



*A centre of excellence within the community and for the community*

# Mayfield Grammar School

## Gravesend



**110**

1914 - 2024

*Per aspera ad astra*  
*Through adversity to the stars*



**Integrity:** to act honestly and with social responsibility towards one another and the wider community.



**Empathy:** to be considerate and mindful of the needs of others and encourage the well-being of all members of the school community.



# A message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am delighted that you are considering Mayfield Grammar School, Gravesend for your child's education.



“A centre of excellence within the community and for the community”

Our school's ethos and reputation is based upon sustained high levels of achievement and excellence within and beyond the classroom. The school was founded in 1914 and we regard ourselves as a dynamic school responding to the demands of living and working in modern Britain within a global environment.

We aim to instil in our students a sense of belonging with every individual feeling happy and supported to achieve their best and develop their talents.

We seek to develop the academic potential of every student through excellent teaching and learning opportunities alongside personalised support.

We aim for all students to leave our school equipped with the skills and qualifications to access the next stage of their educational journey whilst developing integrity and confidence in order to make a valued and positive contribution to society and the global environment.

We are proud of all our students, they are our best ambassadors.

At Mayfield Grammar School, we recognise that enjoyment of school life and passions for learning are integral to a successful and happy school experience and offer many opportunities to form new friendships, gain new skills, follow and discover new interests, all of which aid future opportunities and employability.

We are fully committed to implementing the British Values of democracy, rule of law, individual liberty, respect and tolerance for other religions through our curriculum and in all areas of school life.

Our school motto is “per aspera ad astra” (through adversity to the stars). We aim to develop students who uphold and promote the school aims through the following school values:

**Leadership:** to develop creative and innovative ethical leaders.

**Integrity:** to act honestly and with social responsibility towards one another and the wider community.

**Confidence:** to be ambitious for the future and develop a strong sense of independence, self-belief and self-worth.

**Respect:** to be trustworthy, tolerant and respectful individuals.

**Empathy:** to be considerate and mindful of the needs of others and encourage the well-being of all members of the school community.

**Resilience:** to show courage and determination in order to solve problems, overcome challenges and face adversity.

## Aims of the School

- To promote an ambitious educational culture which strives for excellence for all.
- To offer a broad, balanced and challenging curriculum enabling all students to fulfil their academic potential.
- To stimulate intellectual curiosity, encourage independence and responsibility for their own learning.
- To develop confidence and resilience in all our students so that they acquire the skills needed for life-long learning.
- To foster and promote a sense of trust, respect for and tolerance of others within an inclusive school environment.
- To celebrate diversity within our school community.
- To encourage our students to make a positive contribution to the life of the school, wider community and to enhance their knowledge of global issues in order to become socially responsible global citizens.



Elaine Wilson  
Headteacher

# Academic Information



We provide a broad, balanced curriculum, both traditional and forward thinking in content and delivery, which responds to modern educational challenges and prepares our students for GCSE and A Level studies as befits a selective school. A wide variety of teaching and learning strategies are employed and attention is paid to the development of skills. Enquiry based learning approaches are used from the outset. The Mayfield Mindset supports our academic courses and includes our innovative learning to learn programme studied in our Lower School, the Academic Preparation Programme in Year 12 and the school wide VESPA programme.

We are also proud to introduce pupils to LEAP, (Learning Excellence and Aspire Programme) which allows them to develop their independence and creativity across the curriculum. The curriculum promotes the social, moral, cultural, spiritual and physical development of our students and prepares them for the responsibilities of adult life.

All students follow non-GCSE courses in Personal, Social and Health Education including Citizenship. They also study core PE which in the Upper School includes the Sports Leaders and Dance Leaders Award.

We offer separate Science options at GCSE and a varied A Level study programme including the EPQ. We are particularly pleased to be able to offer students specialist facilities in our Language Laboratory, dark room and Computer Science is taught from entry in year 7.

We are proud to be part of the prestigious Mandarin Excellence Programme (MEP). This allows all Year 7 students to experience Mandarin and the chance, for some, to continue their studies in greater depth. We also offer Mandarin to our Year 12 and Year 13 students.



**Respect:** to be trustworthy, tolerant and respectful individuals.







## LOWER SCHOOL

### Years 7 and 8

All pupils follow a broad and balanced curriculum of core subjects, Modern Foreign Languages, Humanities, the Arts, PE, Technology, Music, and Drama.

## UPPER SCHOOL

### Years 9, 10 and 11

All year 9 subjects are taught at foundation level GCSE, Preparing students for GCSE examination courses which are sat at the end of Year 11. In addition, all Year 9 students study Entry Level computer Science.

For students in Years 9, 10 and 11, parents and staff work together to ensure that students choose a sensible, balanced programme of GCSE subjects. GCSE options are chosen at the end of Year 9. In Years 10 and 11, students can study up to ten examination subjects.



## THE SIXTH FORM

### Years 12 and 13

Very few students go straight to college or employment after GCSE examinations. The majority stay on into the Sixth Form and take advantage of the wide range of courses provided. We give students greater responsibility for their own studies and encourage independence, whilst ensuring structures are in place to monitor attendance and to encourage good practice with regard to private study. We offer a wide range of subjects at A Level as well as the Extended Project Qualification. All students study at least three full A Levels.

Our sixth formers enjoy numerous enrichment opportunities including the chance to select from a range of activities provided by skilled staff and external providers.

Students are involved in running clubs, helping younger students with their studies, and coaching school teams. There are opportunities for them to become Senior Officials, House Prefects, Subject Prefects, Form Prefects and to take responsibility for Charity Events, Cultural issues, Sixth Form Liaison, Publicity and Student Support. We have a well-established School Council which is led by the Sixth Form. A Personal, Social & Health Education programme operates together with General Lecture sessions with invited speakers and conferences help provide students with the skills they need after leaving the school.



**Leadership:** to develop creative and innovative ethical leaders.

# Homework

Homework plays an important role in the academic success of our students. Encouraging each student to take responsibility for their own learning. To this end, homework is designed to consolidate knowledge and skills, to stimulate a wider interest in each subject and to encourage self-reliance and develop the abilities necessary for independent learning. A homework timetable is issued at the start of each school year. The amount of time spent on homework will vary but in Year 7 each student should expect to spend, on average, at least an hour and a half each evening, rising as they move through the school.

# Careers Education

Careers Education Information and Guidance (CEIAG) has a high profile within the school. This is recognised by having been awarded the Investors in Careers Kite Mark Award for the fourth time.

The employment market is constantly changing. Many of our students will be involved in future careers that have not yet been invented. Our focus is on developing personal skills and employability skills alongside high academic attainment to enable them to adapt, to be flexible and to succeed within this changing environment.

**Resilience:** to show courage and determination in order to solve problems, overcome challenges and face adversity.

*“It was brilliant to visit the careers fair and learn about lots of different jobs and how they relate the subjects we might choose for GCSE”*

Year 9 pupil

The school provides a programme of work-related learning and careers advice through the Personal, Social and Health Education programme, the Preparation for Working Life course, Curriculum Enrichment days as well as individual careers interviews and mentoring.

Students are also able to keep up to date with the latest career opportunities as well as helpful tips and advice via the Mayfield Careers Twitter feed.

When students are making decisions about subject choices after GCSE, or about post A Level destinations, a structured programme of independent information and guidance is provided by the Careers Leader. All our Year 10 students participate in ‘Take your Daughter to Work Day’ and in Year 11 all students complete one week’s work experience, which can be carried on into the Sixth Form, time permitting. Students are able to build a personal portfolio which includes significant work experience and skills relevant to their chosen post-16 pathway.





# Student Support

Each student is a member of a tutor group and is looked after by a dedicated member of staff who takes a special interest in their progress and welfare. Students are encouraged to assess their own development, to negotiate targets with teachers and to record their achievements.

Our dedicated team of tutors in each year are led by a Learning Leader, who has special responsibility for the care and day to day organisation within the year group. The House System is run in conjunction with the horizontal year group system.

We aim for a smooth transition from primary to secondary school by visiting every student in her local primary school before she joins us, and organising an Induction Day in July. A carefully planned induction programme helps them get to know the rest of their tutor group and settle in quickly.

School assemblies are held weekly for both Lower and Upper School and regularly within form groups. Whole school assemblies are held at regular intervals. Students take a leading role in their presentation and emphasis is placed on praise, encouragement and reward. The School Council, led by the Sixth Form provides a forum for the student voice to focus on issues relevant to the students, their learning and wider issues, for example, the environment.

Attendance is closely monitored to support learning.

We have a clear school policy to prevent and deal with bullying and cyberbullying and are proud to be launching the "All on Board" programme, designed to empower students to deal with friendship issues using empathy as their key tool and with staff there to support them.

We have always had high expectations with regard to student behaviour. Students are aware of what is appropriate, their rights and their responsibilities. We are proud to say our trust in the good sense of our students is thoroughly repaid.

*"I like how the school focuses on our well-being as well as how well we do in our work and exams."*

Year 11 pupil

## Partnership with Parents

We rely on and value the support and involvement of parents in order to enable each student to develop their talents to the full. Good communication between home and school is vital in the development of this partnership. Informal contact is encouraged by means of student planners.

Each year an assessment calendar is issued giving parents details of the pattern of reports and consultation evenings for the academic year. Parents are informed of progress by an annual written report, as well as the results of internal examinations and regular progress reviews through an online reporting system.

Parent Consultation Evenings, at which students are encouraged to be present, provide an opportunity for parents to meet staff and discuss their child's progress. Our students are closely monitored throughout the year and if staff have concerns, parents will be contacted to ensure that together we provide any support needed. SLT Surgery, which takes place termly provides parents with an open forum to speak with Senior Leaders in our school.

Parents are encouraged to attend school functions and to become involved in the organisation of extra curricular activities. All parents are members of our Parents' Association, whose support we find invaluable. The PA Committee meets regularly and organises fundraising and social activities to help the school.

Parents are always welcome to contact the school with queries or concerns about the curriculum or any other school matter.

# School Visits

We have a full range of student exchange visits with schools in France, Germany and Spain together with other residential trips to China, USA, Canada, Iceland and Italy in recent years. This enables students to improve their language skills and gain personal experience of other countries and cultures. Senior students have taken part in World Challenge expeditions to Borneo, Mongolia, China and Tanzania. These trips enable students to challenge themselves in different environments and to develop team building skills. Each year we organise a ski-trip, to either Europe or North America.

Fieldwork is a vital part of the curriculum in subjects such as Biology and Geography. In addition we believe that the curriculum itself is enriched by the first-hand experiences gained from an extensive programme of activities and visits throughout a student's school career. These include field trips, visits to museums for Art and Science, theatre visits for English and Drama, visits to the Gravesend Gurdwara as well as musical activities, such as Voice In A Million and PE. Some of these are run during our Curriculum Enrichment days in July. Sixth Form students often attend conferences (both domestic and international) for their A Level subjects.

*"I just think it's really cool that we get to learn other languages and practice them in the country where they are spoken"*

Year 11 pupil



# Extra-curricular Activities

We encourage students to participate in an extensive range of clubs that take place within the lunch hour, before and after school. These include a wide variety of Sports Clubs, Art Club, the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme, Junior Drama, Maths and Science Clubs. Charity fundraising events are an important and popular part of school life.

Music and Drama are taught formally and valued in our school. Students regularly participate in musical events in and out of school. Termly concerts involve Choir, Year 7 Choir, Training Orchestra, Senior Orchestra, Glee Club and Clarinet Ensemble in addition to assemblies, festivals and productions. Tuition in all orchestral instruments, piano, organ, singing and guitar is available from both Kent Music School and independent teachers.

The Physical Education Department runs teams for all year groups and a full programme of matches and tournaments are played in a wide range of sports such as tag rugby, basketball and rowing. We run a programme which challenges gifted and talented students who experience alternative activities such as fencing, judo and volleyball. We are proud of the success achieved by our teams and individuals, some of whom go on to represent their county and beyond at their chosen sport.

All students in Year 7 and 8 have the opportunity to complete the Adventure Service Challenge Senior Stage 1 and 2. We also offer, from Year 9, the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme which gives students the opportunity to gain the Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards. This scheme not only involves an expedition but also enables the students to do voluntary service and to follow a hobby.



# School Uniform

We maintain, and insist upon, a high standard of school uniform for all students, and ask for support from parents to ensure these are maintained consistently. A full list of uniform and PE kit is available on our website.



# Community Service

Fund-raising for local, national and international charities has offered many students scope to use their initiative in imaginative ways. This is particularly evident in their response to the MacMillan Coffee Morning events, Jeans for Genes Day and our 2022 Jubilee celebrations.

We hold our annual fancy dress Fun Run to raise money for charities with which the school has special links. During our Centenary year the school supported a global charity that encourages girls to achieve their potential in countries less fortunate than our own. As a school we are involved in community outreach work.



*"I have really enjoyed taking part in fundraising projects like the 24-hour Rowathon - it brought us together as a community"*

Year 10 pupil

# Admission Procedure

Mayfield Grammar School admits students from the age of eleven from over thirty different primary schools in the area. Students are admitted in accordance with the Admissions Procedure as published by the Governing Body and priority is given to pupils living in the local community. Details of this procedure and relevant dates are enclosed with this prospectus. Information is shared with Year 5 parents in June and visitors are invited to see the school at work on Open Days and Open Evening in October. Details of these visits are enclosed within this prospectus. Details and dates of admission procedures at age eleven are published in the local press in the summer and autumn terms each year.

Girls and boys also join at 16+ to follow A Level courses as a result of meeting the entry criteria to the school. A Sixth Form information and options evening is held in Term 2.

Girls can also be admitted to other year groups in line with our In-Year Admissions procedure.



# A short history of our school

Mayfield Grammar School is a Year 7-11 single sex selective school with a mixed sixth form.

The County School for Girls opened in "Mayfield" in October 1914. The house had been the residence of Mr Isaac Charles Johnson and was bought by the Kent Education Committee after his death. The County School for Girls was the first single sex school in Gravesend and the proposal to separate the girls and boys caused a lot of interest in the town. It has been noted that some teachers disapproved and even threatened strike action but this is based on recollections of former pupils and has not been validated.

Throughout its history the school has remained selective and was known successively as Gravesend School for Girls, then Gravesend Grammar School for Girls. Boys were admitted to the school in 2007 and quickly became an integral part of our school community. As a result, in 2011 the school was renamed Mayfield Grammar School, Gravesend. Our school motto is "Per aspera ad astra" – through adversity to the stars.

A House System was introduced in September 2013. Merit points are given to students during the year and the 'Aster Trophy' is awarded to the House with the most points overall.



The school was set within a four-storey building and had 10 classrooms. Two of the ground floor rooms could be made into a bigger room by folding doors, which is where assemblies were held. There were no specialist rooms, no gymnasium and no studio and the staff common room was in the basement. However, Mayfield was light and bright compared with the technical college where the school had previously been housed and staff and students grew to like their new surroundings.

The school expanded, acquiring a junior school at Lynton House in Darnley Road and moving to its present site in 1926. The original building with its bell tower, the central quadrangle and walled playing fields remain today much as they were then, however, the school has enjoyed modernisations.

There are also three cups; the Atlanta Sports Cup, the Wills Community Cup and the Wood Cup for the house with the most merits awarded by staff for good work and effort. The five house names and colours all have strong links to the past of the school – Atholl, Darnley, Lynton, Chadwick and Reekie. In 2016 we added a sixth house, Westbrook, followed by Penfold in 2020, in response to our rising pupil roll.

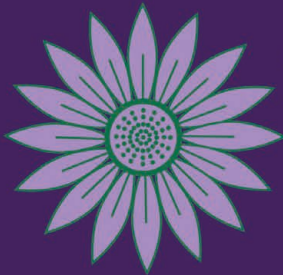
The school benefits from a loyal, stable, well-qualified and experienced staff who work together as a team. Staff-student relationships flourish in a relaxed and caring environment, where students are encouraged to achieve their full potential. The calm, friendly atmosphere, combined with acceptance of the need for hard work, provides a high success rate in public examinations. We are justly proud of our ongoing tradition of excellence and will celebrate our 110th anniversary across 2024-25.



A scene from our centenary production *To The Stars*, celebrating the school's 100 year history.



**Confidence:** to be ambitious for the future and develop a strong sense of independence, self-belief and self-worth.



# Mayfield Grammar School Gravesend

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*Leadership | Integrity | Confidence | Respect | Empathy | Resilience*