

SENIOR
SCHOOL







W E L C O M E



Welcome to Gresham's. I am very proud to introduce you to this remarkable school. We were founded in 1555 after a bequest to the Fishmongers' Company to found a school by Sir John Gresham; they continue to work closely with the school to this day. This prospectus gives you an impression of all that a Gresham's education can offer but is no substitute for a visit; I can promise you will receive a very warm welcome.

Gresham's success is in part due to the close partnership between the school and our parents. Families joining us immediately feel part of a community and are reassured of their crucial involvement and continuing role in their child's school life.

We are not afraid of tradition at Gresham's and place a strong emphasis on good manners and courtesy. We have not found the need to teach our pupils how to be happy; it seems to come rather more naturally to them here.

The school enjoys an enviable setting in the beautiful Georgian market town of Holt in North Norfolk and is surrounded

by rolling countryside and a spectacular coastline. Supported by staff with a real concern for their well-being, our pupils have the time and space to develop into well-rounded, self-assured adults able to manage the demands of modern life. Of course, the real test of an education is how balanced, focused and happy our pupils are well after they have left us.

It is important to me that every child's strengths and talents, whatever they may be, are recognised and nurtured. Gresham's is not a production line which designs curriculum with the sole focus of climbing the school league tables. Instead every pupil is valued and their individual successes recognised and celebrated by peers and staff alike. It is this ethos that has led to an extraordinary range of notable alumni including public figures such as WH Auden, Benjamin Britten, Tom and Ben Youngs, Olivia Colman and Sir James Dyson to name but a few.

There are many opportunities to visit the school, including Open Mornings, or you can arrange an individual tour at any time. We look forward to welcoming you soon.

Douglas Robb, Headmaster

A SCHOOL WITH BROAD HORIZONS

Gresham's was founded in 1555 by Sir John Gresham. He went on to become Lord Mayor of London and forged close ties with the Worshipful Company of Fishmongers. Strong links with the City of London remain to this day.

The Senior School is located on the edge of the thriving market town of Holt, just four miles from the breathtaking North Norfolk coast. Surrounded by countryside and with grounds totalling 200 acres, the atmosphere at Gresham's is one of space and freedom.

Classrooms, boarding houses and communal facilities are all spacious and modern. The recent addition of the Dyson Building has provided the school with state-of-the-art workshops, laboratories, classrooms and studios for Mathematics, Science, Art, Design and Computer Science.

Performance spaces include the Auden Theatre and the beautiful outdoor Theatre in the Woods, as well as the Britten Building, which boasts large and light practice rooms, a 140-seat recital hall and an industry standard recording studio.

Our outdoor activity centre in the woods, run by the Head of Adventure, features an obstacle course; a 250m zip wire; a high and low ropes course; abseiling facilities and a 28m climbing tower.

Sporting facilities are first class and cater for an unusually wide range of activities.



ACADEMIC

OPEN TO WIDER INFLUENCES

We select from a wide range of abilities and recognise talent, creativity and determination, as well as academic success. Our goal is to help each pupil to reach their full potential, whether in the arts, the sciences or any other subject, as well as helping them to develop skills that will be invaluable in lifelong learning.

We expect high standards and offer a coherent and challenging curriculum leading to GCSEs, followed by the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma, A levels or BTECs in Sixth Form.

Classroom learning is supported by a wealth of academic societies and clubs, which encourage pupils to explore beyond the classroom. Regular field trips around the region, nationally and internationally continue this outward focus.







PASTORAL CARE

UNDERSTANDING AND FULFILMENT

Our aim is for each pupil to fulfil their potential, in whatever field that might be. Pupils thrive at Gresham's, and happy students make successful learners. Our boarding houses provide a framework for the life of the school and the boarding ethos builds strong community spirit for the benefit of both boarders and day pupils.

A comprehensive range of extra-curricular activities keeps pupils focused outside of lessons. Lifelong interests are often born as a result of a Housemaster's, Housemistress's or teacher's enthusiasm, and however obscure an interest, we do our best to encourage it.

The Chapel is at the heart of the School, providing spiritual support and an opportunity for reflection. It's also a constant reminder of our broader responsibilities to the community through fundraising and volunteering.

A fully staffed Health Centre provides expert 24/7 medical care and our School Counsellors are always available for help with any personal issues.



BOARDING

MOVING FORWARD
TOGETHER

We believe that boarding cultivates confidence, responsibility and self-reliance, and that living together is rewarding for all ages.

There are seven boarding houses, each run by a resident Housemaster or Housemistress, helping to imbue each house with its own unique style and character. They provide a warm and welcoming environment for both boarders and day pupils, thus ensuring all pupils feel equally valued, integrated, guided and supported, both emotionally and socially.

Students joining in Year 9 share a small dormitory, while older pupils share study bedrooms, and most Sixth Formers have their own room. There is a shared kitchen and common room for relaxing and socialising. Older pupils can become House Prefects, acting as positive role models for younger ones.



ART

A W I D E - E Y E D
P E R S P E C T I V E

We're committed to providing a truly contemporary art and design education built on strong technical and conceptual skills, as well as the ability to engage on the most sophisticated level with an increasingly visually literate world.

Students are exposed to a wide range of styles and influences, as well as materials and techniques, and encouraged to push the boundaries of their understanding and to experiment. The result is distinctly contemporary, but with a strong grounding in established tradition. By the same token, we're committed to giving students' work wide exposure, and we have frequent exhibitions, within Gresham's and further afield.

DRAMA

A B R O A D E R S T A G E

Drama promotes confidence, co-operation and inventiveness in addition to helping to develop freedom of expression. An enormous number of students participate in our school productions each year, all of which involve large casts. These also provide ample opportunities for those interested in the technical aspects of theatre.

The range, scale and variety of performances to which our pupils have access deliver a uniquely rich experience. The Auden Theatre, named after Old Greshamian WH Auden, provides a professional and versatile venue for performance, while our Theatre in the Woods provides a dramatic backdrop for outdoor productions.





MUSIC

RAISING THE BAR

Music is at the heart of life at Gresham's. We work hard to instill and foster a love of music in pupils, providing a wide range of solo and ensemble performance opportunities at all levels.

From weekly Chapel Services to the Annual House Music Competition, performing in Theatre in the Woods to recording and producing music in the Strathmore Studio, there are an incredible range of opportunities for all pupils to make music with small groups and the whole school.

As an All-Steinway School, the facilities across the department and performance spaces are world class.

Our outstanding Fishmongers' Recital Hall hosts many concerts, recitals and informal performances throughout the year to offer opportunities for musicians of all abilities and styles to share their music making with the school audiences and wider communities.

There is a strong choral tradition at the heart of school life, with many choirs ranging from full Chapel Choir to small, close harmony groups. The Studio provides an opportunity for pupils to produce their own music and media content through the Young Media Leaders Programme. There are many instrumental ensembles available for all abilities, ranging from Brass Ensemble to String Groups, and pupils can receive individual music tuition.

SPORT

ENSURING EVERYONE WINS

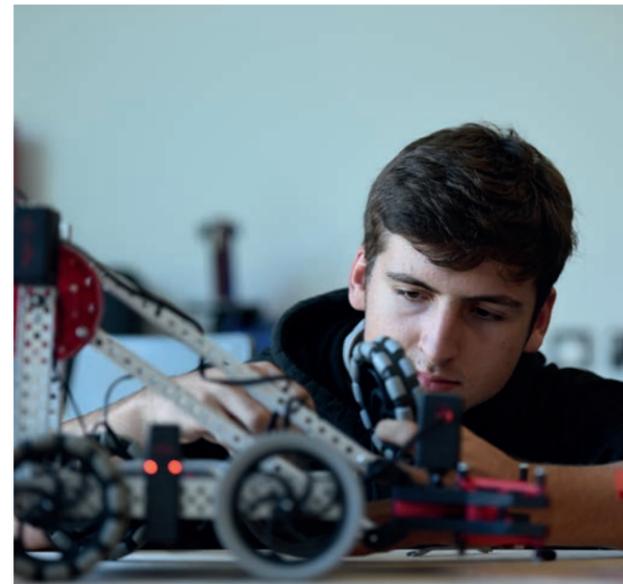
Sport has always been an integral part of education at Gresham's. We believe in educating the 'whole person' – mind, spirit and body – and seek to cultivate healthy and committed team players who value the importance of collaboration and leadership.

We encourage all students to become involved in any of the various sports we offer, and we benefit from an enviable reputation in hockey, rugby, cricket, netball and shooting. Our teams compete at school, local, national and international level.

Above all else, we seek to help students make the most of their sporting abilities in a fun and healthily competitive environment. Taking part is a big part of school life, and even those who aren't naturally sporty can benefit and enjoy themselves. Our sporting facilities include floodlit Astro-turf pitches, a 25-metre indoor swimming pool, a Performance Gym, a large sports hall, over 30 tennis courts, an indoor 8-lane shooting range, seven rugby pitches, netball and squash courts, an athletics track and a cross country course.

Other available sports include football, badminton, horse riding, golf, fencing, basketball, trampolining and dance. There really is something for everyone.





CO-CURRICULAR

OPENING UP THE OUTSIDE WORLD

Alongside cultural and social pursuits, we encourage students to take an interest in the local community and the wider world, helping them to learn vital life skills and to discover new challenges.

Many Senior School pupils join the Combined Cadet Force or participate in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. Others undertake Community Service via fundraising or volunteering. Every year we have a nominated charity who we actively work with.

An important part of growing up is learning responsibility and decision making. Here, opportunities include roles such as Head of House, House Prefects and School Prefects.

ALUMNI

OLD
GRESHAMIANS

Many well-known individuals have attended Gresham's over the centuries, achieving great success in business, politics, sport, the arts, and many other fields.

Old Greshamians include composer Benjamin Britten, poet WH Auden, inventor and businessman Sir James Dyson, Oscar-winning actor Olivia Colman, artist Ben Nicholson, and sportsmen Tom and Ben Youngs.



NEXT STEPS

A good starting point for more information is our website www.greshams.com

However, the best way to look further into a Gresham's education is to visit us and experience it for yourself. Our website has the dates of our Open Mornings, when you can look around the school and meet pupils and staff.

Alternatively, you can arrange an individual appointment and tour by contacting us on **01263 714614**.





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Gresham's School (Registered Charity No. 1105500)
Gresham's School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children
and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.