



Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School

Welcome to our school

Queen Elizabeth's is a forward-thinking school, which aims to provide an education for life for all students. We offer an enjoyable, enriching and effective learning experience within a caring and supportive environment which celebrates the individuality of every student.

The need for students to receive a good education has never been as important as it is today. As new careers and technologies emerge and as competition in the workplace increases, there will be fewer jobs for life in the future; now more than ever students need to be adaptable, self-disciplined, confident and have excellent academic qualifications.

Working towards the highest standards is central to the school's ethos and we expect every student to do their very best, to achieve well in their academic studies and to participate fully in extra-curricular activities. This takes place within an environment where every student is encouraged to give their all and where each individual can develop their talents to the full.

When they leave Queen Elizabeth's, our students are responsible, resilient citizens who have the qualities and skills they need to make a positive contribution to a global society.



Our history

Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School opened in 1576 and is one of the oldest state schools in the country. Following representation to Elizabeth I, the school was established as "the free grammar school of Elizabeth, Queen of England, in Faversham in the county of Kent for the education, bringing up, and instruction of boys and youths in grammar, to remain in all future ages."

The modern school dates back to 1967 when the school began to teach girls and boys together on the present site, following the merger of The Faversham Grammar School with The William Gibbs School for Girls. The first co-educational selective school and one of the most popular schools in Kent, Queen Elizabeth's has a rich and vibrant history.

The Royal Charter and Seal of Queen Elizabeth I



Aims

Queen Elizabeth's is a school where students:

- are inspired and motivated to achieve their best
- enjoy a happy, successful, creative and caring learning environment
- have a desire to contribute and help others
- achieve excellent examination results
- become confident, aspirational and reflective young adults



"Teachers have consistently high expectations of their students who respond to the challenges set. There is a clear culture of scholastic excellence throughout the school." Ofsted



"Students make excellent progress in all of their subjects so that by the end of Year 11 levels of attainment are exceptionally high." Ofsted



Pastoral Care and support...

Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School

We want your children, our students, to feel cared for, valued and supported to enjoy their learning and to achieve their potential. As such we place a great deal of emphasis on pastoral care.

Pastoral care has long been recognised as a real strength at Queen Elizabeth's and it is the quality of this care that underpins the wonderful atmosphere, the high quality relationships and the excellent levels of success in all areas. A particular focus is the drive on ensuring positive mental health for both staff and students.

Upon arrival at school, students join a tutor group in which the Form Tutor takes responsibility for their day-to-day well-being and for monitoring academic and social progress. Senior students are assigned to younger tutor groups and by developing positive relationships, offer additional support. All students are encouraged to develop a sense of responsibility towards one another.

Learning Managers and Heads of Key Stage work closely with Form Tutors and subject leaders to ensure the needs of students are being met and achievement is maximised.

The House system plays an important part in the life of the school, providing many opportunities for students to take part in activities and to socialise with other students from across the school. The House Competition is hotly contested throughout the year!

Special Educational needs

Queen Elizabeth's is committed to the principle of equal opportunity for all students irrespective of disability, gender or race. We seek to promote a shared sense of responsibility towards the development of the necessary attitudes, patterns of organisation and curriculum differentiation required to introduce approaches which address each student's learning needs, including those of the most able.



"The school is an exceptionally harmonious community. There is a strong commitment by leaders at all levels to promote equality of opportunity and ensure there is no discrimination." Ofsted



Curriculum

Queen Elizabeth's offers a broad curriculum, which allows for choice, flexibility and specialisation. Students, staff and parents all value the supportive and productive atmosphere, which characterises learning at the school.

The ultimate aim of the curriculum is to develop our students as creative, independent learners and to equip them with the knowledge and skills which will enable them to take increasing responsibility for their own education. At Queen Elizabeth's we promote a growth mindset by working with every student through the provision of pastoral and curriculum opportunities to enable them to develop high levels of self-belief, resilience, adaptability and confidence. This in turn leads to high levels of aspirations, challenging ambitions and a wide range of future opportunities

In years 7 and 8, students follow a broad and balanced curriculum which is based on the National Curriculum. From year 9, students start to specialise; choosing four GCSE subjects from a wide range of options with examinations taken at the end of year 11.

The sixth form curriculum, years 12 and 13, offers a broad range of Advanced Level courses, which serve as an ideal starting point for university or other forms of education and training.

Academic progress is tracked through regular assessments in every subject. Tutors, Heads of Year and Key Stage Managers monitor progress closely and are proactive in supporting students to achieve their best throughout the school. The curriculum is designed to meet the needs of students, with the aim of providing an excellent foundation for further study and preparation for the competitive world they will face when they leave school.

“Staff and students develop positive relationships based on trust and respect which help students to make outstanding progress.” Ofsted



“The behaviour of students is outstanding. Students show a strong thirst for learning, concentrate well in lessons and work with great enthusiasm.” Ofsted

Academic enrichment

Our teaching staff strive to challenge and stretch students in lessons, planning carefully to meet their needs at every opportunity. However, we understand that as our students mature, they recognise that academic disciplines overlap and interact in such a way that many valuable areas of learning do not fit neatly into traditional subject areas.

We extend our students' learning beyond the taught curriculum by challenging them to develop themselves across a range of additional optional activities. We seek to nurture and develop individuality of mind and independence of thought through participation outside the examined curriculum. Visiting speakers, debating, cultural visits, study and trips abroad, and opportunities to participate in national competitions sit alongside a wide variety of academic activities that are not related to specific subjects, all of which serve to enrich our students' experience at school.

Senior students often work with teachers to support younger students in the classroom, during support sessions and through a whole host of enrichment clubs and societies.

There are also numerous opportunities for students to engage with activities that benefit the wider community, such as outreach work with primary schools.



"Staff connect with students, create some amazing opportunities that make life at school a much fuller experience and help create life-long relationships and memories. I can honestly say that I am extremely proud to have been a student at Queen Elizabeth's." Sixth Former



Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School

"Achievement in the sixth form is outstanding. Inspired and well supported by knowledgeable and committed teachers, students make excellent progress and achieve high levels of attainment." Ofsted

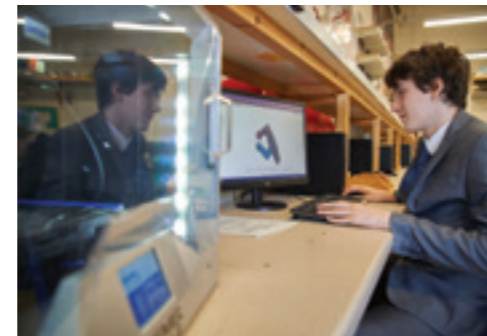
The Sixth Form Curriculum

The vast majority of our own and an increasing number of students from other schools choose to join Queen Elizabeth's to study. The sixth form is a high profile and successful part of the school, with an excellent track record of examination results and university applications.

A range of 23 full A level subjects are available to study, the curriculum is personalised to the needs of every student, who can study up to four A Level courses. There are also additional accredited courses available, such as the Extended Project and Maths in Context.

All students are expected to study a minimum of four courses, comprised of three full A level subjects and an enhancement course such as the Extended Project, in both years 12 and 13. However, there is provision for some students to study four full A level subjects.

Of course, the sixth form is not just about the lessons attended, it is also about high quality support and guidance which will help students with everything from applications to personal issues. Feedback tells us that students really value and enjoy the experience that the sixth form at Queen Elizabeth's offers.



Sixth Form life

The sixth form represents two crucial years in the lives of students at Queen Elizabeth's. They are treated as individuals and we expect them all to take an active role in the school community. There are numerous opportunities for students in the sixth form to take on leadership roles, which makes a significant contribution to the running of the school.

The wider experience of being a member of the sixth form ensures that they not only leave us well qualified, but also well prepared for the broader challenges of adult life. All students have the opportunity to develop a wide range of additional academic and personal skills through a varied programme of enrichment activities, such as debating, additional language lessons, visiting speakers, sports clubs, subject societies, trips, music and school productions.

Students are well supported by a strong pastoral team. All students have a tutor for advice and guidance whom they meet with every day. Students receive and have access to a wide range of careers advice from specialists with expertise in Post-18 options. Preparing and guiding students for competitive university applications is a particular strength.



"Students achieve highly and talk with passion about the opportunities to develop their wider skills. As a result, students are very well prepared for the next stage of their education, training and employment." Ofsted

Physical education

"The school ensures that all students are able to access sporting and other extra-curricular activities which help them to gain confidence and build self-esteem." Ofsted

Physical Education enjoys a high profile at the school. Students benefit from a wide range of opportunities when it comes to sport, whether simply participating or actively taking part in competition. The school has some excellent facilities: sports hall, gym, tennis courts, fitness suites, a multi-use games area and extensive grass pitches. Additionally, all students in Key Stage 3 have access to lessons at the local swimming pool.

Competitive sport provides students with the opportunity to learn about themselves under pressure and extra-curricular sport plays a central role in enhancing confidence, resilience, teamwork and fostering leadership potential amongst our students. There are also opportunities for all students to play recreational sport and be a part of our club programme.

At the heart of our competitive sports programme is the promotion of physical health and social interaction; providing students with the opportunity to represent the school.

Throughout the year there are opportunities for students in all years to compete in numerous sports. In football, we enter the Kent Cup and District competitions for both boys and girls and are proud of our teams' successes. We enter District and Kent Schools competitions in Athletics, Badminton, Basketball, Netball, Rounders, Rugby, Softball, Swimming, Tennis and Cross Country.

Over the past few years, students have achieved County and National honours in sports such as Athletics, Badminton, Cricket, Fencing, Football, Golf, Gymnastics, Judo, Roller Hockey, Sailing, Swimming, Taekwondo and Table Tennis.



Beyond the curriculum...

"Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School provides a friendly, ambitious and focused learning environment. The staff are always there to help you reach your full potential and ensure you achieve your goals for the future." Student



The school offers a full programme of extra-curricular activities including clubs, societies and sporting opportunities. In addition to regular visits to all corners of Europe, recent trips have seen students visit India, Morocco, Abu Dhabi and the USA.

The school has an active exchange programme with partner schools in France, Germany and India. At 70 years old, the German exchange is the longest running in the country.

Regular trips for younger students include an annual ski trip, a year 8 activity week in Bude, Cornwall and the Year 9 Ypres trip. An enrichment week in the summer term also sees students taking part in a range of cross-curricular projects and undertaking day trips to a variety of venues, including the Globe Theatre, Tate Modern and Herstmonceux.

Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) opportunities continue to develop and grow with active research projects. Students have presented at conferences including at the European Space Agency in Brussels. We have a collaborative nanotechnology project with schools in Canada and the USA.

Recent STEM trips include CERN, the UK fusion centre at Culham, Science Live and Dungeness power station.

In November 2019, the school team, Team Evolve, became World Champions in the prestigious international competition, Formula 1 in Schools, run alongside F1, at the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix.

Students from across the school relish taking part in our high quality drama productions as performers, directors and technical crew. The school also has an outstanding reputation in Debating and also participates in the Model United Nations conference.

All students are encouraged to develop leadership skills and teamwork, which we believe are essential for success in later life. The School Council, as well as many other clubs and societies, are run by students. There are also opportunities to undertake leadership qualifications.

The school holds the prestigious International Schools Award, which is administered by the British Council.



"Queen Elizabeth's offers a wide range of activities and clubs that cater for everyone's interests, including incredible school trips to places like India and Morocco." Ofsted



**For further information please visit
www.queenelizabeths.kent.sch.uk**

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Space to study, learn, achieve, define, inspire, develop, create, share, think,
discover, play, shine, grow and be happy.

We are Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School
Since 1576