



GORDON'S SCHOOL

"One of Britain's outstanding schools" OFSTED REPORT ON GORDON'S SCHOOL



Welcome to Gordon's

Founded on academic rigour, enduring traditions, excellent pastoral care and an enviable activity programme, Gordon's is a unique non-selective state boarding school. Situated in beautiful grounds, with generous facilities we have a proud record of commitment to the highest standards and abundant opportunities for pupils to do, make, perform and learn.

Officially listed as one of Britain's outstanding schools by Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, Gordon's is a forward-looking school offering a dynamic, academic, modern education. Like all good schools, great importance is placed on the quality of teaching in the classroom. Supported by talented, committed staff, as exacting as they are caring, we are one of the top performing schools in the country and have been for the last decade.

This is, of course, very pleasing. However we do not wish to be judged on examination results alone. Sport, arts, drama, music, community service and personal development are taken equally seriously. A great education is a thorough preparation for life. We put great store in the widest possible recognition and celebration of achievement and intelligence to nurture individual talents and promote the understanding in every pupil that we are all equally different.

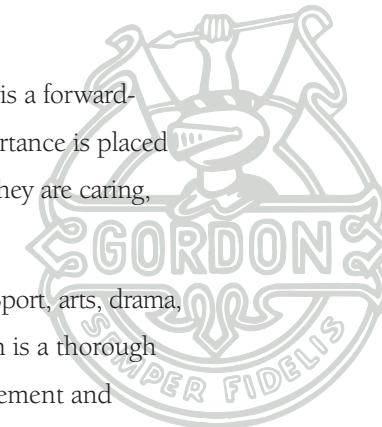
The real judgement of Gordon's is the pupils. All who visit are struck by the happy, purposeful calm that pervades the school. This is no accident and is borne from self-disciplined, hard working, appreciative and unerringly polite young people. Young people who are confident but not arrogant, able to think for themselves, with a firmly-held moral code based on personal responsibility, respect for others and the desire to serve the wider community.

A Gordon's education is second to none and I want Gordon's to become one of the most respected and admired state schools in Britain, not just for academic achievement but for the young people we develop and the difference they make to the lives of others.

We look forward to the pleasure of welcoming you to the school so that you can see us in action and appreciate the difference a Gordon's education makes. Please contact our Admissions Registrar on 01276 858084 for further information and visit dates.

Warm regards

Andrew J Moss Head Teacher





“This is an exceptionally good school” OFSTED REPORT

Facilities and Location

Gordon's School is situated in fifty acres of wooded parkland five miles from Woking, and a few miles from the M25, M3 and M4 motorways. There is very easy access to Heathrow and Gatwick Airports and the London mainline railway stations.

There are suites of specialist rooms for all subjects, including a newly refurbished music and drama centre, a specialist food technology facility,

state of the art science block, art studio and Sixth Form centre. There are four boarding houses and five day houses and a particular feature of the school is its magnificent Victorian Chapel which is used for daily assemblies.

Gordon's has its own heated indoor swimming pool, tennis courts, sports hall, fitness studio and a shooting range, as well as over 40 acres of playing fields and an Astroturf sports pitch.



History and Ceremonial

Gordon's School was founded in 1885 by public subscription, at the express wish of Queen Victoria, as the National Memorial to General Gordon, who was killed at Khartoum in January 1885. Since its foundation the school has been privileged to have the reigning Monarch as its Patron.

Originally a boys' home which took "necessitous lads" off the streets of London, cared for them and taught them a trade, Gordon's later became a boys' boarding school and today is a co-educational, non-selective, state school catering for full, weekly and day boarders. It is supported by The Gordon Foundation, an independent charitable trust established in 1888.

The history and traditions of the school are recognised today through the parades and chapel services which take place eight times a year. All pupils at Gordon's learn to march and participate in the parades which are accompanied by the pipes and drums marching band. On these ceremonial occasions, students wear a special uniform known as "Blues" which is based on the original dress worn by the boys in the 1800s. The highlight of the ceremonial year is the annual Whitehall Parade in January, when the school marches through the streets of London to the Embankment for a service at the statue of General Gordon to commemorate the date of his birth.





Teaching and the Curriculum

At Gordon's we believe that schools are first and foremost centres for learning, and that the basis of a successful school is quality teaching and quality learning. We believe that:

- the best form of pastoral care comes from good classroom teaching;
- effective learning is best done in small classes: our policy, where possible, is to 'set' pupils in groups of similar ability, and to keep those groups small;
- staff are teachers of children rather than subjects.

At Gordon's the curriculum and teaching blends traditional values with modern ideas. For example, if you choose to visit a lower school maths lesson at Gordon's, you will sometimes see pupils learning their tables! In English lessons you may come across classes having spelling tests. We use these tried and tested methods for one simple reason – we know they work. However, we remain aware of the need to prepare our pupils for the pace of change in the wider world, which is why you will find academic rigour supported by imaginative teaching, a modern curriculum and sensible use of modern technology, particularly ICT, as an aid to children's learning.

Time spent in a Gordon's classroom is a vibrant experience that aims not just for academic success, but to foster intellectual curiosity and a lifelong thirst to study and learn.





“There is no compromise
on standards”  OFSTED REPORT

Music, Art and Drama



Gordon's has an outstanding reputation for the arts. The music and drama departments are based in a newly refurbished centre and the art department has a specially converted art studio.

A team of specialist staff can provide tuition in piano, electronic keyboard, guitar, percussion and the full range of strings, woodwind and brass instruments. There is a school band, senior and junior choirs and various small instrumental groups. Informal concerts take place during the year culminating in the annual Spring Concert which is held in the H G Wells Centre in Woking. A unique feature is our 90 strong pipes and drums marching band. The band reflects the ceremonial tradition of Gordon's School which has been established for over 100 years, and is maintained today. The band plays not only for our own ceremonial occasions but is also in high demand for fetes and other events outside the school such as the Lord Mayor's Show.

Drama and art are successful subjects within the curriculum and are hugely popular extra-curricular activities. We are fortunate to have two specialist drama studios with excellent lighting and sound facilities and two art studios. There are two annual art exhibitions and recent plays have included "Oliver!", "Pygmalion" and "Oh What a Lovely War!"

Year 7
national art competition
winning entry



“There is an unstinting focus on the pursuit of excellence” © OFSTED REPORT





“Pupils work hard and participate in all the school has to offer” OFSTED REPORT

Sport and Recreation

The aim of any successful school is to develop the whole person and for this reason sport and recreation have always been very important at Gordon's. Academic success will enable Gordon's students to gain their first job, or a place at university; but it is the character, confidence and self-discipline acquired on the games field, or in the school band, which will sustain them through life.

The extensive range of traditional team games, competitive and recreational activities which we provide for pupils forms a vital part of the Gordon's School curriculum. Boys' and girls' teams compete against other schools with great success and all pupils, regardless of their ability, take part in school and Inter-house competitions.

All pupils participate in our daily extra curricular programme and can choose from the activities listed at the end of this brochure, some of which are taken off site, all by fully qualified school or expert coaches. Ofsted has described the Gordon's recreational programme as "better than excellent."





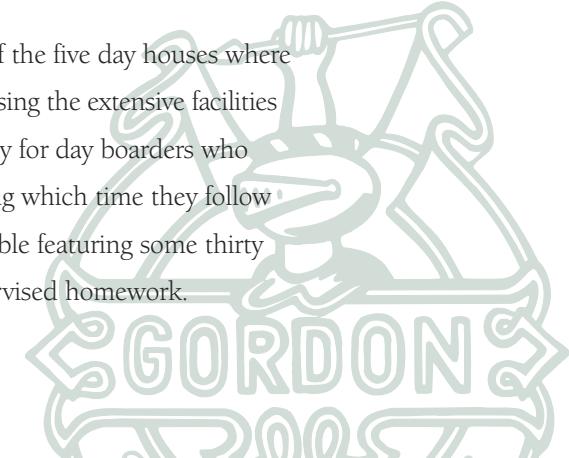
Pastoral and Boarding Life

Ofsted inspections have judged the pastoral care at Gordon's to be outstanding. Based in the boarding houses, responsibility for this lies with the Heads of House. Pupils remain as members of their houses throughout their time at school and have a great sense of loyalty to them. Inter-house competitions are always fiercely contested!

Accommodation for residential boarders is in four recently refurbished houses each with its own individual ethos and family atmosphere. Each boarding house is supervised by resident House Parents assisted by House Tutors. Accommodation comprises a blend of common rooms, dormitories and study areas which allows for both privacy and positive communal life. Extensive recreational facilities help to create a thriving, caring and friendly atmosphere.

All pupils take their meals in a large central dining hall. We have been awarded Healthy Schools Status and the quality and variety of our meals is considered to be excellent. Both day boarders and residential boarders alike can take full advantage of the wealth of opportunities made possible by the boarding ethos of Gordon's. There is always a huge range of activities going on in the evening and at weekends, from theatre trips to camping weekends, weight training to chess, 'Super Weekends' – and a great deal of sport.

Day boarders also benefit from being members of the five day houses where they are cared for by Heads of House and enjoy using the extensive facilities available to them. Gordon's runs an extended day for day boarders who are able to remain at school until 7.30 pm, during which time they follow the same programme as full boarders, ie a timetable featuring some thirty recreational activities, an evening meal and supervised homework.





“Pupils emerge from the school as articulate
and confident youngsters” © OFSTED REPORT



“The quality of the extra-curricular programme goes beyond excellence”

OFSTED REPORT

Extra Curricular Activities

Gordon's has always placed great emphasis on trips, visits and outdoor pursuits as a way of developing character, teamwork and confidence.

The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme is very popular, with over 70 students a year achieving Bronze, Silver or Gold Awards. Expeditions, ranging from Dartmoor to such far flung places as Morocco, Kenya, Nepal and Ecuador are led by qualified Gordon's staff, during the school year and in the summer holidays.

Pupils also have a choice of joining the Army, Royal Navy or RAF section of our very successful Combined Cadet Force (CCF). Cadets can take part in orienteering, climbing, canoeing, shooting, First Aid, sailing, signals and radio work, camp craft and assault course training. The CCF is designed to develop qualities of endurance, resourcefulness, self-reliance, leadership, responsibility, and a sense of public service. Most of the challenging training is done at weekends and in the school holidays at annual camps and adventure training camps.

Throughout the school year an extensive range of trips and visits are available for all Gordon's pupils. These include Year 7 Camp, Sixth Form team building day, World War I battlefields trip, annual ski trip, PGL adventure holidays, enrichment week and a range of trips and visits led by departments and houses.



ACTIVITIES AVAILABLE AT GORDON'S

AEROBICS
AIR RIFLE CLUB
ART CLUB
ATHLETICS
BADMINTON
BALLET
BASKETBALL
CANOEING
CHESS
CHOIR
CHRISTIAN UNION
COMBINED CADET FORCE (CCF)
COOKERY
CRICKET
DEBATING
DRAMA CLUB
DRY SLOPE SKIING
DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD SCHEME (DOE)
FOOTBALL
GOLF
GYMNASTICS
HOCKEY
HORSE RIDING
ICE SKATING
LIFE SAVING
MANDARIN
MATHS CLUB
NETBALL
PIPES & DRUMS
RUGBY
ROCK CLIMBING
SAILING
SCHOOL MAGAZINE
SCHOOL ORCHESTRA
SELF DEFENCE
SWIMMING
SWIMMING SURVIVAL AWARDS
TABLE TENNIS
TECHNOLOGY CLUB
TENNIS
TRAMPOLINING
VOLLEYBALL
WEIGHT TRAINING
ULTIMATE FRISBEE



GORDON'S SCHOOL

West End, Woking, Surrey, GU24 9PT

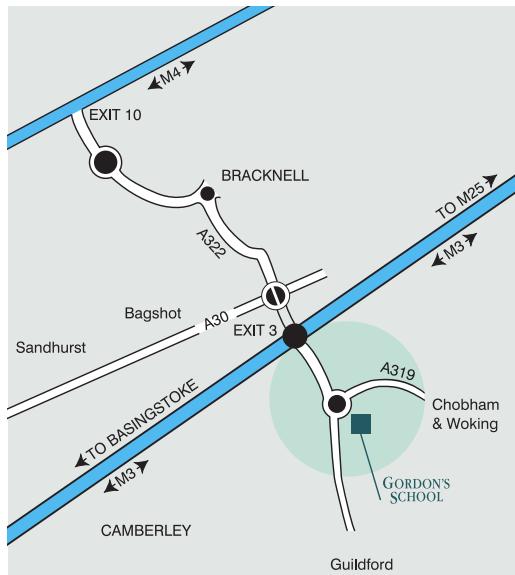
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Fax: 01276 855335

General: info@gordons.surrey.sch.uk

Admissions: registrar@gordons.surrey.sch.uk



➡ Brookwood Station 3 miles approx
Woking Station 5 miles approx

Heathrow Airport 15 miles approx
Gatwick Airport 45 miles approx

