



Where
GREAT
futures begin

INDEPENDENT CO-EDUCATION
YEARS 7-11



**GREAT
BALLARD**

PRE-PREP

SENIOR

PREP

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The Senior Years

A school with a heart

When Ivor Poole established Great Ballard in 1924, he made a promise that the school would be different. That courage to stand out from the crowd still energises us a century later.

Since its foundation, Great Ballard has stood for academic excellence, creativity, sport and, above all, innovation. Poole's vision - that every child is cared for and treated fairly - still shapes everything we do. Great Ballard is a family where everyone matters. The world is changing fast. Our mission is to prepare young people for an unpredictable future. Our curriculum is broad, forward-thinking and outward-facing. We encourage students to look beyond our idyllic West Sussex setting and develop the skills to adapt, lead and make a difference. Students leave Great Ballard with more than qualifications. They leave confident, resilient and ready - not just for higher education - but for life. Our ethos is built on the 4Hs: Head, Hand, Heart and Health, with relationships rooted in empathy and respect. We inspire students to lead, serve and lift others. Learning goes beyond the classroom, making the most of our stunning location and prioritising creativity, teamwork and wellbeing.

The Senior School

At the heart of Eartham House, historic rooms provide inspiring teaching spaces and welcoming common rooms - places to study, relax or share a cup of tea with teachers. Senior staff offices sit alongside classrooms, so support is always close by. Students enjoy access to our beautiful grounds and specialist facilities in Science, Art, Sport, Computer Science and Music.

Our senior students run businesses, create CVs and practise interviews every year. Computing, cookery, financial skills and leadership remain core through to 16, alongside a strong, traditional GCSE programme.

The Great Ballard journey is always evolving - offering something fresh, something different, something truly great.

From your very first contact with us, we hope you'll feel our warmth and our sense of family. We're so keen to get to know your child and start shaping their exciting journey.

Matt King, Head





STRONG ACADEMIC CORE

This is the age where students need extra challenge to spark their passion for learning. We want learners here to be curious and engaged. Small class sizes and specialist teachers encourage our students to set high expectations and to achieve them.

From Year 7, the focus is towards GCSE, and every half term, students and parents receive "working at" academic levels and effort grades along with their aspirational Beacon Grades, which offer a higher academic target to aim for.

As students move into Year 9, they are supported to select GCSE options. Unlike other schools, we build our option blocks around student preferences. Further academic stretch and support are offered through our Go Beyond programme. This provides additional trips, workshops and specialist sessions, and gives students the opportunity to take part in local and national competitions.



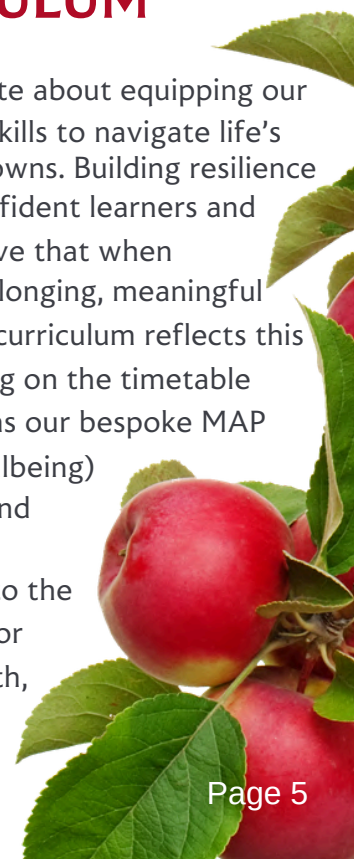
FUTURE SKILLS

We know that our students will need more than good GCSE grades to thrive in their futures. That's why we emphasise the importance of real-world learning and continue to provide opportunities for this right up to Year 11. As part of our commitment to their future success:

- All students take a financial qualification to either Level 1 or Level 2
- All Year 10 and 11 students also complete the Higher Project Qualification with AQA
- All students continue with ICT lessons, working towards industry recognised Microsoft certifications;
- All senior forms set up and run their own businesses, taking part in a yearly enterprise challenge;
- All students take part in careers and business workshops throughout the year.
- Students update their CVs annually, apply for mock jobs and take part in interviews with industry professionals.
- Our Learning 2 Learn curriculum specifically teaches oracy skills, giving students confidence in public speaking, debating and negotiating;

WELLBEING CURRICULUM

We are passionate about equipping our students with the skills to navigate life's inevitable ups and downs. Building resilience is key to becoming confident learners and thriving adults. We believe that when students feel a sense of belonging, meaningful learning can take place. Our curriculum reflects this with outdoor learning remaining on the timetable right through to Year 11, as well as our bespoke MAP (Mental, Academic and Physical wellbeing) curriculum, teaching healthy habits and self-regulation. Additionally, community projects allow senior students to contribute to the shared life of the school through peer mentoring or collaborative activities, which foster connection, growth, and wellbeing at every stage.





Aspire

“

In Years 7 and 8, students enjoy the best of Senior School life within a small, supportive environment. Specialist teaching stretches them academically, while a rich mix of creative, physical and community activities broaden their horizons and support wellbeing. These years are pivotal for building the confidence and skills students need to excel, not just in exams, but in the world beyond.

”

Years 7 & 8

Academic Ambition

We know every student's strengths, thanks to our small teaching groups and our supportive tutoring system. Continuous teacher assessment, alongside CAT4 and GL tests, helps us to understand each pupil's potential and tailor support to ensure their best GCSE results. Parents receive attainment and effort updates every half term.

From Year 7, pupils are set ambitious target grades that inspire them to aim high.

Learning 2 Learn (L2L)

The broad curriculum at Great Ballard is underpinned by this bespoke subject, in which all students explore a range of topics, built around a core of self-regulation, oracy and metacognition. Within the school year, students will study Outdoor Education, public speaking and revision skills. They will research how their brains work and learn strategies to help them with motivation and regulation, preparing them for all areas of the curriculum.

Real-world skills

We pride ourselves on maintaining the breadth of our curriculum right through the senior years.

Students are also challenged to solve real world problems. Every senior student helps run a student business and attends careers and business skills lectures delivered by external speakers.

In Years 7 & 8, our Aspire Diploma recognises the skills that our students build beyond the curriculum.

Additional support

Both academic progress and wellbeing are monitored closely for all students in the school by tutors, our academic team and our Mental Health Lead. If there is a need, the school can arrange professional counselling, classroom support or individual lessons for students, following appropriate parental discussions.

Go Beyond

Students who show an aptitude in a particular area are invited to join our Go Beyond programme. Their progress is monitored to ensure that their potential is reached, and they will be invited to join a range of extension activities, such as workshops, lectures and trips, to foster their interests and help them achieve excellence.

Pastoral care and support

Our highly engaged and empathetic staff take the time to get to know each student and their family, so that we can support students to be the best versions of themselves.

Parents receive regular communication from the form tutor team and are always welcome in school for matches, productions and our regular Park Runs.

Senior students are encouraged to develop their communication skills and have opportunities to work as peer mentors and to play a productive role in our community.

“
Great Ballard is an excellent fit for children who enjoy learning ... who want opportunities to develop independence, resilience and life skills alongside the usual academics.
 ”

Good Schools Guide Review



Achieve

“

All students continue to benefit from a future-focused curriculum that keeps every pathway open

”

Years 9-11

Academic achievements

From Years 9 to 11, students begin their three-year journey towards GCSEs. Small class sizes ensure teaching remains highly personalised. Students receive regular mentoring, and ongoing assessments help identify academic strengths and ensure steady, supported progress.

Effort and attainment grades are shared each half term, with increasing emphasis on challenge. Each student receives Beacon Grades - aspirational but achievable GCSE targets informed by Cognitive Ability Tests and refined by teachers.

Healthy mind, healthy body, healthy perspective

Exams never limit the breadth of education at Great Ballard. Students in Years 9-11 enjoy a rich co-curricular programme designed to support creativity, health and wellbeing. They continue to be active and inventive, developing resilience and positive working habits through our wellbeing curriculum and supported by our outstanding pastoral care.

Looking to the future

All senior students are invited to careers talks from a wide range of visiting speakers. From Year 9 onwards, careers guidance becomes more focussed, helping students make informed choices about their GCSE options and future pathways.

We work in partnership with local sixth form colleges to provide students and parents with tailored advice for their next steps. Our Personal Development Co-ordinator works with outside agencies and business partners to provide students with real-world job application experiences, from creating CVs to attending interviews.

In addition to our enterprise projects, Years 9 to 11 maintain a core curriculum which will support all students, regardless of their future plans. ICT remains on the timetable and students work towards industry-standard Microsoft Certifications. We also retain Outdoor Education, MAP and Learning 2 Learn.

Students benefit from a broad curriculum, taking part in the Duke of Edinburgh Awards, studying for a financial qualification and working towards a Higher Project Qualification.

These skills are all measured by the Great Ballard Diploma, which allows students to collate a portfolio of achievements beyond the academic curriculum and prove invaluable in preparing for their next steps.

“
...the school's outward-looking curriculum is supported by well-planned teaching with excellent open-ended questioning and encouragement of critical thinking.
 ”

most recent ISI Report



“
The Great Ballard
journey is all
about preparation
for the next steps
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”

GCSE Options

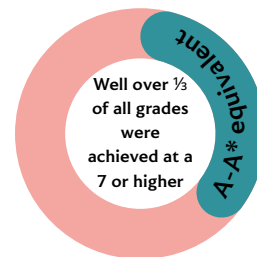
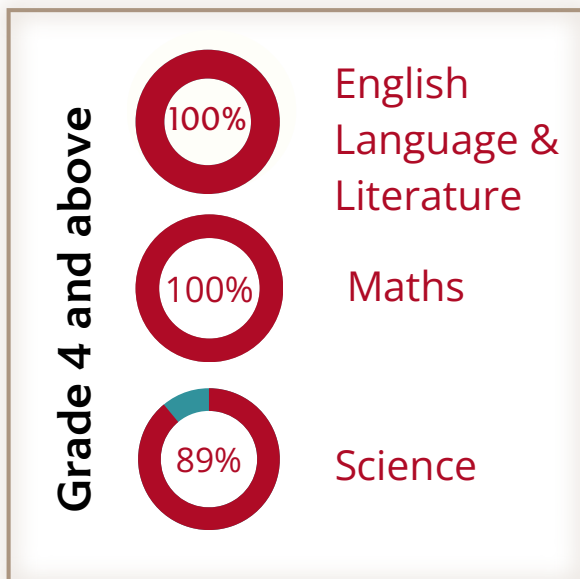
Great Ballard offers its students an exceptionally flexible route through GCSEs.

Following presentations for students and parents in the first term of Year 9, students pick their GCSE options after Christmas, in consultation with teachers and parents, and subject to timetable restrictions.

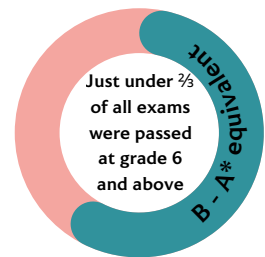
At the start of Year 10, students begin their personalised academic timetable, while still benefiting from the breadth of our unique future-skills curriculum.

All students are offered supervised prep sessions at the end of each day, and teachers run subject-specific revision sessions during this time. The Great Ballard journey is all about preparation for the next steps in education and, ultimately, for the world beyond. Our bespoke approach ensures students develop the confidence they need to turn their aspirations into achievements.

Results from 2025



Almost all students met their target grades, with a number exceeding them by as many as 2 or 3 grades



Alongside their GCSEs, most students also gained Microsoft certifications and were awarded HPQs and LIBF financial qualifications

Core GCSE subjects:

- English Language
- English Literature
- Mathematics
- Science (Double Award)

Additional options:

- Triple Science
 - (Physics, Chemistry, Biology)
- History
- Geography
- Spanish
- French
- CTech Sports Science
- Physical Education (PE)
- Art, Craft & Design
 - Fine Art
 - Photography
 - Textiles
- Music
- Drama
- ICT
- Statistics

“

[pupils] recognise the positive impact of being in a supportive environment which enables them to develop their self-esteem and self-confidence.

”

most recent ISI Report



Next steps

How can a visit be arranged?

Our dedicated School Office team manage every aspect of the admissions process and should be the first port of call for all prospective parents. Whether you would like to register, enquire about our scholarships, arrange a visit, or simply find out more about day-to-day life at Great Ballard, we are here to help.

We always recommend a visit to the school and love to welcome prospective families on either a personalised tour during the school day or at one of our Open Mornings.

Subject to us being able to match their GCSE course requirements, students can join Great Ballard at any time during the school year, even mid-term.

What's included in the Great Ballard fees?

Unlike many senior schools, you'll also pay no extra cost for our extended hours if your child would like to stay on to complete their homework or participate in GCSE study clinics, and most after-school clubs are included in the fees.

Apart from annual increases (which are guided by inflation), our school structure means that the fee band from Year 7 will not step up again before your child leaves us at the end of Year 11, allowing families the space to budget, and making an excellent education even more affordable.

What kind of families and children join the Senior School at Great Ballard?

There is no typical Great Ballard family or child. While some students join us from other independent schools, an equal number are starting independent education for the first time. Our ambition is to be inclusive and tailor our approach to each student's needs. We want them to be the very best versions of themselves and not pale imitations of someone else.

However, we are a selective school, and it is important for us to ensure that any prospective student will be able to thrive here and access the full breadth of our academic and co-curricular offering.

Therefore, we ask all prospective students to join us for taster days, complete a set of cognitive ability tests and, if necessary, meet with our SENCO and Academic/Pastoral Deputies. We will also request reports and references from a student's current school to ensure that we are the best setting for each student.

We would love to talk to you about our senior years programme. If you have any questions or would like to find out more, please contact us:

office@greatballard.co.uk

01243 814236

“
It is important to us to ensure that any prospective student will thrive here
”

From a GREAT past...

"I think Ivor Poole would have been really proud of the way Great Ballard has evolved. Our founder wanted the school to be caring, forward-thinking and different. Our pastoral care and innovative, life-ready curriculum continue to reflect those values right through to Year 11."

Matt King, Head

1924

The school motto, "Vincit qui se vincit" which means 'He conquers who conquers himself' remains as relevant today as ever, now expressed in our modern interpretation:

“
CONQUER
YOURSELF;
CONQUER
ANYTHING.
”

"My family's association with Great Ballard began with an inclusive story. We're really proud that there's no big step up in fees as children enter the Senior School. An independent education here is more accessible than ever before."

Chris Jay - School Proprietor



Reprinted from
The Daily Telegraph
and Morning Post
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8, 1961



GREAT BALLARD, Camberley, Earsham, dating from 1743, was an old-established boys' preparatory school, has been sold to Surrey County Council for use for educational purposes. The school, a fairly modern building, with some 18 1/2 acres of playing fields, adjoins Old Dean Common, part of which has been acquired by Frimley and Camberley urban council for a housing estate for overspill population in Metropolitan Surrey. Great Ballard School has moved to Earsham House, Earsham.

It lies in the Goodwood area in 17 acres and is listed as a building of special architectural and historic interest. For the school, Densham & Lambert acted in both transactions and Wyatt & Son, Chichester, were agents for the vendors of

"The GB approach is unique. You sense it as soon as you step through the front door. Our students are at the heart of every decision we make from tailored GCSE pathways to the many layers of our pastoral care. This is an incredible school and I'm proud to be a part of it."

Alice Hardwick, Senior Deputy Head



2024

"Personal development at Great Ballard brings real-world experience to the students through our 'Apprentice-style' enterprise competition, mock job interviews with professionals, guest speakers from a range of industries and careers profiling, to prepare our seniors for their next stage of life."

Joanne Sykes, Personal Development Co-Ordinator

"It matters so much that young people grow up in an environment where they learn to make a difference. Service, enterprise and leadership are on the curriculum at Great Ballard and not just voluntary extras."

Current parent

"...pupils develop initiative and independence successfully through the excellent opportunities provided."

most recent ISI Report

**to a
GREAT
future.**



Find out more

If you would like to learn more about our Senior School, please do get in contact with us.

Office email:

office@greatballard.co.uk

Phone:

01243 814236



GREAT BALLARD SENIOR

