



Great Marlow School

Excellence • Compassion • Integrity



Opportunities are Created • Potential is Realised • Excellence is Achieved

Welcome to our school



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

Guy Pendlebury



Welcome to Great Marlow, this flourishing school is dedicated to creating opportunities and releasing potential to ensure our students achieve excellence. Our vision is to offer a high-quality learning environment, so that everyone is inspired to be compassionate, successful and resilient contributors to a better society.

Importantly, we believe in a kind and purposeful educational environment for all: one where both students and staff are compassionate and empathetic.

Our curriculum is broad, balanced and offers a wide range of options at GCSE and in the Sixth Form. The richness of our curriculum is delivered through high quality teaching and learning. All students experience the highest level of care and guidance delivered by committed, loyal staff. Our teachers' professionalism and dedication is the essential ingredient that ensures every student makes exceptional progress.

Alongside our academic programme are many richly enhancing extra-curricular activities, which offer opportunities to every student: visits, trips, theatre outings, sports, drama productions, music recitals, Duke of Edinburgh and Young Business Enterprise opportunities. All these activities enrich our students by engaging them in life-skill opportunities beyond the classroom.

Central to developing life-long skills is the 'My Personal Best' programme. Six qualities are the focus of everything we do, they are known as the 6Rs: respect, readiness, reflection, responsibility, resourcefulness and resilience. The 7th R, namely reading, is positively impacting on vocabulary acquisition and use of language both verbally and written.

We strive to work effectively with our students, parents, carers and the wider local community. Our governors are a dedicated, highly qualified, professional team, who work extremely effectively with the leadership team to ensure continuing success. Now that GMS is part of a Multi-Academy Trust, with Mr Kevin Ford as the Marlow Education Trust's CEO, our partnership, influence and scope in Marlow has been strengthened. It is an exciting venture and promises to benefit all the schools.

There is a vibrant positivity in Great Marlow School. Visitors invariably comment on the fantastic atmosphere that permeates the school: conversations, smiles and clear pleasure stand alongside purpose and commitment.

I am extremely proud and consider it a privilege to be the Headteacher of Great Marlow. I am committed to working with staff, students, parents, carers and the wider community to guide it successfully towards the next decade.



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 2024

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 sociably 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."



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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.

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Chair of Trustees



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.



"Through my music performances, I have shown responsibility by working hard, listening to feedback and being proud of my results."

Diyar, Year 10

Resilience

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



"When you find something hard the key is not to give in, it's to try again because with failure you find success."

Aiden, Year 10

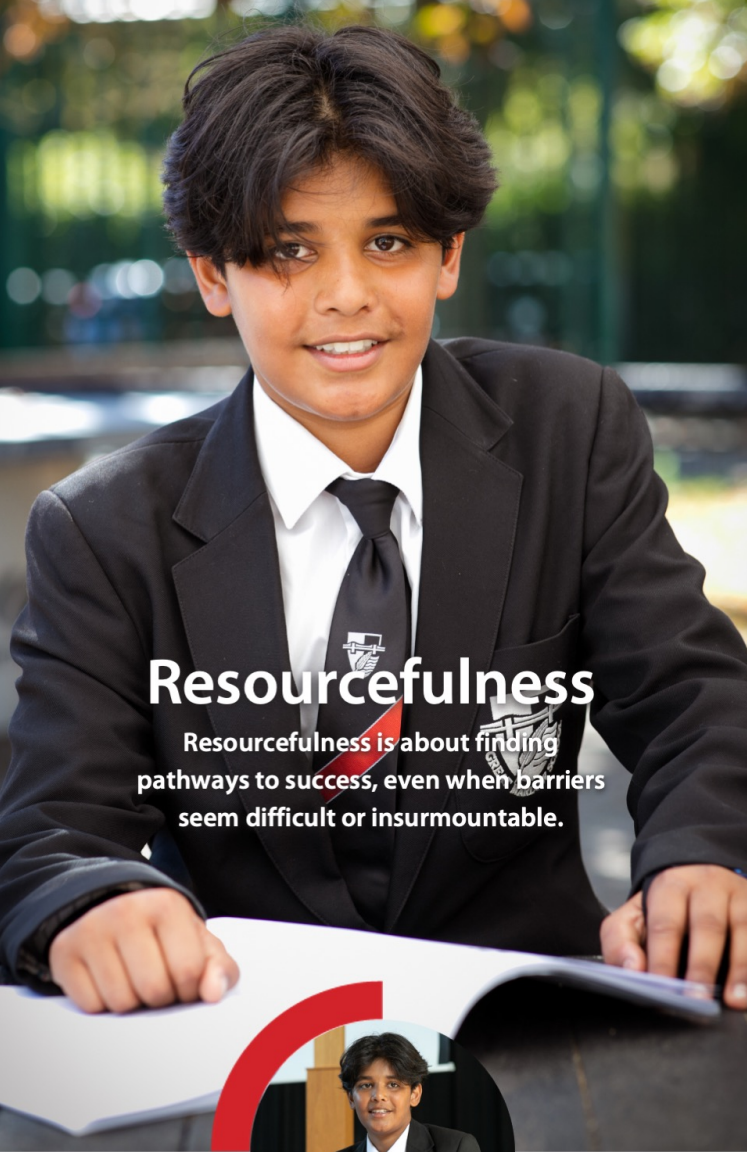
Reflection

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."

Charlotte, Year 12



Resourcefulness

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



"I'm resourceful by finding quick and creative ways to solve problems and overcome challenges."

Yuj, Year 8



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 resources to learn."

Lillie, Year 10



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 mindful and considerate of their feelings or opinions."

Vittorio, 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 have learnt how to add depth to my artwork with colour and shadow and I have also been able to explore different mediums that I have never used before.

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Delilah, Year 10

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 enhance 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 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

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.



The Sixth Form

Post-16 students are offered an extremely wide range of courses. Traditional A-levels stand alongside T-levels and vocational BTEC courses; our students have a strong profile when applying for jobs, placements, apprenticeships or university. The Sixth Form continues to flourish with more than 200 young people opting to study in GMS. Every year we celebrate the successful results awarded to our Year 13s. The Sixth Form team and tutors are experts in guiding students through the application process for jobs, apprenticeships and UCAS application forms.





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!





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