

GREAT BADDOW HIGH SCHOOL



SIXTH FORM



Welcome to Great Baddow High School **Sixth Form**

Our **excellent** range of courses and the structures and systems of a **highly successful** school mean that a large proportion of our students, joined by others from elsewhere, **choose** Great Baddow High School Sixth Form.

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

We believe that high expectations in a structured and 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 Sixth Form and:

- the high quality of teaching delivered by experienced Key Stage 5 practitioners
- the number and variety of courses we offer
- the quality of guidance and support given
- the facilities and resources that support learning
- the different opportunities students have to develop as confident, well-rounded, considerate individuals.

Like our motto, **we always strive for higher things!**

"Teachers gain the respect of the pupils they teach and relationships between teachers and pupils are positive." OFSTED



“Many apply to, and are successful in gaining places at some of the more prestigious universities.”

OFSTED



Academic Success

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

We have high expectations of our Sixth Form students and encourage them to believe in themselves, to enjoy their achievements and to grasp the many opportunities available to them.

Our students achieve success because:

- they adjust swiftly to the shift from GCSE to Key Stage 5 study
- our teachers treat each student as an individual, monitoring their progress and responding as appropriate.

We welcome new students and help them settle quickly to ensure they become an integral part of the Sixth Form and wider school

Aspirational targets are set at the start of Year 12 and are monitored regularly, with feedback provided to students and their parents. Independent study is supported through supervised, timetabled study periods and study skills are developed through subject lessons, tutor activities and workshops.

The majority of our students progress to university, including Russell Group universities, with most gaining their first choice place. Others secure high level apprenticeships, whilst some move directly into employment.

Oxbridge and UCAS applications are supported through a range of activities including guidance on university choices and writing an effective personal statement. We use an external advisor for further preparation for the Oxbridge interview process. Careers advice from our independent advisor is available to all Sixth Form students.



"Sixth Form students receive a good induction, they select appropriate programmes of study and are well supported in preparing for the next stage of their educational career."

OFSTED



Providing the appropriate programme of study

Guidance and support ensure both aspiration and the most suitable course of study for each individual.

Guidance about the right combination, number and level of courses begins in Year 11. All applicants are interviewed to ascertain whether aspirations are appropriate and to discuss whether the choice of subjects will work well together to keep opportunities open or support students towards a chosen path, where known.

The advantage of being known by the school is clear and informs these discussions. External students also benefit from a visit and interview which ensures their choices are appropriate and helps the school get to know new students.

We are unusual in being able to offer an individualised programme with the potential to combine A Levels with vocational or technical awards if that is the most beneficial pathway.

We are committed to offering a broad range of A Level subjects and several vocational courses. The curriculum offer is reviewed and improved each year. For example, we have introduced three new vocational programmes to our offer in recent years and now also teach a Level 3 Maths qualification and the Extended Project Qualification.

The majority of A Level students take four subjects at the start of Year 12 with the expectation that most will reduce to three after the first weeks, when informed choices have been made.



Enjoying a rich learning experience

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

Sixth Form teaching takes a step towards the greater independence of university learning with subject experts continuing to use a variety of teaching styles, activities and resources to engage, stretch and challenge our students.

All subjects have their own specialist rooms and facilities which include: well-equipped science labs; design technology, art and media rooms; a music suite with practice rooms and a recording studio; drama and dance studios; a sports hall, indoor swimming pool, all-weather domed pitch and outdoor sports facilities; and subject specific classrooms. The curriculum is supported by first class ICT provision throughout the school.

In addition to subject lessons, all students attend Sixth Sense lectures which cover a range of topics such as UCAS application, volunteering, safer driving, e-safety and drug awareness.

Learning is further enhanced by a wide range of subject specific enrichment and extension activities which include day and residential trips; for example: field trips, art gallery and theatre visits, STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) projects, university lectures, visits to the stock exchange and much more.

“There is a ‘buzz’ of purposeful learning at Great Baddow High School.”

OFSTED



“Sixth Form students are happy individuals who express great pride in what the school has done for them.”

OFSTED



Developing independent learners

Preparation for **independent learning** is **essential** for **success** at Key Stage 5 and for **future** study.

Sixth Form students enjoy their own common room and have designated areas for timetabled, monitored private study. They are often also able to work independently in their specialist areas outside of their timetabled subject lessons.

Increasing academic independence is vital for successful outcomes at Key Stage 5. Students need to consolidate their understanding after lessons, prepare for future lessons, read around their subjects to widen and deepen their knowledge and develop strategies to remember and recall information.

Confidence and competence are developed through a range of 'learning to learn' and study skills activities, building on earlier experience, which are delivered through Sixth Sense lectures, tutorial activities, workshops and through subject delivery. Students are taught how to use the Cornell method of note-taking, a process which helps them clarify their learning and maintain notes that later facilitate effective revision.

Examinations take place towards the end of Year 12 and outcomes determine the programme of study for each Year 13 student.

At a time in their lives when many Sixth Form students have part-time jobs and may enjoy more freedom, the school helps with time-management. Punctuality, being prepared for lessons and regular attendance are vital and are monitored carefully by tutors and the Sixth Form team.



Creating caring and responsible citizens

Our Sixth Form students are encouraged to become involved in leadership activities. This can be in school as prefects, peer-supporters and sports leaders, for example, as well as in the local and wider community.

Students raise money for national and international charities. They also support the work of our partner primary schools in a range of activities and play an important role in supporting younger students' transition from primary school. Many volunteer time to help younger students in lessons or in additional reading or maths.

Sixth Form students contribute to school improvement through school council, focus groups and by participating in the evaluation of teaching and learning. A panel of Sixth Form students interviews all teachers as part of the appointment process.

“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.” OFSTED



"The school cares for its pupils and allows them to flourish." OFSTED



Promoting well-being and widening horizons

We want our students to **understand** the importance of **balance** in their lives, to continue their **involvement** in areas they **enjoy** and to **seize** all **opportunities** to **develop** as **independent** young adults.

Sixth Form students are encouraged to continue with extra-curricular activities they have enjoyed in the past. For example, students continue to participate in music practice and performance at the school's Chelmsford Cathedral Christmas Concert and other musical events including the biennial European tour.

Students continue to train and compete in inter-house sporting activities and against other Sixth Forms. There are also opportunities for other competitions such as in public speaking and debate.

Students have trained as Holocaust Ambassadors and led educational activities for younger students on this important issue. Sixth Form students lead assemblies on a range of topics such as e-safety.

To encourage on-going participation, one afternoon a week is dedicated to 'Enrichment'. Some will take this opportunity to work towards the Extended Project Qualification whilst others will choose to undertake a new activity such as photography or spend some time playing, football, netball or badminton, for example. The school organises World Challenge trips, having visited South America, Africa and Asia in recent years.

Work experience takes place at the end of Year 12, with students enjoying a wide variety of placements, helping them make the best decisions to support future plans.



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Duffield Road, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 9RZ

Tel: 01245 265821

Email: admin@gbhs.co.uk

www.gbhs.co.uk