



GRIFFIN  
SCHOOLS  
TRUST

# Griffin Great Schools



The single most important mission of the Griffin Schools Trust is to provide the conditions in which children discover who they are and then go on confidently to take their places in society, making a contribution to it through the use of their talents. We teach our children to recognise structural injustice and to challenge it. We will never prepare children to know their places.

A defining feature of our Trust is a clear vision for 'Great' schools which share certain features and qualities beyond the highest category in any Ofsted framework. This vision is our guiding inspiration as we work to ensure that every child in GST attends a Great school.

# Proud Traditions

The founding family of schools brought their histories to GST and together we turned them into traditions which underpin the Trust's mission and values whilst preserving each school's individuality.

We also built GST traditions so that children in every school feel part of the same family with a shared love of the arts, sports and the exploration of ideas. Our festivals coalesce around a single annual theme, celebrating our collective identity from a different perspective in the context of a global issue. In Autumn the focus of the Griffin Sports Festival (established 2016) is on competition and personal best. In the Spring Term, Founders Day (established 2016) centres on community and the Griffin Science Symposium (established 2017) on scientific enquiry. The summer term brings the Griffin Arts Festival (established 2014) and a celebration of creativity.

Traditions are part of the fabric of a school community and give a sense of belonging. A great GST school will have nothing institutional about it.

Great GST schools:

- emphasise good hospitality
- cultivate open and positive relationships based on equality and diversity
- welcome all visitors and arrange talks from speakers/artists/performers/scientists/explorers/sports people/campaigners for a range of causes
- grow and maintain a vibrant environment, with active staff and student involvement
- develop their estate and deploy all resources to reinforce culture and realise vision
- provide good quality food enjoyed communally by children and staff in comfortable and companionable surroundings
- are recognisable as GST schools in branding and standards of presentation, whilst having a strong individual identity within the family
- create their own customs and traditions which bind the community and strengthen the sense of belonging
- work supportively with other schools and partners within and beyond GST.





# Wide Horizons

Recent decades have narrowed the scope of many schools' provision. GST believes that breadth encourages engagement and is an essential foundation for excellence. Our schools build community, with teams of committed staff providing all students with the best and broadest educational experience. In this way adults and children are engaged in something bigger than the delivery and receipt of a curriculum and are enabled to make informed decisions within and for the community rather than simply obeying its rules.

Great GST schools:

- emphasise leadership and service
- use the learning from remote teaching and learning to expand horizons further
- encourage trips, projects, independent and outside learning and virtual links of discovery, so that children explore beyond the familiar and the local
- encourage all staff and students to build networks in the spirit of Give and Get
- demonstrate their commitment to equality and diversity in their staff profile and structure, their curriculum and extra-curricular provision
- recruit interesting and inspiring people as well as outstanding practitioners
- build self-driven CPD with every adult a learner and a teacher engaged in high-quality school-school improvement/development, within and beyond the Trust
- support staff in further study and research, such as GST's Masters Programme
- look outwards, nationally and internationally for ideas and partnerships.

# High Achievement

A good education promotes and values achievement as well as attainment. Growing a school culture where this is an explicit reality means being driven by multiple and connected sources of energy (proud traditions, wide horizons and high achievement) so that all who learn and work there are motivated and engaged.

Great GST schools:

- nurture and 'teach' achievement beyond the timetabled curriculum
- explicitly link GST festivals with the curriculum
- regularly celebrate adult and student achievement
- set appropriate value on achievements, neither overpraising nor overlooking
- know all children individually, their talents, strengths and specific needs
- give frequent opportunities for children to perform and demonstrate their skills and talents
- set the bar high and cast the net wide for ideas, artistic and musical works from wider world cultures
- attract staff who have achieved themselves beyond their teaching area of expertise and support them to continue their achievements
- spend minimal resource on intervention programmes aimed at meeting national benchmarks because they are 100% cultures.

We support high achievement through the Sports and Arts Fund which awards grants to support students' personal journeys to excellence beyond the classroom.



# Trust Engagement



As a Trust we share a conviction that great schools are built on rich extra curricular programmes and high quality pastoral care as well as an inspiring curriculum, expertly taught. We know there are no limits for pupils and staff where commitment and enjoyment go together.

Throughout the year there are a number of Trust-wide events that each school takes part in:

## Autumn Term

Since 2016 the Griffin Sports Festival has been hosted by Nicholas Chamberlaine School. Five 'new' sports form the basis of fierce inter-school competition and the event is officiated by representatives of national sports bodies.

All schools take part in the Shakespeare Schools Festival, a national project which sees every school direct and produce a Shakespeare play which is performed in a public theatre.

## Spring Term

Founders Day, started in 2016, and raises funds to support a cause chosen by students and connected with the theme of the year. In every school the day centres on community: what it means to be a citizen so that students experience the difference they can make individually and collectively. This often lights leadership sparks in our pupils.

The Griffin Science Symposium, begun in 2017, addresses the theme of the year. Eminent scientists come from the John Innes Centre and the Universities of Oxford, Cambridge and London to give lively talks, demonstrations and workshops to students in years 6 and 7 from all schools.

## Summer Term

The Griffin Arts Festival, was established in 2014. All schools run two weeks of events which include performances and activities open to their local communities. There are now two centres for the GAF residential experience: London and Birmingham, where the winners of competitions for places enjoy visits to national arts venues, and workshops with professional choreographers, poets and musicians. The festival ends with our very own Last Night of the Proms concert which itself is preceded by performances from our schools.

By the time they leave primary school, pupils have begun to discover their inner musician, artist, poet, scientist, philosopher, sportsperson or campaigner. That voyage of discovery continues at our secondary schools so that we truly build foundations for life.



# The GST Family



Bramford  
West Midlands  
Joined June 2013



Lammas  
East London  
Joined December 2018



Chivenor  
West Midlands  
Joined February 2014



Riverley  
East London  
Joined November 2013



Perry Wood  
West Midlands  
Joined December 2012



Willow Brook  
East London  
Joined April 2015



Nicholas Chamberlaine  
North Warwickshire  
Joined September 2013



Kingfisher  
Medway  
Joined September 2013



Park Lane  
North Warwickshire  
Joined November 2013



Lordswood  
Medway  
Joined September 2013



Race Leys  
North Warwickshire  
Joined September 2012



Saxon Way  
Medway  
Joined November 2013



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