel you've been supported in your time here?

I do feel that I have been well-supported in my time at Gillingham. My tutor is very organised and has helped sort out any problems that have come up but all of my teachers have been supportive throughout the years. All of

the teachers are happy to help and answer questions when you need them to.

What would you like to do when you leave Gillingham?

I am not entirely sure what I want to do when I leave school but I would like to go to Bath University to study sports or I am also keen on a career in PE or Music teaching.

Have you been a part of any clubs during your time here?

I've been a part of the Netball and Hockey team since Year 7 and have been Netball Captain since the beginning and I have also been heavily involved in the Music Department, playing in Orchestra, Concert Band and Jazz Band since Year 7.

What advice would you give to younger students?

My advice to younger students would definitely be, just give everything a go! Use the resources around you that Gillingham can offer you and even if you try something different, like a club outside of your comfort zone, and even if you don't enjoy it - at least you gave it a go! Don't ever let anyone tell you that you can't do something!

Student Stories

Jude
Year 7 Student

What have you enjoyed most in your first year at Gillingham?

I have loved having teachers with specialist subject knowledge, and the varied curriculum is really interesting! There is also better equipment and facilities which means that there is a greater range of learning.

What is the atmosphere like at Gillingham?

There is definitely a feeling of togetherness within the year group. Being a large school, it is busy, however, it seems strangely calm!

How were you made to feel welcome when you joined the school?

We had a great Induction Day which introduced me to the site, and how we do things. The first proper day was without any year groups (apart from the Sixth Formers) which made it much less daunting! We also had a welcoming assembly where we met our brilliant Head of Year.

What are your favourite lessons/parts of the curriculum?

I REALLY enjoy Maths, because it is super interesting and there is so much to learn! All of the other STEM subjects have been great so far too!

Have you made lots of new friends since joining Gillingham?

It is definitely a 'Work in Progress' because I have met so many people, and I came from a primary school with only two other classmates. I have been lucky enough to find 3 new, great friends in my teaching group who I share interests with. They have been a fantastic support throughout this year.



Student Stories

Skyla
Year 7 Student

What have you enjoyed most in your first year at Gillingham?

Extra-curricular clubs and meeting new people. I have also enjoyed being in a bigger and more independent environment.

What is the atmosphere like at Gillingham?

It's friendly! People help you find your way around the school and there is a lot of support if you need it.

How were you made to feel welcome when you joined the school?

The teachers were very friendly and helpful, other year groups would help you if you were lost.

What are your favourite lessons/parts of the curriculum?

English, Food & Nutrition, Games, Practical Sciences... I like how Gillingham School has more practical lessons than primary school!

Have you made lots of friends since joining Gillingham School?

Yes, it has been great making new friends. It was quite easy as we were all in the same position, wanting to expand our friendship groups.





Student Stories

Seth
Year 10 Student

What has been your most memorable experience at Gillingham?

I loved the French Exchange where I made really good friends with my partner. However, the most memorable experience for me at Gillingham School has been the Med Trip - it gave me the opportunity to take part in activities that I'd never done before.

What options did you choose and why?

I chose French, Triple Science, PE and History. I selected these options because they allow me to have a wide range of interests. I selected Triple Science because Biology and Chemistry are two of my favourite lessons and I wanted to learn the subject more in depth. I also chose French because I would like to spend time travelling and possibly live abroad one day.

Do you feel you've been well supported in your time here?

Since being at Gillingham, I have become a lot more confident with my work. The support has allowed me to work in a positive environment which has dramatically increased my results and everyday work. The school has allowed me to aim for the top grades.

What would you like to do when you leave Gillingham School?

When I leave, I would like to travel on a gap year. After that, I'd like to go into Bio-Medicine after studying it at university.

Have you been a part of any clubs during your time here?

Due to the support from the PE Department in Year 7, for the first time, I ran for the school - competing in cross country and 800m. Now, I am on the Dorset Cross Country team and run 800m for Dorset. I have also been on the school football team and also have played in the cricket and rugby team.

What advice would you give to younger students?

Get involved! Don't be shy or reluctant to join in with clubs because you haven't done it before or because your friends aren't doing it. Don't be nervous about becoming friends with students you didn't previously know, before coming to Gillingham.

Most of my close friends, I didn't know until I had been to clubs, some I didn't know until Year 9!

If you don't understand something, ask the teacher. Gillingham has a positive learning environment and your question will most likely help others!





Student Stories

Ruby
Year 10 Student

What has been your most memorable experience at Gillingham?

During my time at Gillingham, I have had many memorable experiences, such as school trips, making new friends, and learning new skills and teachings during the lessons. However, the most memorable experience for me has to be the school musical 'Bonnie and Clyde,' 2017. I have a big passion for music and drama and taking part in this musical gave me an experience I will never forget.

What options did you choose and why?

For my GCSE options, I chose to take French, Geography, Triple Science and Drama. I chose to take Triple Science because my aspiration for a future career is to become a veterinary surgeon. In addition, I chose Drama because it is one of my passions and teaches you many skills such as team work, and it helps to build your confidence. I chose French because I enjoy learning a foreign language and it will give me good future career opportunities. Finally, I chose Geography because it is one

of my favourite subjects and I am very interested in learning about our earth and different cultures.

Do you feel you've been well supported in your time here?

Yes always! I have always felt well supported at Gillingham by all my teachers, tutors, Head of Year and also by my friends. All of the teachers are very caring and I always feel that I can go for someone for help and support. Furthermore, during my time at Gillingham, I strongly feel that the teachers have helped me to become more independent.

What would you like to do when you leave Gillingham School?

Once I have completed my A Levels at Gillingham Sixth Form, my goal is to gain entry to the Royal Veterinary College or Edinburgh University to study Veterinary Science. It has always been my ambition to become a veterinary surgeon. I would also like to continue with my Duke of Edinburgh Award. Finally, travel is important to me and I look forward to travelling whilst studying at university.

Have you been a part of any clubs during your time here?

During my time at Gillingham, I have been a part of Hockey, Netball and Choir Club. I have also been given the role of Creative Arts Ambassador, which I enjoy very much. There are many extra-curricular clubs at Gillingham that are fun and interesting; they help you to make new friends and try something new.

What advice would you give to younger students?

My first piece of advice for younger students would be, to make sure that you try as many new things as you can, because Gillingham offers so much. Furthermore, my second piece of advice would be, to make sure that you are not scared to have confidence and come out of your comfort zone.

Gillingham is a big school that has so much to offer, so don't be scared to try new things and most of all, don't be scared to ask for help and support from teachers and older students.

Student Stories

Radha
Year 7 Student



What have you enjoyed most in your first year at Gillingham?

I have enjoyed a lot here at Gillingham in my first year. I mostly enjoy times when we get chances to try something new that we wouldn't have been able to try at primary school.

What is the atmosphere like at Gillingham?

The atmosphere at Gillingham is enthralling. It is a place where you can be who you want and you don't have to feel insecure about it. You can come to school and be in a supportive atmosphere where nobody will judge you for what you do.

How were you made to feel welcome when you joined the school?

When I came, I was made to feel welcome in many ways. For example, when I started, if anyone looked a little lost in the hustle of starting high school, somebody in the older years would ask if they were okay.

What are your favourite lessons/favourite parts of the curriculum?

I don't have a favourite lesson. When I go to each lesson, we always learn something new and each teacher supports and tries to help you. Although, when it comes to extra-curriculars, I enjoy sports and do it at all possible chances.

Have you made lots of friends since joining Gillingham School?

I have! I still talk to people I knew before I came to the school but most of my close friends I never knew before I started.



Student Stories

Libby Page
Alumni - Author
2003 - 2010, Former Head Girl

I have very fond memories of my time at Gillingham School. I remember it as a place where a student's individuality was really nurtured. Whether you were sporty, arty, into science, or, in my case, books and writing, there were ways to pursue these passions and be supported in doing so. I enjoyed being part of the Library Club and receiving great encouragement from the school's English Department.

I was particularly proud to be appointed Head Girl in Sixth Form and loved being involved in various extra-curricular activities throughout my years.

A particular highlight was the French Exchange: it sparked a lifelong love of the French language but more importantly created a lifelong friendship too. I will always feel grateful to Gillingham School for that, as well as for giving me a wonderful start in life that I'm sure has helped me on my way.



Photo Credit: Natalie Dawkins

The Future at Gillingham

Located in an attractive, rural setting, Gillingham is an ambitious school with superb teaching facilities, exceptional buildings, a rising roll and examination results which are well above the national average.

We have an excellent reputation within the community and this has been recognised in successive Ofsted reports. We offer your child a supportive and enriching environment in which to grow and learn, and the opportunity to develop his or her potential to the full.

Having educated Gillingham's children for the last 500 years, we confidently expect to continue to provide them with an outstanding educational experience in the future.

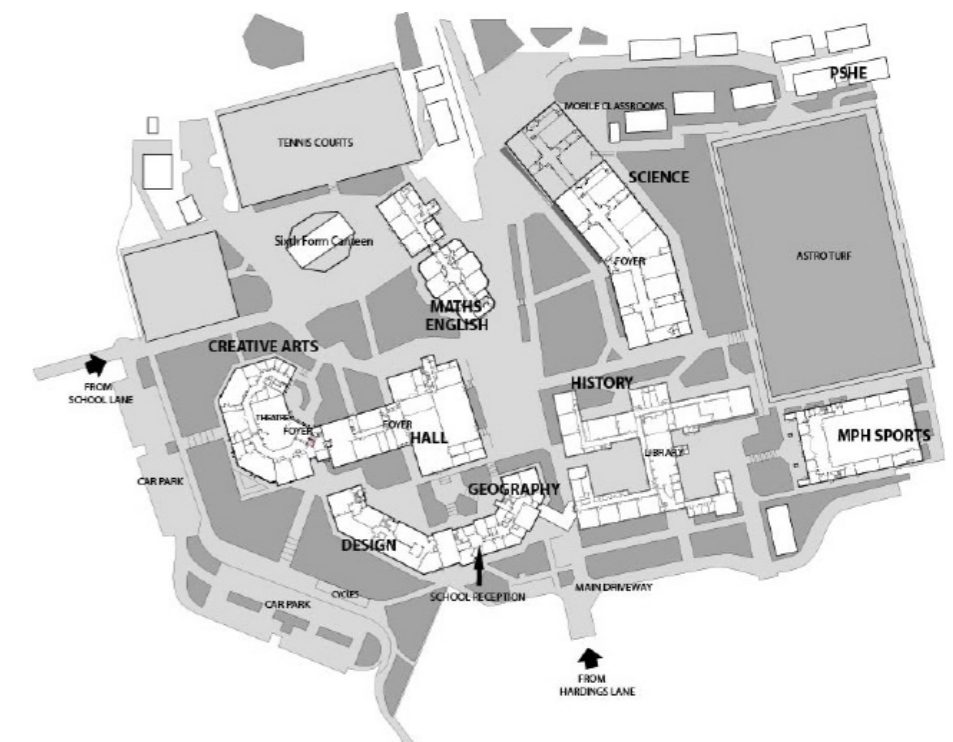
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