Gravesend Grammar School

An Academy in the Gravesend Grammar School Academies Trust
Specialising in All Round Excellence

Defying Gravity
We are Learners

We are organised, independent, reflective, and we use different learning styles.
Welcome!

At Gravesend Grammar School we feel privileged to be helping to educate some of the brightest boys in the Gravesham area.

With this privilege comes a responsibility to provide opportunities and challenges that will develop these boys in a whole variety of ways.

The prospect of secondary school may seem daunting: we proudly believe that you have only to see the engaged and active young men in the senior part of our School to be confident that Gravesend Grammar School helps our students become self-assured, articulate learners and citizens.

Our focus is on learning and giving the boys the keys to success that will allow them to ‘Defy Gravity’. Exactly what that means for your son will be made clear in the following pages.

G S Wybar
Executive Headteacher
What does Samuel from Year 7 say?

On my first day at Gravesend Grammar School, I knew only a few people and I was quite nervous, but now I have made lots of new friends. After a few days, I could find my way around the school and I wasn’t nervous any more. I have discovered how to tie a tie properly, do some cooking and make rockets in Design Technology – all new things. I cannot wait until we go on summer camp!
Learners

The most important thing that happens at Gravesend Grammar School is learning.

This is not just about exam results, important as they are! The curriculum offer is designed to be exciting and engaging.

Our boys will be encouraged from a very early stage to take increasing responsibility for their own learning, through their homework, their research and by being actively involved both in lessons and outside.

They will discover how to learn as an individual and as part of a group; how to learn in a practical way and in creative ways. They will explore how to learn in depth and how to acquire smaller chunks of knowledge.

These are the skills that will be your son's 'Keys to Success': the skills that will allow him to defy gravity and move on to a bright future.

OFSTED REPORT 2015

“The curriculum is challenging. It is rigorously academic and is enriched by provision for the arts and by an excellent programme of extra-curricular opportunities.”
What does Richard, Year 8, say?

Being in Year 8 has been great. This year has stood out for me as I have had many opportunities, such as visiting Spain on a residential trip where we travelled to different places each day. It was extraordinary (especially if you’re a football fan) as we visited Camp Nou, Girona and France too. It has been a fun year but a challenge too. I can’t wait to see what next year holds!
We are Communicators
We are independent, we are literate, we share, and we have good relationships.
What does Teddy, Year 9, say?

I have just finished my first year of GCSEs at GGS. As I have progressed through the school, the expectations have risen but I have been able to meet those expectations with the support of the teachers and my friends. My favourite part of school is the sport and, as I have moved through the years, I feel that I have played an important part in the cricket team.
We are Citizens
We have empathy, we take part, we make responsible decisions and we see the Big Picture.

Citizens
We expect that eventually our young men will go on from their experience at Gravesend Grammar School to be active participants in society. Very many of them will go on to be leaders of the communities in which they live and the businesses and industries in which they work.

We try to instil in them care for others as suggested by our School motto ‘Consule Cunctis’ – take thought for everyone. They will have opportunities as they progress through the School to contribute to good causes from something as simple as taking part in our annual Sponsored Walk through to doing voluntary work as part of an enrichment activity. There will be chances to work with younger boys in coaching or mentoring roles in academic, personal or sporting spheres.

A range of House-based activities also allows boys to lead and organise others.

OFSTED REPORT 2015
“Students and staff enjoy mutually respectful relationships, so even minor misbehaviour is rare. Students are fully aware of their responsibilities as citizens of Britain and of the wider world as a result. They place great importance on British values such as tolerance and respect for others.”
What does Lachlan, Year 10, say?

During Year 10, I’ve found that the teachers have been very supportive and revision during the lessons has made me feel much more confident. I came from a very small primary school which meant that the jump to a large school like this was very alarming. However, finding friends has made the experience easier and support from the teachers has made me feel like I’ve been here forever and I’ve become a much more social and confident person.
Opportunity and Challenge

The challenges we offer to our boys are many and varied and we expect all to take advantage of these opportunities. All will rise to meet some challenges and some will rise to all of them!

Academic

All will be challenged by a stretching curriculum that includes the full range of academic subjects. Students will be able, as they get to public exams, to put together challenging combinations of subjects that will open doors for them in employment or Higher Education.

OFSTED REPORT 2015

The school offers an exciting choice of extra-curricular opportunities. Students are well travelled both in this country and abroad; they can experience arts events, sporting events as both participants and spectators.

Students told the inspectors that one of the best things about their school was their teachers who give unstintingly of their time to support their academic work and their personal well-being.

Students are very proud of their school.
What does Dhillon, Year 11, say?

To do well in your GCSEs you will need to study quite a bit during school and at home, but during this year your teachers will provide you with lots of support – you just have to ask. They will stay after school or arrange a time at lunch to help you and make sure you do well in your GCSEs.
‘GGS provided me with a perfect platform to jump into the future.’
Past Student, graduated 2015

Creative

Their creativity will be challenged through Creative Exploration (CrEx) and they will have opportunities to pursue Music and Drama inside and outside the classroom.

Physical

The physical challenge could be as demanding as an expedition to Mongolia or Peru and Rugby Tour to New Zealand, or as ‘simple’ as walking in the Yorkshire Dales to competing in House Rugby.
Teachers in all our subjects take learning beyond the curriculum through a range of enrichment and extra-curricular work. Indeed, these activities are some of the things of which we are most proud and which contribute significantly to making Gravesend Grammar School the engaging and exciting place that it is.

Whether it is time spent on the Continent speaking Spanish and French; exploring the battlefields of Flanders; visiting the volcanoes of Iceland or the museums and theatres in London; paddling in the River Darent or living under canvas in the Ashdown Forest – they all add value.
Caring and Support

We spend a great deal of time and effort to make sure that every student is supported to give them every chance to fulfill their potential. Indeed, we are very proud of the fact that we never give up on our students!

Everyone is different and we try to recognise this as far as possible and focus help where it is needed. Sometimes it will be a word from a Form Tutor, one of the more senior staff, an older student or a classmate. Occasionally it may require the intervention of a Learning Mentor, our Student Support Team, the specialist School Counsellors, or an outside professional.

We will always keep you informed as to what is happening, usually through the Form Tutors or via Student Support.

Contact

Likewise, if you have any concerns then, rather than worry, you should always contact your son’s Form Tutor either by e-mail or telephone.

Telephone: 01474 331893
Email: enquiries@gravesendgrammar.eu
Website: www.gravesendgrammar.eu
OFSTED REPORT 2015

The ethos of the school is summed up in the mission statement ‘challenge and opportunity in a caring environment’. These three themes of challenge, opportunity and care are the pillars of the school’s approach to all of its work.

Relationships are a particular strength of the school. They are marked by respect and care for everyone with the result that students thrive academically and personally.

Leaders at all levels, including middle leaders, have created a climate for learning that is enriched by the quality of the relationships among students, among staff and between students and their teachers.

Students’ behaviour is exceptional in and outside the classroom. Students’ enthusiasm for their learning makes a major contribution to the success of their lessons.

Almost all of the parents who responded to the Parent View online survey would recommend the school to others and agree that the school keeps their children safe. Bullying of any type is rare and dealt with very firmly. Students have the confidence to report any incident they see, because they believe they have a duty to help other students.