



**BRIGHTON
GIRLS**

GDST



PROSPECTUS

Learning without limits

A pink balloon with the Brighton Girls GDST logo, featuring a stylized 'B' and the text 'BRIGHTON GIRLS' and 'GDST' below it.

B
BRIGHTON
GIRLS
GDST

Welcome to
Brighton Girls





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 real impact is delivered when courage and kindness combine.

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 and, today, we occupy a unique position: we are an all-through school in the heart of the city of Brighton and Hove; we are as eclectic, enterprising, and creative as the city itself, and we command equal levels of affection.

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

A photograph of two young women in school uniforms sitting on a grassy lawn. The woman on the left is wearing a green sweater and a green and white plaid skirt, with her hair in a ponytail. The woman on the right is wearing a dark sweater over a white collared shirt and a green and white plaid skirt, with her hair in braids. They are both smiling and looking at each other. In the background, other students in school uniforms are visible, along with trees and a brick building.

*A family of
big sisters and
little sisters.*



Pre-Prep

(Reception – Year 2)

Our Pre-Prep Department is warm and friendly with one class per year group. We have a Learning Support Assistant with every class and our teachers have a wealth of experience in teaching pupils of this age. Smaller class sizes, personalised teaching that meets the needs of all pupils, and child focused learning are the ingredients for success – these are the conditions that enable your daughter to reach her full potential.

Prep

(Years 3-6)

Year 3 is the start of Key Stage 2 and the point at which our pupils join the Prep Department. Our Prep pupils are kind, bold and love their school. Our staff are dedicated, enthusiastic and know every pupil well. Our small class sizes mean your daughter will receive a highly individualised education and will feel seen and understood. We combine the very best in up-to-date educational practice alongside personalised pastoral care and a varied and exciting co-curriculum of sports, clubs and activities.

As specialists in girls' education, we provide a safe, friendly, supportive environment in which your daughter will follow her own path and become who she is meant to be, unfettered by stereotypes and unlimited by expectations.



***"My teacher has helped
me believe in myself."***

India, Year 4



Brighton Girls are

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

- are kind to others, and kind to themselves
- understand the power of diversity, and value different perspectives
- have a strong sense of community, and feel they belong
- are developing strategies to manage their wellbeing

Kind

ND

Who would offer a Skateboard Scholarship?

Last year, we became the first school in the country to offer a Skateboard Scholarship and we now have over 50 girls taking part in beginner sessions: the sport is inclusive, it's of-the-moment, it's brilliant for encouraging risk-taking and for instilling confidence in girls, and – importantly for us – it's a very popular activity in our local community, used by local groups not only to bring people together but to boost their mental health and self-esteem. In school, we are seeing amazing results.

Through such initiatives, we aim to redefine what a modern girls' education looks like and feels like; we want to challenge stereotypes and champion the individual, and to do so in a way that supports our city. You can call it 'learning without limits, Brighton-style' or, as we like to put it, we are riding the zeitgeist (on a skateboard)!





Curriculum

Pre-Prep to Prep

We place a strong emphasis on play throughout the curriculum, particularly in the Early Years. This is aided by our outstanding outdoor provision, which children are able to access come rain or shine. Pre-Prep pupils have a regular Beach School morning timetabled, which is run by our trained staff, and our site includes an outdoor classroom, edible garden and an all-weather EYFS playground.

Our curriculum is modern, informed by the latest research. In English lessons, we place a strong emphasis on whole texts and see books as being both windows and mirrors through which our pupils can see themselves and the beautiful, diverse world around them. Phonics and Maths are taught daily and our Humanities curriculum is exciting and relevant. Our teaching staff are highly experienced and are supported by our team of Learning Support Assistants.

All students in the Prep School benefit from specialist teaching in Music, PE, French and Science. English, Maths, the Humanities and Art are taught by class teachers. In Year 6, French is taught by one of our Senior School Language teachers. We see the Prep years as being a continuation of the strong foundations laid in Key Stage 1. Pupils are introduced to more challenging concepts and ideas through a varied, exciting, connected curriculum. We place enormous emphasis on teaching using high quality whole texts in English and linking these to the wider curriculum. We want our pupils to learn about the world by asking questions, investigating, exploring and experimenting. All of our pupils are encouraged to read regularly and widely as we feel that this is key to developing vocabulary and learning about the world around them.

Years 7-9

Open minds open doors. At Brighton Girls lessons involve active learning, where student curiosity and questions, their creativity and ideas, genuinely grow the healthiest blend of enjoyment and achievement. Students in Years 7-9 follow a curriculum that is broad yet balanced to suit individual interests. We're committed to providing all our students with the skills they can use to thrive in the modern world, as lessons in Design Thinking and coding show. But the problem-seeking, collaborative, experimental approach is a feature of all lessons. Art, Sport, Music – activity and creativity – are central to our students' learning journeys. Our teachers' passion for their subjects is inspirational and infectious.

In Year 7, students take lessons in Art, Drama, English, French or Spanish, Geography, History, Latin, Maths, Music, PE, Religious Studies, Science, Design Thinking, Coding, Food & Nutrition, as well as PSHE in Wellbeing lessons.

Year 8 students follow the same programme but can opt for an extra language – doing both French and Spanish. Science in Year 8 is taught in the three subject disciplines: Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

In Year 9, our students can opt for Latin or Classics and otherwise enjoy the same rich and wide-ranging offer of timetabled subjects.

Learning Support

Our SEND team has the experience and expertise to offer individually tailored structure and support. One-to-one sessions, additional classroom assistance and a school-wide commitment to championing neurodiversity, create an environment in which all students can flourish.



Years 10-11

GCSE success at Brighton Girls comes from a timetable offer that is designed around our students' interests and choices. All lessons at Brighton Girls function as a partnership between growing subject-specific knowledge and providing all our students with the skills they can use beyond the classroom, to thrive in the modern world.

All students take English Language, English Literature, Mathematics and a Modern Foreign Language. Science is also a core subject and GCSE students opt either for a Combined Science course – worth two GCSEs or take Biology, Chemistry and Physics as three separate sciences.

A further two or three GCSE subjects are also then chosen from the following: Art & Design, Classical Civilisation, Computer Science, Dance, Drama, Food Preparation and Nutrition, French, Geography, History, Latin, Music, Physical Education, Philosophy Religion and Ethics, and Spanish.

Sixth Form Years 12 -13

Our Sixth Form is student-centred and students have their own new and beautifully designed dedicated Sixth Form space. Student ambition and potential is treasured and grown; indeed the Brighton Girls A Level classroom environment is designed to inspire and challenge every student. Small class size and brilliant teachers foster a supportive and fascinating school day. The majority of students take three full A-Levels and an EPQ, and they can choose freely from the many subjects we offer. The results are always impressive but it's the smiles on results day which matter most to us.

Indeed Brighton Girls has never simply been a numbers factory. Our **Bright Futures** programme and in-house Super Curriculum offer subjects as diverse as MFL qualifications (the DELE in Spanish and DELF in French), Brighton Girls Food and Nutrition Diploma and cultural enrichment courses which grow skills of debate, collaboration, problem-finding (and solving!), a willingness to experiment and commitment. Thinking should never be passive; we are all about dynamic activity and genuine engagement.

Brighton Girls are

We strive to create an environment where students:

- understand, value, and can articulate, their individual strengths
- are intellectually curious, valuing learning for learning's sake
- face challenges with confidence and creativity
- aim high, believing they can make a difference

...and understand that the real impact is felt when kindness and courage combine.

BO

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Step into a green oasis in the middle of the city...

Green is not just the colour of our uniform. Over 30 different ferns and florals have been planted to reinvigorate our outdoor spaces, boosting well-being through new sensory gardens and communal spaces, and supporting the local biodiversity. Around the Temple, verbenas and salvia attract butterflies and bees, snowy mespilus shrubs surround the science corridor and clematis climb the walls.

Sustainability by Design

Inside the Temple building, the walls of the central space have been adorned with Baux wood wool panels in a striking shade of green – this environmentally friendly, recyclable material is a creative acoustic solution that sits perfectly within our beautiful heritage building without compromising aesthetics.

In reimagining the Temple, the architects were guided by the GDST's sustainability strategy. In 2021 the GDST became a certified carbon neutral organisation; all new buildings are carbon zero; each school – including ours – now has a Sustainability Lead and members of staff being trained through EduCCate Global, a UN-accredited course that up-skills teachers on climate change science.

Eco Activity

At Brighton Girls we are completing the EducCCate Global Bronze Award, increasing knowledge of climate change towards incorporating climate literacy throughout the curriculum.

We are sourcing our first electric mini-bus, Head of Prep Miss Comerford sits on the GDST Green Steering Group, and a group of Year 9 students underwent sustainability training with student leaders at one of our sister schools, South Hampstead.

Pupils from Pre-Prep through to Sixth Form regularly get involved with eco initiatives ranging from bug hotels through to a Sixth Form sustainable jewellery business project. Carbon-Buster Challenges get students looking at ways to reduce our carbon footprint, with trials and learnings fed into our whole-school sustainability strategy.

Greening our School





Who would train with the Paris Saint-Germain Academy?

A Brighton Girls education extends far beyond the classroom. Clubs and activities on offer range from the wacky to the wonderful and many are inspired by our unique location at the heart of the city of Brighton & Hove. Our 100+ co-curricular clubs and activities means your daughter can try something new, develop her interests and pursue her passion at every age.

At the Prep school, a Boxing Club aims to empower pupils and offers a chance to try a non-traditional sport; Coding club runs weekly where pupils are able to design their own games and apps using algorithms.

Higher up the school, you will find Philosophy, Physics and Pizza Club and Raspberry Pi Club, alongside sea swimming and skateboarding; the Temple Times offers budding journalists the opportunity to hone their skills, while others sharpen their wits at Debating Club.

We have recently launched our very own Brighton Girls Dojo through a partnership with the Shorinjiryu Renshinkan Karate-do, with sessions open to students throughout the school. Our community netball club, the Brighton Bees, gives players of all ages the chance to train socially or develop match-playing skills and, for football fanatics, we are the home of the first girls-only Paris Saint-Germain football academy.

Musicians enjoy the likes of Jazz Band, choir tours and rock bands and year-group plays, whole-school productions, musicals and theatre trips abound. Through our outdoor education programme, many students take part in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, developing independence and team working skills through local expeditions in the South Downs and regular trips to our Field Centre in Boughrood, Wales.



Who would invent their own tea blend?

We delight in creating real-world experiences to complement our school curriculum. In our Café Enterprise Scheme students worked with award-winning eco conscious tea house, Bird & Blend, to design Brighton Girls' own tea blends, developing entrepreneurial and marketing skills in the process and producing a tea students will serve at pop-up events in the Hive.

"When looking for a new school we booked in 4 tours with different prep schools around Brighton; Brighton Girls was the first one we visited. My daughter, who can be quite shy and anxious, just loved her tour of Brighton Girls and said 'we don't need to look at any other schools, I want to come here'. We loved the school too, and we had her signed up by the end of the week!"

Jayne, Prep parent





**ART
IS OUR
EXPRE**

We encourage creativity in all its forms. We want our students to be not only problem-solvers, but problem seekers, individuals who delight in discovery, design and innovation.

SSION

The Sixth Form at Brighton Girls

The Sixth Form at Brighton Girls awaits students with a warm welcome and the determination to support and grow their ambitions and dreams. Newly opened in September 2022, a dedicated Sixth Form space at the top of our iconic Temple building offers bespoke working and social spaces, with stunning views across the city. Flooded with natural light, this is a friendly and uplifting space for you to hit your stride and enjoy Sixth Form.

Our small size means we can offer tutorial-style learning with exceptional support for every student. We are committed to making these the most exciting and formative two years for you. A Level teachers are subject specialists and enthusiasts. Lessons are empowering and centred on building student understanding and excitement. Subjects on offer include: Art, Dance, Mathematics, Further Maths, English Literature, PE, French, Spanish, Music, History, Photography, Psychology, Economics, Geography, Computer Science, Latin, Classical Civilisation, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Drama & Theatre Studies and Philosophy, Religion & Ethics. There is also a Food & Nutrition qualification – an A Level equivalent.

A Levels may be central to our offer but they are only one of the many ways in which the Sixth Form experience will be enriched. The **EPQ – the Extended Project Qualification** – develops all the life skills invaluable to university and beyond. This independently driven and designed project showcases each student's different interests and abilities.





At Brighton Girls Sixth Form you also have the great advantage of being part of the GDST family of schools. This means access to an incredible variety of courses, expertise and support. The **GDST LEAD programme**, **EdTech vision** and **Bright Futures** all combine to serve students as individuals and enable inspiring aspirations and ambitions.





Who would create a sustainable jewellery business with a community focus?

Our Sixth Form Students.

As part of the GDST's Leadership Enterprise Advanced Diploma (LEAD), Sixth Form students, helped by mentors from the London School of Economics (LSE), create their own sustainable business.

In 2022 Year 12 students developed a sustainable jewellery business, transforming beach litter, sea glass and charity shop finds. Creating a product by repurposing existing materials is a step towards a more circular economy, which students identified as core to their

approach and a key selling point which linked to tackling the problem of waste. Profits went to their chosen charity, the Brighton Unemployed Centre Families Project (BUCFP).

Students were mentored by business experts including Rachel Watkyn, Founder of the Little Box Company, who led a workshop, in addition to LSE mentors.

The LEAD programme enables students to give back to their community while learning leadership and entrepreneurial skills.



Who would upcycle with the Salvage Sister?

Beyond the Curriculum

Since its foundation, nearly 150 years ago, Brighton Girls has played an active part in the local community. The Guild – the school's name for its charitable enterprise – raises thousands of pounds every year for local charities, and every student in the school is involved.

Today, our partnership work extends to local businesses; we are proud to be part of the Brighton Chamber of Commerce and enjoy teaming up with local artists, designers and entrepreneurs – our students learn without limits and we nourish our local community in the process. Most recently, we've joined forces with local artist, Charis Williams, also known as the Salvage Sister, to deliver power-tools workshops and DIY classes to our students.

"Brighton Girls instils an innate sense of confidence – that as young women they are capable of achieving anything they set their minds to."

Sixth Form parent

School Life



Houses

When students join Brighton Girls, they are placed in one of four Houses: Grey, Gurney, Lyttelton and Stanley. In the Pre-Prep and Prep, the Houses compete for House points and enjoy a whole range of inter-House competitions. In the Senior school, the House system becomes the structure through which we deliver pastoral care. Each House comprises five tutor groups (Years 7 to 11) and each enjoys a dedicated social space. The Houses create four families within the school community, bringing a sense of belonging as well as healthy competition.

Examination Results

Over the last two years, our students have faced extraordinary challenges. As a school, we are incredibly proud of everything they achieved. Our GCSE and A Level results reflect the talent, hard work and excellent preparation of our students, and these results would not have been possible without the exceptional work of our academic staff and the support from our pastoral team. In 2022, 34% of all A Level grades were A*, and 61% were A*/A. Higher education destinations included the University of Cambridge, King's College London, and the Rambert School of Ballet and Contemporary Dance. At GCSE, 20% were awarded grade 9; 46% were grades 9-8; and 69% were awarded grades 9-7.



ISI Inspection – Rated Excellent

In November 2019, Brighton Girls underwent a full inspection and was awarded 'excellent' in all areas. Both the achievement of the pupils, including their academic development, and the personal development of the pupils, were deemed to be 'excellent', the highest judgement awarded within the Independent Schools Inspectorate framework.

The '*high quality of teaching*' throughout the school was praised and inspectors noted that the girls '*set themselves high standards in their approach to learning*'. Students' '*excellent higher order thinking*' skills and advanced '*linguistic and communication skills*' were commended throughout the school. The high level of pastoral care was highlighted in the report. Inspectors noted the positive relationships our students develop, both with each other and with their teachers. They observed that the girls are '*self-confident*', exhibiting '*high levels of self-esteem and self-discipline*' and that they '*demonstrate great respect when challenging each other's ideas*'.

The Brighton Girls Community

Parents play an important role in school life. We have an active PTFA which organises social and fundraising events throughout the year. Tickets for the ever-popular Comedy Night sell quickly. We are soon to launch The Hive, a network of parents, students, staff, governors, alumnae and members of the wider community of Brighton & Hove. The Hive, which is a physical and conceptual space, offers an exciting programme of events: lectures, concerts, workshops and bespoke courses, drawing on the city's creative energy to encourage the cross-fertilisation of ideas and experiences.







Digital Strategy

In September 2021, we launched a new digital strategy, allowing us to build on the rapid progress made during the pandemic where we integrated Google Classroom and Google G Suite Apps into our teaching and learning provision.

At Brighton Girls, all students in Years 5 to 10 are given their own 500e Lenovo Chromebook and students in Years 11 to 13 have the opportunity to bring their own device to school.

From Reception to Year 4, pupils use iPads and programmable devices to record, enhance and facilitate learning and have access to a bank of laptops, 1:1 iPads and Virtual Reality headsets which are used to bring the curriculum to life. Throughout the school, our approach to technology in the classroom is shaped around three central aims:

- To promote collaboration
- To celebrate innovation
- To champion diverse learning styles

***"I like coding because
it takes my imagination
off and away."***

Year 4 Coding Club pupil

"Girls are nurtured but also encouraged to try new challenges which encourages their confidence and self-esteem."

Reception parent

Wellbeing

Wellbeing at Brighton Girls is about self-knowledge, self-confidence, and agency. In addition to a dedicated pastoral team, which comprises our two pastoral Deputy Heads, four Senior Heads of House, tutors, our Learning Support Department, a School Nurse and a Counsellor, we have two Wellbeing leads who work together to promote positive mental health and wellbeing across the school. Our new wellbeing puppy Pip is the most popular addition to the team! Our innovative Wellbeing curriculum focuses on letting students discover their voice and aims to help them to develop bespoke strategies for managing their mental health.

Wellbeing at the Prep school includes such initiatives as Positive Pioneers – an intervention group which provides support for pupils with specific areas of learning need as well as support for pupils with their general wellbeing and mental health. Areas of focus include developing processing and listening skills, supporting anxiety and self-esteem, exploring strategies to support difficulties with friendships and social situations and promoting independent working skills.

All are supported through a variety of fun activities, games and discussion in a calm, relaxed environment.

At the Senior school, alongside mindfulness and meditation, there is an emphasis on using mental and physical exercise - you will see students jumping on trampolines as part of our Bounce Fit Bounce classes and taking up wonderfully therapeutic sports like kickboxing. We want pupils to reach outside their comfort zones and challenge themselves. As part of our Wellbeing programme, students head off to our Field Centre in Boughrood in Wales – it's pretty hard not to find your voice when you are hurtling down a river in a kayak!

The Wellbeing curriculum at Brighton Girls is active, not passive. Rather than listening to a teacher talking about how to recognise signs of stress and low confidence, we introduce a range of activities that students can try out to see which ones work for them. It may be a nature walk in the Downs, or canoeing full pelt down a river – it's about challenging them and letting them see that they are capable of more than they realise.



Sea Swimming Club



Canoeing at our Field Centre in Boughrood, Wales

Who would learn confidence through comedy?

Confidence-building is at the heart of everything we do. As specialists in girls-only education, we understand that confidence is the key not only to unlocking potential, but to future happiness and success.

Brighton Girls is part of the Girls Day School Trust – a family of 23 independent schools and two academies. Founded by the early pioneers in girls' education, the GDST has a 150 year history of inspiring future leaders and, today, offers a growing network of students, teachers and alumnae, all experts in one thing: how to create the perfect conditions for girls to thrive.

Staff and students work collaboratively across the family of schools, bringing unique opportunities. Cross-school debating competitions, study groups, techathons and sports tournaments enrich our students, while pastoral talks and podcasts reach GDST parents up and down the country.

The Brighton Girls Improvisation Club and our specially commissioned Laugh and Like Yourself course are two examples of our creative approach to confidence-building.



Next Steps

Book a visit

The very best way to decide if Brighton Girls is the best choice for your family is for you all to come and visit us. We offer a variety of opportunities for you to do this, both formally and informally. You are warmly invited to our **Whole School Open Day on 24th September 2022**. We also hold a number of Open Doors events throughout the year as well as Private Tours and Virtual Tasters. Visit our website to book a visit and find out more.

Bursaries and Scholarships

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 therefore offer a limited number of mean-tested bursaries to assist girls joining us in Year 7 and Year 12. In addition, a small number of scholarships are awarded to candidates who we believe will make a significant contribution to the life of the school. We are looking for students who will inspire their peers and act as ambassadors both for Brighton Girls and the Girls Day School Trust.

Contact Us

More information about the admissions process, as well as bursaries and scholarships, can be found on our website: **brightongirls.gdst.net**

Alternatively, contact our Admissions Department at: **admissions@brightongirls.gdst.net** or call **01273 280280**.



Where girls
learn without limits.
Brighton-style.

GDST
GIRLS' DAY SCHOOL TRUST

The GDST is the leading network of independent girls' schools in the UK, with nearly 4,000 staff, and 20,000 students between the ages of three and 18. As a charity that owns and runs a network of 23 schools and two academies in England and Wales, it reinvests all its income in its schools. Founded in 1827, the GDST has a long history of pioneering innovation in the education of girls, and is the largest single educator of girls in the UK and the UK's largest educational charity.

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