

P R E P
S C H O O L







W E L C O M E



Welcome to our hidden gem in beautiful North Norfolk. Gresham's Prep School is a very special place with a progressive curriculum preparing children for life (not just exams), where we weave breadth and creativity into each new day.

We offer everything one would expect from a traditional prep school education, but coming to school at Gresham's Prep is far more than that. Encouraging progress and establishing happiness are at the heart of all we do, through outstanding pastoral care, a vast range of extra-curricular activities and the space for your child to develop their imagination.

We want every one of our pupils to feel encouraged, confident and at home. Our children develop strong roots that will help them grow into happy, well-balanced and responsible adults and we encourage them to spread their wings as they acquire the independence and self-esteem to be proud of themselves, their abilities and their individuality. Greshamians have plenty of time to be children; to play, to have fun and to laugh.

Ours is a smiling, kind, busy and inclusive school; please come and visit us and experience the joy of being at Gresham's for yourself.

Cathy Braithwaite, Head of Prep School

A SCHOOL WITH A VIEW – AND A DISTINCTIVE OUTLOOK

Gresham's was founded in 1555 by Sir John Gresham. He went on to become Lord Mayor of London and forged close ties with the Worshipful Company of Fishmongers. Strong links with the City of London are still enjoyed today.

Located in the thriving market town of Holt, Gresham's is just four miles from the spectacular North Norfolk coastline, most of which is designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Close to the town centre and a few hundred metres from the Senior School, the Prep School sits within part of the 200 acres of grounds. Making the most of the space and freedom provided by our extensive site helps develop our children into well-rounded individuals.





INQUISITIVE LEARNERS

Variety and activity is the order of the day at Gresham's Prep. School begins at 8.20am and, for day pupils, ends at 5.15pm on Mondays and Tuesdays and at 3.30pm on Wednesdays and Saturdays. Our junior pupils have an earlier finishing time of 4pm on Thursdays and Fridays, with older pupils continuing until 5.15pm. Our innovative Saturday enrichment programme is for pupils from Year 5 upwards, with children in Years 3 and 4 invited to some special Chapel services on Saturdays.

Sport, music, drama, dance and independent study are all built into the daily routine. Days here are busy and

incorporate prep, giving your child time to relax in the evenings without the need for formal homework. We do, however, offer a wide range of extra-curricular activities on three nights each week for those who wish to participate and our new 'Inspire to Inquire' programme provides plenty of opportunities for individual research and inquisitive thinking at home for those with active, hungry brains! Entrepreneurial skills are also taught to our Year 8 pupils: we were the first school in England to embrace the Kids MBA programme, and all our children learn to help others through active participation in a number of charity projects.



I N D E P E N D E N T B O A R D E R S

There are two boarding houses; Crossways and Kenwyn. Comfortable and welcoming, they are run by dedicated and imaginative staff who ensure that our boarders are extremely well cared for.

Our children love the boarding experience and it's also helpful for busy parents. Around a quarter of our pupils are boarders and many others take advantage of our flexi-boarding on a regular basis. We ensure that our children have a structured routine as well as some freedom and plenty of fun. This allows them to develop independence and self-discipline in a supportive environment.

Boarders may go home at the weekend from 3.30pm on Saturdays and may return either on Sunday evening or Monday morning. Some children stay at school at the weekend and enjoy an entertaining programme of organised trips and adventures, from stately home visits to surfing.



CURRICULUM - BROADER HORIZONS

All children study the traditional academic subjects: English, Mathematics, Science (as STEAM, Biology, Chemistry and Physics in Years 7 and 8), Geography, History, RPE (Religion, Philosophy & Ethics), Modern Foreign Languages and Computer Science. Our curriculum is unusually broad and we also place a strong emphasis on the Creative and Visual Arts, Music, Design & Technology, Outdoor Learning and Physical Education.

This balanced curriculum, together with the extensive programme of sports, music, drama and other

activities, including outside field trips, allows your child to pursue their interests and develop strengths, passions and appreciation of the wider world at an early age. Our Saturday enrichment curriculum incorporates an impressive array of academic activities in the mornings (General Knowledge to Geology / Wellbeing / History of Art / Asset Management) and enrichment activities in the afternoons (our list of over 15 activities includes: sea-fishing, mountain biking, eco-warriors, photography, cookery, Mandarin, maps, football, tennis, chess, backgammon, gardening and building a power glider).



AN EXTENDED FAMILY

We are extremely proud of our outstanding pastoral care at Gresham's Prep. We are lucky to have a diverse range of children in the School and every child, whatever their strengths and weaknesses, feels valued and cared for, and will thrive.

Kindness is the most important thing of all for us. As we help our children to develop self-confidence, we emphasise the importance of thoughtfulness towards others. If there are any problems, however small, we encourage open discussion. Our '3 Rs' of Respect, Responsibility and Resilience are at the core of all we do.

Every child, whether a boarder or day pupil, is a member of Crossways House (for girls) or Kenwyn House (for boys). The Housemistress and Housemaster

have pastoral responsibility for all of the pupils in their house. We have a wonderful team of matrons, who are responsible for medical matters and for tender, loving care when needed!

All children also have a tutor, who they meet twice daily to discuss everyday matters, as well as to monitor academic progress. Tutors are the first point of contact for parents for most queries.

Our well-established Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PSHE) programme is an integral part of a Gresham's education and moral and spiritual issues are addressed in assemblies, tutor group sessions and Religion, Philosophy and Ethics (RPE) lessons. Chapel takes place on Saturday mornings; parents, family and friends are always welcome.



ARTISTIC INNOVATORS

Our children have timetabled lessons in Art and in Design Technology each week in the purpose-built Butterwick Centre. Our fantastic facilities offer drawing, painting, sculpture and ceramics amongst the Art media used, while Design Technology features wood, plastics and textiles, plus basic electronics. STEAM opportunities invite pupils to consider engineering projects and to 'tinker'. Our extensive Activities Programme also includes many fun and creative art and design-related opportunities.

MUSICIANS WHO LOVE TO PLAY

Every child in the school is regularly involved in musical activities, whether in a structured class environment, individual tuition, or in musical ensembles.

In addition to encouraging creative thinking and teamwork, music provides a fun environment for self-expression, whilst rewarding hard work. All children attend class music lessons; pupils in the younger years are encouraged to try out a variety of instruments in their lessons.

Around three quarters of the children take up a musical instrument and many achieve high grades in examinations.

There are three school choirs, a school orchestra, a wind band and many other instrumental ensembles. These perform regularly throughout the year.



INSPIRING CONFIDENCE

Freedom of expression is an important part of the ethos of Gresham's Prep, and nowhere more so than in the performing arts, with the unique opportunities they provide for enhancing self-esteem, talent and creativity, and collaboration.

Both dance and drama are integral parts of the curriculum and all children perform on stage at least twice each year. There are extensive opportunities to participate in plays and informal performances.

As well as our own Drama Hall, the Auden Theatre and the outdoor Theatre in the Woods at the Senior School are both used for Prep School performances.



SPORT WITHOUT BOUNDARIES FOR OUR ATHLETES

Sport is one of the major reasons for choosing Gresham's, thanks to our extensive grounds, wide choice of sports and frequent local and national success. That said, your child doesn't have to be sporty to enjoy their time here. We firmly believe that sport is for everyone and aim to ensure that children of all abilities can enjoy sport and appreciate its benefits.

There are four sports sessions each week, plus PE lessons. Our extensive programme of sports fixtures and events offer the opportunity for every child to represent the School (parents welcome), and our teams regularly win national competitions.

For boys, the major sports are rugby, hockey, cricket and athletics and for girls: hockey, netball, tennis, cricket and athletics. All children swim regularly in PE lessons – we have a 25m indoor pool where our development and elite squads train. In recent years our children have achieved national success in hockey, athletics and swimming. A range of sports are also offered as part of our Activities Programme – there really is something for everyone.





SCIENTISTS TAKING A STEP BEYOND

Science is central to our understanding of the world and our aim in teaching science at the Prep School is to reflect the importance of the subject in our everyday lives. Via classroom, lab and outdoor projects, we help the children to understand the world around them, whilst encouraging a real appreciation for science in all its diverse and fascinating forms.

A WORLD OF POTENTIAL FOR YOUNG LINGUISTS

Our innovative approach to language learning in younger years at Gresham's Prep is multi-lingual (German, Italian, French and Spanish), and focuses on children enjoying and gaining confidence in communicating in languages other than their own.

If they have attended our Pre-Prep, your child will have already been exposed to Mandarin, French, Dutch, German and Latin, giving them a good overview of the concept of languages as a whole. From Year 7, children may study two languages (from French, Spanish or Latin), those who are more suited to learning one language have additional literacy, mathematics and study skills lessons built into their week.





FROM ENTREPRENEURS TO EXPLORERS

Three nights a week, we offer a wide range of interesting and challenging after-school activities, giving children an opportunity to pursue their favourite interests or to discover new ones which could develop into lifelong skills and interests. A full list of activities is on our website.

ALUMNI

OLD GRESHAMIANS

Many well-known individuals have attended Gresham's over the centuries, achieving great success in business, politics, sport, the arts, and many other fields.

Old Greshamians include composer Benjamin Britten, poet WH Auden, inventor and businessman Sir James Dyson, Oscar-winning actor Olivia Colman, artist Ben Nicholson, and sportsmen Tom and Ben Youngs.



NEXT STEPS

A good starting point for more information is our website **www.greshams.com**

However, the best way to look further into a Gresham's education is to visit us and experience it for yourself. Our website has the dates of our Open Days, when you can look around the school and meet pupils and staff.

Alternatively, you can arrange an individual appointment and tour of the Prep by contacting us on **01263 714600**.





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Gresham's School (Registered Charity No. 1105500)
Gresham's School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children
and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.