



**ENGAGING  
MINDS**

**NURTURING  
SUCCESS**

**INSPIRING  
FUTURES**

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# PRINCIPAL'S WELCOME

## Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to Goldington Academy.

The importance of education cannot be stated enough. Your child only gets one chance at school and, here at Goldington Academy, we take our responsibility as educators very seriously.

Our mission is to engage minds, nurture success and inspire futures so that we can develop confident, happy, well-rounded individuals who are ready to embrace the next stage of their journey.

Our top priority is to recruit and retain the very best teachers. We ensure they receive continual professional development of a standard that ensures they are consistently improving their teaching practice for the benefit of your child.

We are proud of our academic performance and have very high expectations of every one of our students.

When you choose Goldington Academy, you will find a huge range of opportunity available to them both during and after the school day.

### Some of our recent achievements include:

- Artsmark Gold Award (2019)
- Bedford Sporting School of the Year (2018)
- Platinum Science Mark (2018)

In September 2020, our state of the art Arts and Exhibition space opened and marks the culmination of millions of pounds of investment in the school over the last six years. Our first-rate facilities provide our excellent teaching staff with the means to offer the inspiring learning opportunities our students enjoy.

In October 2018 we used questionnaires\* to ascertain the current views of pupils, parents, staff and governors at school.

### Parental views are reflected below:

The school is well led and managed:

- 88% strongly agreed or agreed
- 10% neither agreed nor disagreed
- 2% disagreed or strongly disagreed

My child/children is/are happy at this school:

- 87% strongly agreed or agreed
- 11% neither agreed nor disagreed
- 3% disagreed or strongly disagreed

\* Education for Schools

A visit during the school day can help to complete the picture. If you would like to see the school at work, please do make an appointment with the school office to join the Principal on a school tour.

I wish you a long and happy association with Goldington Academy.



F X Galbraith, Principal



# VISION AND ETHOS

Goldington Academy is an oversubscribed, ambitious and aspirational secondary school, where student success is at the heart of all our decision making. We make no apology for wanting the best for your child.

In order to reach their potential, students need to study in schools with strong leadership, high standards of behaviour and most importantly, excellent well-qualified teachers. At Goldington Academy, your child will be known as an individual. This means we can offer each student the appropriate

level of support and challenge to help them achieve their academic potential. At the same time, we positively encourage our students to broaden their experiences and personal qualities through taking part in our extensive co-curricular programme.

The wellbeing of our students underpins life at Goldington Academy as we recognise its importance in building positive, resilient, successful young people who are ready to embrace the next stage of their journey into adulthood.



# ENGAGING MINDS

At Goldington Academy, the recruitment of first-rate teachers is our priority. Recent recruitment drives mean that we are fully staffed with skilled and practised teachers across all areas of the curriculum. The learning provided is designed to challenge children of all abilities, from the most able to those who need additional support to overcome difficulties.

## Our curriculum aims to:

- Provide a broad and balanced education for all students
- Enable students to develop knowledge, understand concepts and acquire skills, and be able to choose and apply these in relevant situations
- Develop students' independent learning skills and resilience
- Support students' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development
- Support students' physical development and responsibility for their own health, and enable them to be active
- Promote a positive attitude towards learning
- Ensure equal access to learning, with high expectations for every student and appropriate levels of challenge and support
- Provide subject choices that support students' learning and progression and enable them to work towards achieving their personal goals.

During Years 7 & 8 students study a wide range of subjects: English; Mathematics; Science; Design Technology (DT); Cooking & Nutrition (C&N); Computing; French; History; Geography; Art; Music; Physical Education (PE); Religion, Philosophy and Ethics (RPE); Life skills (formerly PSHE) including Sex Education; and Drama and Dance (Y8 only).

In Year 9, students select two additional subjects to study as part of our Personalised Learning Programme (PLP). The aim of the PLP is to give students an experience of subjects they may wish to consider as GCSE options, as well as broadening their learning in existing subjects.

## The subjects included in the PLP are:

Art;  
Computer Science;  
Dance;  
Drama;  
Enterprise and marketing;  
Music;  
Spanish;  
Sport Science;

At Goldington Academy students begin their GCSE journey at the start of Year 10. All students study English Language, English Literature, Mathematics and Science.

## Students then select from the following GCSE/Vocational options:

History;  
Geography;  
Religious Studies;  
French;  
Travel & Tourism (vocational);  
Sport Studies (Cambridge National);  
Music;  
Art & Design;  
Design Technology;  
Dance;  
Drama;  
Computer Science;  
Physical Education;  
Spanish;  
Business/Enterprise & Marketing (vocational);  
Creative iMedia (vocational);  
Hospitality & Catering (vocational);  
Health & Social Care (vocational).

All students in Years 10 and 11 also have two lessons of physical education each week and study Life skills (formerly PSHE) and Religion, Philosophy and Ethics (RPE), although these subjects are non-examined.



# INSPIRING FUTURES

Whether it is before school, at lunchtime or after school, there is an array of extra-curricular opportunities at Goldington Academy, which includes:

- Sports – rugby (boys and girls), football (boys and girls), basketball, hockey (boys and girls), netball, cricket, badminton, rowing, tennis, rounders, athletics and parkour.
- Music - choir, Ukulele, Bandits, string group, hand bells, composing club, string quartet
- Journalism Club, creative writing, book club
- STEM and science clubs
- Dance
- Robotics
- Illustration Club
- ICT Club
- Drama
- Gardening Club
- Art Open Studio
- Spanish

In addition, we organise a number of exciting learning experiences to motivate, engage and inspire the pupils. Activities range from visiting Oxford University, Samba workshops, theatre trips, author visits, RAF Wittering, the Imperial War Museum, CSI days, robotics workshops and visiting the Houses of Parliament.

We are proud to be an accredited provider of the Bronze and Silver Duke of Edinburgh Awards scheme.

We also offer a number of residential visits. Recent trips include: a hockey tour to Holland; an outward bound trip to Blue Peris; a history trip to the WWI sites in France and Belgium; a ski trip to Andorra and a trip to CERN in Geneva.

## Careers

We are supported by SEMLEP (South East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership) who provide us with up-to-date information about careers education and guidance.

Following the Gatsby Benchmark guidance, we aim to develop student employability skills and inform students about local, national and international labour market information; guide students to explore and develop career ideas and high aspirations; educate students on the complete spectrum of post 16 and post 18 pathways and prepare them for successful post 16 transitions.

**This is achieved through a variety of means, including:**

- PSHE
- Careers Cafés
- Curriculum learning
- Workplace visits
- Form times
- Assemblies
- Extra-curricular activities
- Personal guidance

## Student Leadership

Pupils are given the opportunity to act as 'Ambassadors' across all academic subjects, or as community or sports leaders. Over one hundred pupils were part of the programme last year which included leading competitions, clubs or events, supporting younger pupils through peer-interventions, or supporting the local area in activities such as gardening clubs, Generations Dance and running community projects. At the end of Year 10, all students have the opportunity to formally apply and be interviewed for the position of Chair and Vice of the Student Leadership Group.

# NURTURING SUCCESS

Goldington academy is organised into year groups (Years 7-11).

Each year group is led by a Head of Year who is responsible for the welfare of all the children in that age group. The year groups are divided into classes under the care of form tutors who have immediate responsibility for the work and pastoral care of their classes. Pupils spend the majority of their time with specialist subject tutors, but there is always one form tutor with overall pastoral responsibility for them. The form tutor's role is central to the support and care of the children in the school. Together with the Head

of Year, he/she undertakes a special responsibility to guide the day to day work, welfare and behaviour of the children in their class and is the immediate person for parents to contact about their child.

Bullying is not tolerated at Goldington Academy and high-profile anti-bullying ambassadors offer peer support on a daily basis and have a responsibility to report bullying to a trusted adult.

Excellent pastoral care is also provided in the Student Support Hub where pupils are supported in small groups or on a one-to one basis according to their needs.

# SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENTS

The past few years have been particularly successful for Goldington Academy.

We are proud to be an Artsmark Gold school for our outstanding commitment to the Arts (drama, dance, music and art) as well as holding the Music Park Partnership Award. We have also been awarded the gold School Games Mark, a Government-led award scheme which recognises schools for their commitment to the development of sport and competition across their school and into their community. In 2018, we were voted – for the second time – as Bedford Borough’s Sporting School of the Year, not only for our sporting successes, but for

the wide range of sports that we offer, our ethos of participation and our sports leaders programme.

We were delighted to be awarded the Platinum Science Mark Award 2018-2021. This prestigious award is in recognition of inspiring practice in secondary science and is a standard only 15% of secondary science departments will meet; a real achievement!

In addition, we hold the Silver Eco School, the RHS Campaign for School Gardening Level 4RHS Award, Sustrans Bike It Awards and the National Online Safety accreditation.

## FIRST RATE FACILITIES

The school’s accommodation and facilities are excellent. All of our classrooms are equipped with interactive technologies and all our teaching spaces have been updated with new furniture and state-of-the-art interactive panels. There are extensive specialist facilities for art, computer science, design technology, drama, food preparation and nutrition, music and science. Sports facilities include a gymnasium, a sports hall and an all-weather synthetic grass multi-use games area (MUGA), which pupils use at break and lunchtime, as well as for PE lessons and extra-curricular activities.

Facilities are regularly reviewed, developed and improved to provide the very best learning environment and educational opportunities for our pupils. This year we have been successful in our bid

for the Condition Improvement Funds (CIF) which will provide funding for new sports changing rooms and a roof replacement to our sports hall.

Through the Government’s Priority Schools Building Programme (PSBP), a multi-million-pound investment has been made in the school’s infrastructure to ensure our facilities have been upgraded to create a state-of-the-art learning environment in which our students can flourish. Our Arts Centre, funded by Bedford Borough Council, provides a spacious, state-of-the-art teaching space with a double-height exhibition area, two classrooms and a kiln room.

As a school that embraces, values and celebrates the arts, we are delighted to be able to offer this brand-new facility to enhance the learning opportunities at Goldington Academy.





Haylands Way, Bedford MK41 9BX

**Telephone:** 01234 261516

**Fax:** 01234 272344

**email:** [office@goldington.beds.sch.uk](mailto:office@goldington.beds.sch.uk)

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