



11+ TOOLKIT

for Year 7 applicants 2021

*A step-by-step guide
to the assessment process*

Including useful information on Bursaries and Scholarships



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11+ TOOLKIT

for Year 7 applicants 2021

This guide will take you **step-by-step** through the **assessment process**, including everything you need to know about applying for **Bursaries** and **Scholarships**.

There are also **key dates** so you can plan ahead and **useful tips** for making the process as painless as possible.



A warm welcome

As a founding school of the Girls' Day School Trust, Brighton Girls has a significance in the history of girls' education. The spirit of the early pioneers, whose names are remembered in our four Houses, Grey, Gurney, Lyttelton and Stanley, is as strong as it has ever been. Today, we occupy a unique position: we are an all-through school in the heart of the city of Brighton; we are as eclectic, enterprising, and creative as the city itself. And we command equal levels of affection.

At Brighton Girls, innovative teaching, reimagined classroom spaces and a keen sense of social responsibility, make this a place where girls can truly learn without limits.

Our girls are courageous, because they know where their strengths lie, they act with kindness, because they appreciate the value of community. Above all, we hope that they will develop the confidence and the character to go out and make a positive difference in the world, understanding that the real impact is felt when courage and kindness combine.

Rosie McCall

Rosie McCall MA (Oxon), MPhil
Head of Brighton Girls

Our aims and values

As a GDST school

We always put girls First.

They are the focus of everything we do.

We are Fearless.

We act and speak with conviction and commitment and we are not afraid of thinking differently.

We are Forward-thinking.

We stay ahead through purposeful innovation.

We are a Family of schools.

We support each other and share our learning across our unique network.

The GDST's Values are:

We are proud to be a beacon of the Girls' Day School Trust, a unique family of 25 schools across the country and specialists in girls' education for nearly 150 years.

Our Aims

At Brighton Girls GDST, we strive to create an environment where students:

- Are fully supported in every endeavour
- Feel free to shine academically and socially
- Are able to discover and develop their own character, strengths and interests, yet also value collective endeavour
- Have a strong sense of community and the responsibilities and opportunities this involves
- Have the confidence to go beyond what they think they can achieve
- Without exception, feel they are nurtured and belong
- Will look back at their school years with happiness
- Learn to be resilient and positive
- Leave school fully equipped to succeed in life

Our vision is of generations of Brighton Girls with the ability to lead and make a real difference in the world and who are both bold and kind.



Important information for 11+ entry in 2021



During the current Covid-19 school closures, we have seen widespread disruption to the current school year and we have been considering how best to manage our 11+ assessment process for September 2021 entry.

We are aware of the disruption many Year 6 pupils will have experienced due to school closures as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, and the impact that these extraordinary circumstances will have had on their education. We know that parents are understandably concerned about academically selective assessment processes, in the light of these closures, and have been reviewing our approach to the entrance procedures, to ensure that we gather as much relevant information as possible to inform our decisions and ensure that applicants are not disadvantaged by the lack of normal education received from March until the end of the summer term. We also place importance on the 11+ interview, references from your daughter's previous school, and may also take account of other relevant factors or circumstances.

With this in mind, we are now asking parents, during the application process, to provide details of the educational provision that was offered by their daughter's current school during lockdown, and of any additional concerns or family circumstances that should be taken into account.

We will also be asking all junior schools to include information in the confidential references they provide about the level of educational provision applicants received during this period. Please note, we will approach junior schools for this information as soon as we receive an official application.

We would like to reassure parents that our assessment procedures are designed to look for academic potential rather than specific knowledge.

This year we will be holding two assessment stages, the first being **paper-based assessments**, and the second with an emphasis on creative and problem solving. We do not believe in excessive tutoring, or testing in subjects that your child will not have studied at school, so our English and Mathematics assessments are based on the Year 6 National Curriculum. In addition to this we also have standardised tests in **Non-Verbal Reasoning (NVR)** and **Verbal Reasoning (VR)** which take into account date of birth, and are non-curriculum based. These allow us to give a fuller picture of each girl – the sort of thinker that they are and how they process information.

Every applicant will also be invited for an individual interview with the Head, which will allow us to gain as full a picture as possible of each girl's abilities and interests, even if they have had less teaching during lockdown.

We are currently exploring a number of possible options for the entrance assessments which will enable us to adapt to the changing Covid-19 situation, and further details will of course be provided to all applicants once arrangements have been finalised.



There is a lot of information on the application process but if you have any questions please phone us on **01273 280 280** or email admissions@brightongirls.gdst.net. We will be happy to help.

The assessment process timeline

A step-by-step guide through the assessment process, including deadlines for Bursary and Scholarship applications.



1

Gather materials
We have an online prospectus and virtual tours of the school that you can view on our website, and we are very happy to fulfil any prospectus requests – full details on our website.

2

Visit
Open Doors experiences – tours, tasters, meet the Head opportunities – throughout the Autumn term.

3

Apply
Applications are now open, final deadline Friday 4 December 2020

Bursary applications:
Bursary application opens Monday 5 October
Bursary application final deadline Monday 30 November 2020

Scholarship applications
Applications are now open, final deadline Friday 4 December 2020

4

Post application
We will arrange an interview with the Head and take up references from schools

5

Assessments
Assessment Day Part 1 (Assessments) Monday 4 January 2021

Assessment Day Part 2 (Activity and Interviews)

Saturday 9 January 2021

Saturday 16 January 2021

6

Scholarships assessments
Entry into the Academic Scholarships is automatic, but all other scholarships – Art, Dance, Drama, Music and Sport have their own criteria and application forms – be sure to complete these and return them by Friday 4 December 2020.

January 2021

Scholarship assessments (dates tbc)

7

Offers
Offers will be made to applicants on 1 Feb 2021.

8

Acceptance deadline
All acceptances and associated documents should be returned by 1 March 2021.

9

Welcome
We hold welcome days in the Summer term to bring our new girls together, our Parent Reps organise get-togethers over the summer and we have a special Year 7 Induction Day prior to the start of Autumn Term 2021.

Key dates

Taster days, meetings with the Head and tours of the School -
we have a full programme running through the Autumn term.

Timings/attendance of assessments

Monday 30 November 2020	Bursary application deadline
Friday 4 December 2020	Application deadline
Friday 4 December 2020	Scholarship application deadline
Monday 4 January 2021	Assessment Day Part 1 (Assessments)
Saturday 9 January 2021	Assessment Day Part 2 (Activity and Interviews)
Saturday 16 January 2021	Assessment Day Part 2 (Activity and Interviews)
Saturday 30 January 2021	Offer letters released to parents
Monday 1 March 2021	Deadline for confirming your acceptance of a place offered

We will, of course, notify you immediately of any alterations to the format or timing of the entrance assessments to ensure that your daughter's 11+ experience is as smooth as possible.

If, for some reason, you cannot attend assessment dates specified, please contact Admissions to make alternative arrangements.

Please note, owing to the ongoing situation regarding Covid-19, schedules and dates may be subject to change.

Our full Admissions Policy may be viewed on our website.



Year 7 - 2021 assessments

Stage One

Written Assessments

- Verbal Reasoning paper
- Non-Verbal Reasoning paper
- Mathematics
- English

Reasoning Papers

These are nationally standardised tests, factoring in date of birth, deliberately designed so that no prior knowledge or experience is called for other than the ability to read, to write, to think and reason.

Verbal Reasoning (VR) - The Verbal Reasoning paper measures a pupil's ability to engage with new information by measuring their ability to engage with language in order to identify their wider reasoning ability and potential.

Non-Verbal Reasoning (NVR) – The Non-Verbal Reasoning tests involve no reading, so can provide insight into the abilities of pupils who think more easily in images than words.

You cannot prepare specially for these tests, but practice papers are widely available online and a degree of familiarisation with the format of these papers is often helpful.

Mathematics

The paper is divided into TWO sections covering topics drawn from the Year 6 National Curriculum (Key Stage 2), with an emphasis on number work. Girls will be expected to demonstrate competence in arithmetic and problem solving. Note that there is no formal algebra on the paper. Girls will be expected to show clear, concise working to support their answers. The use of a calculator is not permitted.

Areas of mathematics covered will include:

- Arithmetic of whole numbers (but not long division)
- Understanding of place value, including ordering of decimals and multiplication and division by 10, 100, etc.
- Simple arithmetic of decimals
- Converting metric units
- Ordering of negative numbers
- Simple fractions and percentages
- Co-ordinates in all four quadrants
- Calculations involving money, weight, time and distance
- Interpretation of charts and scales
- Describing number sequences, and finding the next term
- Finding perimeter and area by counting squares
- Symmetry

English

The paper is divided into TWO sections: Girls will be expected to present their ideas in a coherent manner applying the basic rules of grammar, spelling and punctuation.

Part 1: Comprehension

Passages will be from a twentieth century or modern prose fiction text and will touch on experiences to which girls should be able to relate. Candidates will need to show that they can understand and think about what they read.

Part 2: Creative Writing

The topics may be related to the themes of the comprehension and will offer candidates the opportunity to write autobiography, fiction or description. Candidates will be expected to demonstrate an ability to structure their response and to write cogently and coherently. They will be rewarded for imaginative use of language as well as accuracy. Marks are also awarded for creative potential.

Key dates:

Candidates will be invited to a Design Thinking Day - either on Saturday 9 January or Saturday 16 January.

Key dates:

Candidates will be invited to one of two dates for this assessment, either Monday 4 January or Tuesday 5 January.

Stage Two

Design Thinking Day

At our Design Thinking Day the girls will participate in fun and inspiring activities to assess the following: curiosity, clarity of thought and communication, risk-taking, creativity, teamwork, integrity and problem solving.

For our creative tasks, the teachers who would be teaching your daughters are part of the decision making process - they observe a group of eight girls as they participate in the activities we set for them.

Scores from the creative tasks are combined with scores from Stage 1 to give us a rounded picture of the academic potential of each girl. Selection is based upon academic merit but also on our assessment of whether a pupil will flourish within our community.

Key dates:

Candidates will be invited to a Design Thinking Day - either on Saturday 9 January or Saturday 16 January.

Interviews with the Head

If Ms McColl hasn't already had the opportunity to meet with a candidate prior to assessments, they will be arranged either during the Design Thinking Day or afterwards.

In accordance with our Equal Opportunities Policy, the School will make reasonable adjustments to the admissions process for a particular pupil and, where applicable, to the School's provision for specific learning needs in so far as these can be met given the nature of the School. We ask parents to contact School Admissions to discuss any special arrangements which are required in respect of the assessment process.

Other practicalities

References

Alongside our admissions process we will also take into careful consideration a candidate's reference from her current school.

Learning Support - SENDCO

The school is committed to the early identification of learners with difficulties and/or disabilities. We continue to assess and adapt our levels of support appropriate to our student's needs. At admission each pupil is looked at as an individual case to see whether the school can effectively meet her needs. Every effort is made to accommodate the pupil's needs where possible. A child would only be refused entry if she was unable to attain the required academic standard or if the school was unable to cope with the child's disability after having taken reasonable steps to do so.

Bursaries and Scholarships

Bursaries – Brighton Awards

Both the Girls' Day School Trust and Brighton Girls were founded by philanthropists committed to making outstanding education available to young women – a legacy we are proud to continue today. We believe every girl who is bright and eager to learn should be given the opportunity to fulfil her potential regardless of financial circumstances. We therefore offer a limited number of bursaries to assist girls joining us in Year 7.

These means-tested bursaries are called Brighton Awards, and it is essential that families who may wish to explore financial support options contact our Admissions Department well in advance of the proposed date of admission, so that they have the greatest chance of being considered for the limited funds available. We regret that we are unable consider late requests for additional funding support and all published deadlines will be adhered to.

BRIGHTON AWARDS AVAILABLE IN YEAR 7

Year 7 Bursaries are awarded based on performance in our entrance assessment process.

TO BE CONSIDERED FOR A BRIGHTON AWARD:

- A girl must have performed exceptionally well in our Year 7 Assessment Day.
- The girl's parents must be assessed as eligible for a Bursary Award by the Girls' Day School Trust (GDST) Financial Means Assessment.

GDST FINANCIAL MEANS ASSESSMENT

ELIGIBILITY

Bursary applications are assessed by the GDST, but an initial conversation about eligibility should always be had with our Admissions Department.

On receipt of your application we will advise you of the next steps, which will include completing an assessment of your family income and financial means. Bursary applicants will be assessed by the GDST and our staff may also make an appointment to visit you at home.

On completion of this process, the GDST will advise on whether you are eligible.

To assess who is eligible for a bursary we consider a range of objective criteria including the income and capital resources of the families applying. It

is anticipated that bursary awards will last for the duration of the student's time at school.

We re-assess every year to take account of significant changes in family income and circumstances. A bursary may go up or down to reflect these. This ensures those most in need receive our support.

Most higher-value bursaries are awarded to pupils from families with a total income of less than £35,000 per year who have no capital assets other than their home.

It is highly unlikely that a bursary would be awarded to a family whose annual income is greater than £85,000, other than in very exceptional circumstances.

A girl's academic performance will be a key consideration when the School is deciding whether or not to award a bursary.

Key dates:

All bursary applications must be made prior to attending the January Assessment Day.

All bursary applications must be submitted prior to assessment for entry.

Year 7 2021 Bursary Application Closing Date:
Monday 30 November 2020

Scholarships

Scholarship assessments take place in January after candidates have taken our main entrance assessments.

Girls may apply for any combination of Scholarships and exhibitions. Scholarships cannot be deferred to a later point of entry and are time-limited. Pupils holding these awards are expected to be excellent ambassadors for Brighton Girls and their performance is reviewed annually.

Academic Scholarships

A small number of academic scholarships each year will be awarded to girls who perform very highly in the Entrance Examination taken in January of Year 6.

There is no need to apply for these separately.

11+ Temple Scholarships

A small number of Temple Scholarships are awarded to candidates who we believe will make a significant contribution to the life of the school. We are looking for girls who will inspire their peers and act as ambassadors both for Brighton Girls and the Girls' Day School Trust.

Areas for particular consideration are Art, Dance, Drama, Music, Sport or any other activity to which the candidate brings a special enthusiasm or interest. Girls may apply for up to three areas for consideration.

Candidates will be initially assessed on the basis of a completed Temple Scholarship application form alongside their performance in the entrance Assessment.

TEMPLE SCHOLARSHIPS

Key dates:

Application deadline: Friday 4 December 2020
Assessments: Throughout January 2021



TEMPLE SCHOLARSHIP: ART

Art scholarships and exhibitions are awarded as part of our Temple Scholarship Awards. Our Art Scholars are expected to demonstrate a passionate commitment to, and genuine interest in the arts. As such Scholars are expected to contribute fully to the artistic life of the school and show real commitment to our extra-curricular programme.

Assessment

- Girls will be required to present a portfolio of current work, which should include one example of a drawing, painting, as well a 2D or 3D work (in photographic form). A sketchbook should be submitted alongside the above. Portfolios should be no bigger than A2 and should be submitted by Monday 11 January 2021
- Applicants will be invited for a short informal interview. Girls will be asked a range of questions related to their interests in Art including their favourite artists or shows recently attended or viewed online

Key dates:

Application deadline: Friday 4 December 2020
Assessment: Portfolios should be submitted on Monday 11 January 2021. Following consideration of portfolios by the Director of Art interviews will take place at Brighton Girls in January 2021 for September 2021 applicants.



TEMPLE SCHOLARSHIP: DANCE

Dance scholarships are awarded as part of our Temple Scholarship Awards. Our Dance Scholars are expected to demonstrate a passionate commitment to, and genuine interest in, dance. As such, our Scholars are expected to contribute fully to dance at school, show real commitment to our extra-curricular programme and inspire their peers.

Applications for Dance Scholarships are welcomed from girls who have attained Grade 3 or equivalent in at least one genre but, at this stage, potential is regarded as being just as important. Girls who have not yet reached this standard but who exhibit significant potential may be considered for a Dance scholarship.

Assessment

- Girls will be invited to an audition workshop, where they will take part in a short Contemporary-based class and will also have the opportunity to demonstrate creativity in response to a choreographic task
- Dancers will be assessed on their physical, technical and expressive capabilities, as well as their engagement, enthusiasm and ability to work effectively with others
- The assessment will conclude with an interview

Key dates:

Application deadline: Friday 4 December 2020
Assessment: Following consideration of applications by the Director of Sport and Dance and Dance Teacher, assessments will take place at Brighton Girls in January 2021 for September 2021 applicants.



TEMPEL SCHOLARSHIP: DRAMA

Drama scholarships are awarded as part of our Temple Scholarship Awards. Our Drama Scholars are expected to demonstrate a passionate commitment to, and genuine interest in drama and performance art. As such our Scholars are expected to contribute fully to dramatic arts at school, show real commitment to our extra-curricular programme and inspire their peers.

Assessment

- Girls will be invited to take part in a practical Drama workshop lasting between 40 minutes and an hour, along with the other applicants. This will consist of read-throughs and improvisational tasks to test your ability to work within the group and your creative and imaginative thinking
- Girls will be asked to perform one monologue (no longer than two minutes) – this can either be classical or contemporary, but should be age appropriate and we are looking for natural ability so do not feel that the piece has to be over-staged or choreographed
- The audition will conclude with a short interview

Key dates:

Application deadline: Friday 4 December 2020
Assessment: Following consideration of applications by the Director of Drama auditions will take place at Brighton Girls in January 2021 for September 2021 applicants.



TEMPEL SCHOLARSHIP: MUSIC

Music scholarships and exhibitions are awarded to confident and inspirational musicians as part of our Temple Scholarship Awards. Our Music Scholars are expected to demonstrate sound technique and innate musical ability alongside a passionate commitment to, and genuine interest in, music. As such our Scholars are expected to contribute fully to the musical life of the school, show real commitment to our extra-curricular programme and inspire their peers.

All candidates are expected to offer two instruments, which can include voice, though applications are considered from musicians who show outstanding talent in only one instrument.

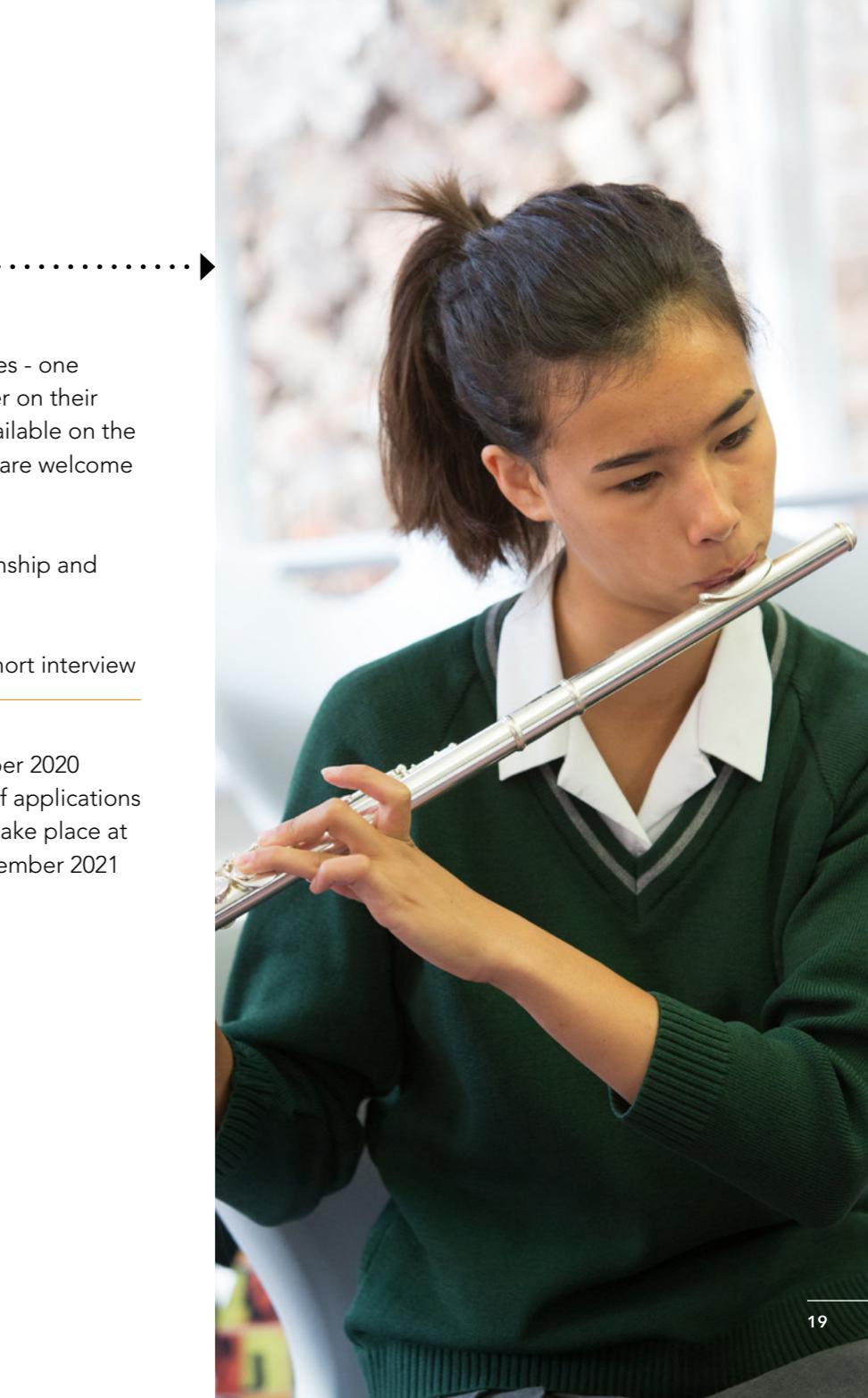
Applications for Music Scholarships are welcomed from girls who have attained Grade 4/5, but at this stage potential is regarded as being just as important. Girls who have not yet reached this standard but who exhibit significant musical potential may be considered for a Music Exhibition.

Assessment

- Girls will be asked to play two pieces - one on their first instrument and another on their second. An accompanist will be available on the day of the audition but candidates are welcome to organise their own
- Some questions regarding musicianship and general aural skills will be asked
- The audition will conclude with a short interview

Key dates:

Application deadline: Friday 4 December 2020
Assessment: Following consideration of applications by the Director of Music auditions will take place at Brighton Girls in January 2021 for September 2021 applicants.



TEMPLE SCHOLARSHIP: SPORT

Sport scholarships and exhibitions are awarded to pupils showing particular promise or commitment to sports as part of our Temple Scholarship Awards. Candidates applying for a Sport Scholarship would preferably have experience in a variety of sports, although they must perform in at least one of our major sports: Athletics, Gymnastics, Hockey and Netball - other sports may be considered on an individual basis. We are also interested in those who perform at a high level (at least at club level) in a variety of sports including Cricket, Football and Tennis. Other sports will also be considered.

There is a Sports Scholarship Assessment Day in January 2021, for September 2021 applicants.

Assessment

- Girls will be invited to complete an assessment session run by our Director of Sport
- All aspects of an individual's performance will be considered during the session such as ability, attitude and enthusiasm
- The assessment will conclude with an interview

Key dates:

Application deadline: Friday 4 December 2020
Assessment: Following consideration of applications by the Director of Sports the Sports Scholarships Assessment Day will take place at Brighton Girls in January 2021 for September 2021 applicants.



Scholarship and Bursary - deadlines and awards criteria

We regret that we are unable consider late requests for additional funding support.

All offers for an Award will be made in writing and subject to the terms and conditions included within that offer. The offer will be final and no further adjustments will be made. All award offers are bespoke to each applicant and confidential.

The tenure of any Award is intended to be for the duration of the girl's school career at Brighton Girls, provided that her academic progress, commitment and dedication, general conduct and contribution to the School remains at a high level.

On accepting an Award, parents, and where appropriate pupils, will be asked to sign an agreement which will outline in detail their obligations. This agreement will remain in place throughout the time the pupil remains at Brighton Girls.

IN GENERAL:

Pupils in receipt of an Award are required to contribute significantly to the School and the particular areas set out in their offer letter and agreement. They are required to work hard and contribute positively to the life at the School and set a good example to other pupils.

Parents of Award recipients are expected to work in partnership with the School and support and encourage their daughters to uphold their obligations.

Failure to meet these obligations may lead to the withdrawal of an Award.



Our ethos and academic results

School life is about so much more than examination success: fun and friendships, finding passions for life within a rich and varied co-curricular programme and having opportunities to volunteer within the local community.

We're a dynamic, creative, friendly school where girls are confident, passionate and kind – not only ambitious for themselves, but for society. We are extremely proud of our outstanding academic results, yet we are prouder still of the grounded young women who wear their success lightly, who find and use their voices for good and who stride out of Brighton to a huge range of academic courses and careers beyond.

Brighton Girls' A-level results 2020

36% A*

71% A*/A

100% A* - C

100% of pupils retained between Year 12 and Year 13

10% achieved Oxbridge places

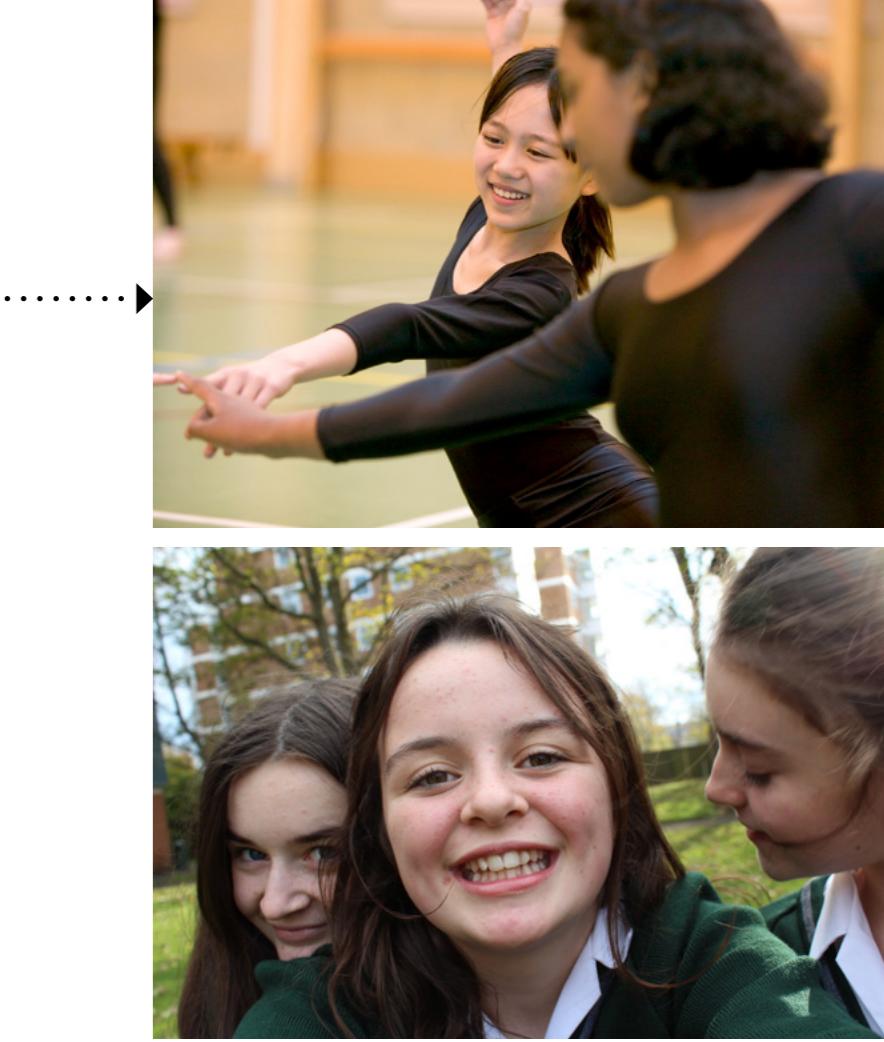
10% achieved Medicine places

Brighton Girls' GCSE results 2020

48% of all grades A* | 9-8

69% of all grades A*-A | 9-7

100% of all grades A*-C | 9-4





For further information, please contact the Admissions Department on 01273 280 280 or via email to admissions@brightongirls.gdst.net

GDST registered charity number: 306983.

