

GREAT BADDOW
HIGH SCHOOL
SPECIALISING IN SCIENCE AND SPORT



Welcome to
Great Baddow
High School:
a happy, safe and
successful 11-18
school.

Our motto translates as *'always striving for higher things'* and it encapsulates our aims for our students and staff.

We are committed to helping our students achieve their academic potential and developing the skills and attributes that will enable them to follow their chosen paths and make a valuable contribution to society.

"You have a committed group of leaders who work cohesively as a strong team and who work relentlessly with you to achieve your shared vision for the school."

OFSTED


We believe that high expectations in a disciplined but friendly learning environment are essential and respect for oneself and others underpins this. Outstanding pastoral care ensures students feel happy and safe and are, therefore, best placed to succeed. We are proud of our school: our broad curriculum, the facilities and resources, our specialisms in science and sport and our resource base for sixteen hearing impaired students. However, like our motto, we are never complacent and constantly strive to be the best.

Paul Farmer, Headteacher





Achieving academic success



Our students' academic success is important and we work hard to support and challenge each individual to achieve their potential.

We have high expectations of our students and encourage them to believe in themselves, to enjoy their achievements and to grasp the many opportunities available to them. Many stay on to join our Sixth Form and progress to higher education across the country, including the top universities.

“Choosing a school is not the easiest thing to do. However, we are delighted that we have certainly chosen the right school for our child. She is very happy and is doing well. We would highly recommend Great Baddow High School.”

Parent quoted by OFSTED

The science and sports specialisms link with other subject areas and enhance our teaching, facilities and resources. Involvement in STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) provides extra opportunities for our most able students to extend their learning through exciting projects and national competitions and this approach is replicated across the curriculum. Whilst sciences are popular at A Level, we offer over twenty other subjects at key stage five and students pursue the full range at university.



Enriching the
curriculum



We believe **learning** is most **effective** when lessons are **interesting** and **enjoyable**.

Teachers use a range of styles, activities and resources to engage, stretch and challenge our students.

“There is a buzz of purposeful learning in the school.”

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All subjects have specialist rooms and facilities and the curriculum is supported by first class ICT provision. Students achieve success because our teachers treat each child as an individual, monitoring their progress and responding as appropriate. We place importance on helping students to understand how they learn and to take responsibility for their own achievement. We build and develop the skills and attributes needed for academic success from Year 7 to the Sixth Form.

“Teachers gain the respect of the pupils they teach and relationships between teachers and pupils are positive.”

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A young man and woman are shown in profile, embracing. The woman is wearing a white angel costume with large, feathered wings. The man is wearing a dark jacket and glasses. The background is dark, and the lighting is soft, highlighting their faces and the texture of the wings.

Developing imagination and creativity

Our students have many opportunities to express themselves, let their imaginations soar and develop crucial interpersonal skills through working creatively with others.

The rich curriculum in art, music, drama, design technology and, of course, English provides a firm foundation throughout key stage three for students to develop their creativity and confidence and to excel in these areas. We remain committed to offering a broad range of creative subjects at GCSE and in the Sixth Form, supported by excellent resources and facilities. These include: well-equipped design and food technology, art and media rooms; a music suite with practice rooms and a recording studio; and drama and dance studios.

Nurturing talent and providing opportunities

We aim to nurture existing talents and unlock new potential through lessons and extra-curricular opportunities.

Great Baddow High School staff 'go the extra mile' to provide a rich extra-curricular programme. As well as a huge range of sporting opportunities, our students involve themselves in music, dance and drama productions and enrichment activities and extension workshops linked to every curriculum area.

We enjoy success in competitions in maths, English, science technology, sport, art, music, drama... and more. Examples of enrichment visits include art galleries and theatres, university lectures, history and geography trips in England and abroad, modern language visits to France and a German exchange, concert band European tour, ski trip, basketball in the USA and many more. Older students can participate in the Duke of Edinburgh and World Challenge schemes.





Promoting
an active,
healthy
life-style

We want our students to enjoy being **active** now and throughout their lives. We **embrace competition** but emphasise fun, **enjoyment** and **leadership** development.

Our teams achieve success at local, county and national levels in many different sports. The house system further encourages enjoyment, participation and competition within school. Excellent facilities enable all students to experience a wide range of activities throughout the year. These and expert teaching and mentoring also support gifted students' individual success at a national and international level. Our long-standing specialism in sport is reflected in a commitment to partnership work with other secondary and primary schools. Many of our students act as leaders at Chelmsford Primary School Sports Partnership events. Our sports programme is extended beyond the normal school offer by guest coaches from our wide network. A youth training centre for West Ham United is based on our site and their coaches contribute to lessons and clubs. Provision includes football, netball, hockey, rugby, basketball, rounders, cricket, athletics, cross-country, swimming, water polo, badminton, tennis, gymnastics, trampoline, volley-ball, table tennis, dance, health-related fitness and outdoor education.

“The school’s good reputation for sport is clearly evident through the quality of the facilities and the pupils’ achievements.”

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Creating
caring and
responsible
citizens

Our students are encouraged to involve themselves in school, local, national and international communities through our extensive leadership programme.

Students become prefects, peer supporters, librarians and sports leaders, for example. They raise money for charities and also support the work of our local primary schools in a range of activities. They contribute to the interview process for teachers and student voice is important in all aspects of school improvement and the evaluation of teaching and learning.

“Older pupils work productively with younger pupils e.g. helping them with their reading. They spoke with great pride about the impact they are having.”

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Developing
independent
learners

A **high proportion** of our students, joined by others from elsewhere, choose our **Sixth Form** for an **excellent** range of courses.

Sixth Form students enjoy their own common room and study areas. Their academic independence is enhanced by supervised study periods and study skills lessons. We retain an emphasis on developing rounded individuals by timetabling enrichment activities so they can maintain or develop creative, practical and leadership skills. Sixth Form students make a valuable contribution to the wider school life as prefects, by supporting younger students academically or socially and by continuing to participate in sport and STEM teams, productions and music. The majority progress to higher education including 'Russell Group' universities.

“Sixth Form students are happy individuals who express great pride in what the school has done for them. Many apply to, and are successful in gaining places at some of the more prestigious universities.”

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