

EARLY DOORS TOOLKIT

For Year 7 applicants 2023

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

Including useful information on Bursaries and Scholarships





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EARLY DOORS TOOLKIT

For Year 7 applicants 2023

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 McColl 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.



Early Doors entry for Year 7 2023



During the current Covid-19 school closures, we have seen widespread disruption to the school year and have therefore adapted our Early Doors assessment process for September 2023 entry.

We are aware of the disruption many 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. We also place importance on the 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.

Assessments for Early Doors places will consist of small group sessions with 3-4 candidates and a member of the Early Doors Assessment Team. There will be a chance for candidates to interact and for them to complete a variety of questions in Verbal Reasoning (VR) and Non Verbal Reasoning (NVR). Candidates will also be invited to an interview with the Head – we will send a written piece in advance for the girls to discuss with the Head, and they will be invited to talk about some of their current work and favourite activities at school. We also ask girls to bring a favourite object to the interview for discussion. These allow us to give a fuller picture of each girl – the sort of thinker that they are and how they process information.

The individual interviews with the Head 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.

During the year we have adapted all our assessments so we are well placed for any future lockdowns. Should we need to adapt to any changes due to the Covid-19 situation further details will 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.



Early Doors timeline

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

Our online application form can be found in the admissions pages of the website. To apply for a Bursary please contact the Admissions Department.

<https://application.gdst.net/school/brightongirls>



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.

3

Apply

Application deadline: 28 February 2022.

Bursary applications:

Deadline: Monday 31 January 2022.

Scholarship applications:

Applications for scholarships for Year 7 2023 will be open in the Autumn Term of 2022.

4

Post Application

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

5

Assessment Days

Assessments will take place on Saturday 12 March 2022.

6

Early Doors Offers

Conditional offers will be made for 11+ entries in 2023 at the end of March 2022.

Applicants who are awarded firm or conditional places are then able to apply for Scholarships prior to September 2023 entry in the usual timetable.

7

Acceptance Deadline

All acceptances and associated documents should be returned by the end of April 2022.

8

Welcome

Accepted pupils will be invited to take part in special school events and activities held throughout the year.

9

Scholarship Applications

Entry into our Academic Scholarships can be applied for in the Autumn Term of 2022. Applications for our Temple Scholarships – Art, Dance, Drama, Music and Sport have their own criteria and application forms – deadlines for these will be published in the Autumn Term of 2022.

Key dates

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

Timings/attendance of assessments

Monday 31 January 2022	Bursary application deadline*
Monday 28 February 2022	Application deadline
Saturday 12 March 2022	Assessment Day
End March 2022	Offer letters released to parents
End April 2022	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 Early Doors 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.

*If you missed this deadline please contact admissions

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.

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.



Bursaries and Scholarships

Bursaries

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 to consider late requests for additional funding support and all published deadlines will be adhered to.

EARLY DOORS AWARDS

Early Doors bursary assessments are undertaken by GDST who then report to the school eligibility for awards. Provisional offers will be made to candidates who perform exceptionally well in assessments and who meet the eligibility criteria. All

bursary awards are subject to re-assessment each year, and Early Doors offers will also be re-appraised the following year.

TO BE CONSIDERED

- A girl must have performed exceptionally well in our Early Doors 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 on 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 undertaking the Early Doors Assessment Day.

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

Year 7 2023 Early Doors Bursary Application Closing Date: Monday 31 January 2022.

Scholarships

Scholarship assessments take place in the year prior to entry (in Year 6 prior to entry into Year 7).

Academic Scholarships

Entry into our Academic Scholarships can be applied for in the Autumn Term of 2022.

Key dates:

Application deadlines will be published in Autumn 2022.



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 extracurricular 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 10 January 2022
- 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: October 2022

Assessment: January 2023



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

In partnership with Theatre Workshop.



Key dates:

Application: October 2022

Assessment: January 2023



TEMPLE 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

In partnership with Theatre Workshop.



Key dates:

Application: October 2022

Assessment: January 2023



TEMPLE 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: October 2022

Assessment: January 2023



TEMPLE SCHOLARSHIP MUSIC - VOCAL SCHOLARSHIP

Vocal Scholarships and exhibitions are offered to pupils who show vocal and musical promise, and who may also be interested in composition and songwriting. Applicants will need to show a genuine interest in singing and performance and a willingness to participate in the musical life of the school.

Assessment

- Girls will be required to sing two pieces; they may also opt to perform a third piece on an instrument, but this is not a requirement. 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. Candidates may be asked to perform some simple vocal exercise.
- The audition will conclude with a short interview.

In partnership with BIMM Institute and Theatre Workshop.



Key dates:

Application: October 2022.
Assessment: January 2023



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.

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: October 2022
Assessment: January 2023



**TEMPLE SCHOLARSHIP:
SPORT - FOOTBALL SCHOLARSHIP**

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 Football Scholarship would preferably have experience in a variety of sports, with Football as their lead sport. We are interested in girls who perform at a high level (at last club level) in a variety of sports including: Athletics, Gymnastics, Hockey, Netball, Cricket, Skateboarding and Tennis. Other sports may be considered on an individual basis.

In partnership with Paris Saint-Germain Academy England.



Assessment

- Girls will be invited to complete an assessment session run by our Director of Sport and Paris Saint-Germain Academy England
- 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: October 2022
Assessment: January 2023



**TEMPLE SCHOLARSHIP:
SPORT - GYMNASTICS SCHOLARSHIP**

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 Gymnastics Scholarship would preferably have experience in a variety of sports, with Gymnastics as their lead sport. We are interested in girls who perform at a high level (at last club level) in a variety of sports including: Athletics, Hockey, Netball, Cricket, Football, Skateboarding and Tennis. Other sports may be considered on an individual basis.

In partnership with Brighton Gymnastics Club.

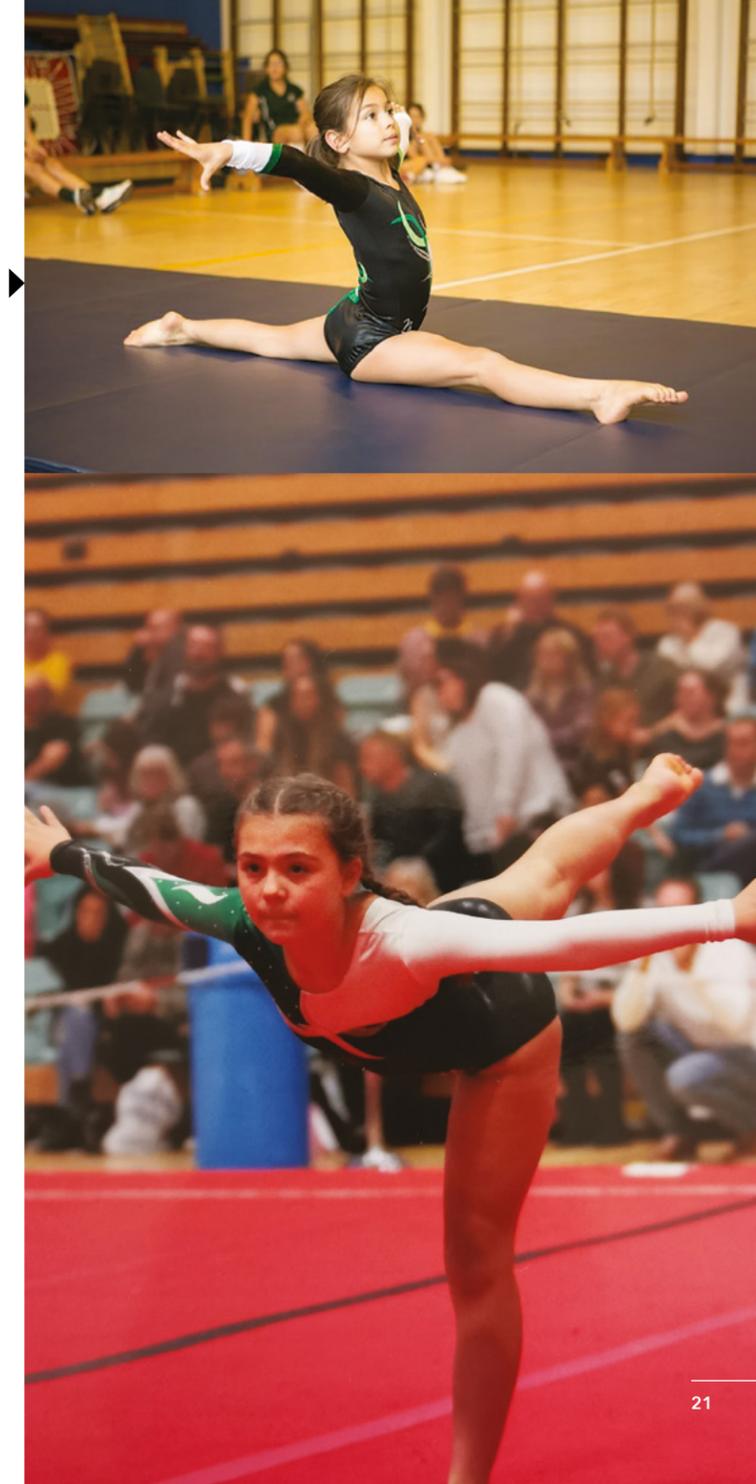


Assessment

- Girls will be invited to complete an assessment session run by our Director of Sport and Brighton Gymnastics Club
- 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: October 2022
Assessment: January 2023



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TEMPLE SCHOLARSHIP: SPORT - SKATEBOARD SCHOLARSHIP

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 Skateboard Scholarship would preferably have experience in a variety of sports, with Skateboarding as their lead sport. We are interested in girls who perform at a high level (at last club level) in a variety of sports including: Athletics, Gymnastics, Hockey, Netball, Cricket, Football and Tennis. Other sports may be considered on an individual basis.

Assessment

- Girls will be invited to complete an assessment session run by our Director of Sport and Skateboard Coach
- 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: October 2022
Assessment: January 2023



Scholarship and Bursary - deadlines and awards criteria

Scholarships and bursary applications are open for all candidates in the year before entry at our usual 11+ entry point from Year 6 to Year 7 – please see our 11+ Toolkit. We regret that we are unable to consider late requests for additional funding support in the timetable published in the 11+ Toolkit.

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.

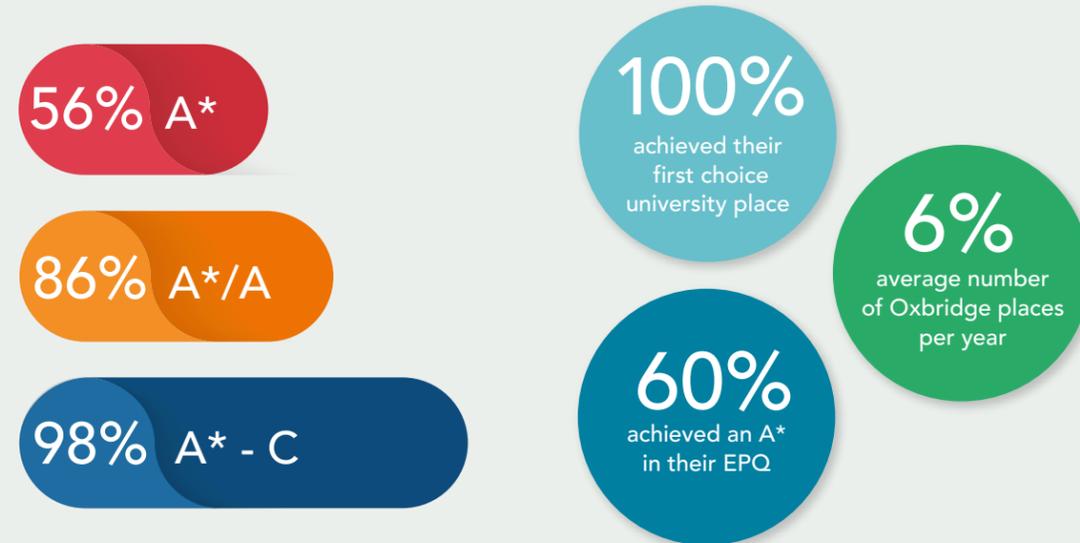


Our ethos and academic results

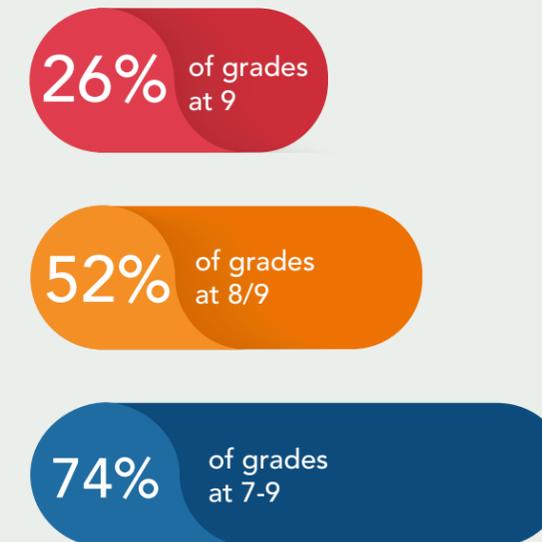
School life is about so much more than examination success: fun and friendships, finding passions for life within a rich and varied co-curricular programme and having opportunities to volunteer within the local community.

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 2021



Brighton Girls' GCSE results 2021



Designing the Future

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If Brighton Girls were a stick of rock, I like to think that it would have the words 'kind and bold' running through the middle. Our school has faced COVID-19 with courage, determination and empathy, and the tremendous amount we have learnt will be vital as we build our post-pandemic future.

We have recently agreed wide-ranging investment plans with the GDST (Girls' Day School Trust) to reshape Brighton Girls into a modern, future-focused, integrated school, a space where girls can discover their passions and develop the confidence and self-awareness that will be so important to their future happiness and success.

This new development project, which has been designed around my vision for the school, will be complete in 2022 and will:

- Reunite Brighton Girls Prep School and the Senior School onto one campus, at our Montpelier site.
- Create innovative learning, performance, social, and green spaces for our school, as well as new venues to support our local community, in everything from the Arts, to sport, to wellbeing.
- Preserve and enhance the existing green sports space at the current Prep school site, allowing it to be used by the whole school and made available to the wider community.

The redevelopment will make Brighton Girls unique as the only all-through, all-girls school in Brighton & Hove; a family of big sisters and little sisters, existing right at the heart of its creative, forward-thinking, dynamic community

Rosie McColl

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





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.