Prospectus

THE GRAMMAR SCHOOL AT LEEDS
The pastoral care of pupils is outstanding in all the age groups and, together with the excellent arrangements to ensure their welfare, health and safety, are strengths of the school. These elements contribute to the resounding success with which the school meets its aim to create for pupils a friendly and caring community, and promote the pupils' excellent personal development.
Thank you for your interest in The Grammar School at Leeds (GSAL). We are a leading independent co-educational day school offering our pupils a wealth of opportunities for personal growth and development coupled with academic excellence.

Probably the most important decision that you will make as parents is choosing a school for your children. You place in that school a special trust: to nurture, support and enthuse your child and to inspire the highest standards of performance in the classroom and beyond.

Parents naturally want the best of everything for their children, and we aim to offer that in so many ways. Whilst we are a modern institution we also have a long and proud heritage, as GSAL came into being following the merger of two long-established Leeds schools in 2008. With our committed staff and state-of-the-art campus we have the expertise and resources to enable students to excel both academically and in their co-curricular interests.

Our diamond model of education offers the best of both single sex and co-educational provision to achieve academic success. Boys and girls are taught together when it benefits them most and taught separately when that is best for their learning, to maximise potential at all ages.

As a 3-18 school we offer the best of both primary and secondary education, offering continuity of learning and opportunity as well as a tremendous sense of community throughout the school. Despite its size, GSAL is like one large family. As a big school we benefit from the best range of options and opportunities, but through a strong house system and tutorial programme, we know and value every child.

Above all, GSAL is a happy, busy and successful school, where we want the best for every child in our care in every area of their lives. Our pupils are the stars of the GSAL show and we would be delighted to welcome you to the school to meet them and see them in action.
Welcoming you to the GSAL family

At The Grammar School at Leeds (GSAL) children can start a 15 year educational journey with us at the age of three.

Many GSAL pupils start at our Nursery and Pre-prep Rose Court. Children also join us at key points such as Year 3 (Junior School entry), Year 7 (Senior School entry) and Year 12 (Sixth Form entry). We realise that family circumstances can change at short notice and we try our best to accommodate children of any age who need to join us during the course of the academic year.

Pupils move confidently to each new learning phase, thanks to carefully planned transition activities and their familiarity with the school community. Being part of a big school has many benefits including access to specialist teaching and facilities from a young age and interaction between age groups, with a wide range of co-curricular opportunities.

Each phase nonetheless retains its own identity with dedicated staff who ensure every pupil’s individual learning and pastoral needs are fully supported.

Having joined the GSAL family, children thrive and never look back!
A school that builds for the future

The Grammar School at Leeds offers pupils a friendly and caring community of learning, with superb teachers to nurture each child’s abilities and talents.

Learning at GSAL is not limited to the classroom or the curriculum. We aim to support individual ambition and coax hidden or undeveloped talent into fruition, producing confident and versatile young people who are capable of high achievement and rising to any challenge.

Pupils of all ages at GSAL enjoy opportunities, resources and purpose-built facilities for a wide range of creative, sporting and intellectual activities. Should any encouragement be needed, our house system gives everyone a wonderful opportunity to try something new.

Our commitment to safeguarding and well-being comes from the heart. We strive to create a family environment, where providing all pupils with genuine warmth and support throughout their school life remains central to everything we do.
Our house system gives an added sense of belonging and encourages older pupils to support younger ones. Our pastoral system promotes and rewards good social skills and consideration for others. As a result, friendships formed at GSAL often endure for many years and unite nationalities and cultures.

It would be wrong to claim that the quality of our pastoral care leads directly to excellent exam results. That is not why we do it. But is there a connection? We definitely think so.

We encourage pupils to strive for high personal standards, to treat others with respect and kindness and to be responsible for the consequences of their actions. This is reinforced by assembly themes and by the many leadership opportunities on offer to pupils.

Younger pupils share and learn about their faiths together. In the Senior School, each major faith represented in school has its own regular assembly and all pupils learn about world religions, philosophy and ethics. An interest in wider issues is stimulated by working with children in other countries and elsewhere in the UK.
The Grammar School at Leeds is renowned for the breadth of its approach to education. We pursue academic excellence, but not in a blinkered way. Equally important is discovering and developing each pupil’s wider potential, which may set him or her on either an academic or non-academic path to self-fulfilment and success.

We help to train and educate children from other teaching establishments, through formal or informal relationships with schools, organisations and individuals.

With this in mind, GSAL genuinely offers something for everyone - a large claim, but one we are happy to justify. We encourage all forms of talent and have the resources to match.

We believe that entry to GSAL should not depend solely on ability to pay. As a registered charity with the aim of the advancement of education for boys and girls, we are legally required to be of public benefit and we are happy to embrace that obligation.

Our means-tested bursaries support children who show exceptional academic ability but whose family circumstances preclude them from taking up a place at the full fee. We offer bursaries for new pupils joining Year 7 or the Lower Sixth, with financial support allocated subject to our normal entrance selection and our means-testing process. Bursaries can cover the full fee or part of the fee depending on household income and assets.

In 2014/15 we provided financial support of over £1.27m to 146 pupils.
Travelling to school made easy

Pupils travel from across West and North Yorkshire to study at GSAL. We make it easy to get to school with our extensive network of buses.
At The Grammar School at Leeds, we put the needs of each and every child at the heart of our teaching.

Our exceptional team of teachers works hard to tailor every child’s education to his or her abilities, potential and ambitions. Backed up by superb resources, our dedicated staff ensure that GSAL focuses on the individual pupil to a degree that very few other schools can emulate.

From Pre-prep to Sixth Form, teachers instil in our pupils a real enthusiasm for learning. ‘Fun’ and ‘happy’ are words used for the classroom as well as the playground. Celebrating the individual successes of each child makes for confident, well-motivated young individuals, from an early age.

Our approach to teaching succeeds not just during school years but far beyond them. Engaging continuously with every single pupil is a principle we are proud to uphold, because it makes a difference for a lifetime.
Extremely strong relationships between staff and pupils, coupled with high expectations are common features of teaching, supporting the aims of the school. Teaching styles are generally varied and make a good use of time to maximise learning opportunities for pupils.

GSAL is a very academic school achieving excellent results but of greater importance to us is the level of pastoral care. Joining GSAL mid-year, our daughter was greeted with such a reassuring welcome from her form tutor and form group, and quickly became part of a lasting friendship group.

She was given any catch up work needed and offered lunchtime sessions if she felt she needed extra support. The tutors genuinely care for and about the children, their ethos seems to be a happy and contented child produces better results. There is always a tutor available to discuss any issues if needed and no matter how busy their schedule they always have time to help.

Rowena, parent

Learning opportunities

INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS INSPECTORATE 2011

Extremely strong relationships between staff and pupils, coupled with high expectations are common features of teaching, supporting the aims of the school. Teaching styles are generally varied and make a good use of time to maximise learning opportunities for pupils.
The Grammar School at Leeds offers pupils an abundance of space and the facilities they need to excel, whether in academic studies or in artistic, sporting, cultural and social activities.

Our youngest pupils at Rose Court Nursery and Pre-prep in Headingley are taught in spacious, well-equipped classrooms and studios and have generous outdoor play areas, gardens and a playing field.

The Junior School, Senior School and Sixth Form are located on a magnificent greenfield site of 128 acres at Alwoodley Gates in north Leeds.

The scale of the school is impressive, but good design and effective use of the buildings and grounds ensure that it very quickly becomes a familiar and friendly place.
In Junior School, a reassuring atmosphere is created by organising classrooms and play areas for each year group as separate units or ‘pods’. There are dedicated areas for science, art, design technology, music, dance and drama. Junior School has its own library and shares a theatre, swimming pool and sports facilities with the Senior School.

The Senior School’s outstanding facilities include a multimedia library, ICT resources, science and language laboratories, art and design studios and high-spec food technology areas. It also has purpose-built facilities for a wide range of sporting, recreational, musical and drama activities.

Students in the Sixth Form enjoy all the facilities of Senior School as well as their own Sixth Form Centre, providing a quiet study area with IT facilities, a cafeteria, common room and garden.
The confidence, roundedness, perspective and sense of fun gained from co-curricular activities are central to an education at The Grammar School at Leeds (GSAL).

Our pupils engage enthusiastically with a full programme of activities offered in school, and excel in their chosen fields often at local, regional, national and even international level.

As students progress through the school, there are many opportunities to venture further afield as part of an educational visit, sports tour, music group, modern languages trip or specialist society. Overseas visits broaden the experience of many of our pupils.

Our outdoor learning programme provides students with opportunities to take on new challenges beyond the confines of the school gates. They learn new skills alongside their classmates, with the added benefits of team building, developing self-confidence and the sense of achievement that comes from having a go at something new.
“Our students benefit from an exceptional range of sporting, artistic, intellectual and physical co-curricular pursuits. Thanks to our dedicated and talented staff as well as our wonderful facilities, pupils can be involved in anything from the Combined Cadet Force (CCF) and Duke of Edinburgh awards through to traditional team sports, musical ensembles, drama productions or clubs and societies which cater for a breathtaking range of pupil interests and passions. Every day is busy, vibrant and buzzing with energy.”

MR NEAL PARKER
SENIOR DEPUTY HEAD (CO-CURRICULAR)
A welcome from Mrs Hall

Welcome to Rose Court, the foundation of The Grammar School at Leeds (GSAL).

Children can join Rose Court in our Nursery from age three and remain with us until the end of Year 2 when they move up to our Junior School. We are privileged to be part of a 3-18 school, which offers many opportunities including access to specialist teaching from a very young age and a wide co-curricular provision. We enjoy working with our colleagues across all sections of GSAL to provide a consistent approach and a high quality education.

Excellence in teaching and learning is our priority at Rose Court, within a warm and happy atmosphere which means children enjoy coming to school. Our dedicated teachers and teaching assistants know all our pupils as individuals and are therefore able to meet their learning and pastoral needs.

We enable our pupils to develop the skills that they need to be successful learners, encouraging them to try new things, persist in their learning and aspire to do their very best. This skills-based approach continues throughout GSAL as we work to build lifelong learners who are well prepared for each new stage in their school journey.

We are fortunate to have strong support from our parents at Rose Court and work closely with them. Regular communication keeps parents informed about our teaching and learning as well as the wealth of co-curricular activities and day-to-day organisation.

I feel privileged to lead such an outstanding staff team and to work with such bright and talented children and their families.

Mrs Jo Hall
Head of Rose Court
Libby, Head Girl

“GSAL is an extremely special place with a fantastic atmosphere”

My education began at Rose Court as a three year old, and 15 years later I’m lucky to be able to say that I still love coming to school every day!

GSAL is an extremely special place with a fantastic atmosphere. There is always something to look forward to, which makes our school so exciting and fun to be a part of. A strong sense of community has given me the courage to try new things and discover new talents from a very young age, always with the wholehearted support of my teachers and peers. This is something that really makes GSAL special - being successful at school earns the respect and admiration of other pupils, encouraging all students to try hard to achieve in and out of the classroom.

This inspiring culture begins right at the beginning in Rose Court and develops during your journey through junior and senior schools. This kind of progression can be seen in all areas of school life - I’ve learned from early school productions and can now speak confidently to a large audience; from beginner hockey club in Junior School I’ve progressed to the U18 Hockey National Finals at Olympic Park; what started as a love of Year 2 choir has taken me to Prague, Florence and Pisa on Senior School choir tours; and a Rose Court sponsored walk for GSAL’s Malawi charity eventually became a visit to the country itself in Sixth Form.

These experiences have helped me to develop on a personal level and, paired with the academic excellence that GSAL is renowned for, have also stood me and many others in good stead when applying to the country’s top universities, a position we are extremely fortunate to be in.

I believe that GSAL has shaped me into a well-rounded, ambitious, competent individual, and I am sure that the lessons I've learnt, the memories I’ve made and the friendships I hold will go far beyond my final year here.
Helping children become confident learners

When they first enter school, very young children need more than anything else to feel happy, safe and among friends. Then they will learn easily and rapidly - often without realising they are learning!

Rose Court Nursery provides a caring, cheerful and well-resourced environment for boys and girls aged three and four. Here the children gain essential learning and social skills through a balance of teacher directed and child initiated play.

In the September after their fourth birthday, children progress to Rose Court’s Reception classes. While the emphasis is still on fun, friendship and play, a child’s gentle introduction to the world of learning continues. They are helped to develop better basic communication, reading and number skills; they are also encouraged to work productively and happily, both as individuals and in groups.

After Reception, children move into Key Stage One. We have developed an exciting and innovative curriculum, with value added by the expertise and experience of our teaching staff and their assistants.

We believe firmly that language, literacy and numeracy skills are the bedrock of successful learning. Children are taught to speak clearly and listen well. This aids learning and encourages something else we value highly at Rose Court - good, considerate behaviour. We reward children for being kind, polite, honest and helpful.

Ours is a formula that works. Most children progress rapidly and perform at levels significantly above national norms. At age seven they leave Rose Court as confident, happy individuals, with a clear sense of right and wrong and an eagerness to learn and achieve more.
Substantial progress
EYFS INSPECTION REPORT 2011

The children make substantial progress so that by the end of Reception most achieve high standards in all areas of learning, exceeding the expectations of the Early Learning Goals.
Young children love to extend their imagination and creativity, so Rose Court gives them every opportunity to do just that.

Arts, crafts, music, dance, drama - children can enjoy any or all of a wide range of expressive activities, some directed with a light touch by specialist teachers.

Our dedicated facilities ensure a high quality experience for all children and especially for those who show a serious or growing interest in a particular activity.

We have our own art, dance and drama studios, a music room and a baking room. Our library at Rose Court has a wealth of high quality books which is run by Senior School’s librarians, who visit Rose Court every week to work with our children, sharing stories and developing a lifelong love of books.

Children also make full use of our ICT suite of 25 computers with age-appropriate software. These are used mainly for curriculum lessons and always under close supervision. There are computers in every classroom. GSAL’s intranet offers a wide variety of programs including games and activities which children can access in school or from home to enhance their learning.

Rose Court is exceptional for its range of co-curricular activities. We offer a great variety of clubs and activities every week, including football, yoga and ballet. We are always happy to consider adding new activities if children request them.

Outside is where you play, preferably with your best friends and with a teacher nearby. So at Rose Court we encourage outdoor activities and make sure that all are based on play and fun.

Forays into the grounds, sometimes equipped with paper and crayons, magnifying glasses, cameras and clipboards, help spark an appreciation of nature and the environment. Longer outings - for example walks...
What our parents say

“She has personally flourished and gained in confidence and independence...we are very proud of her results and performance.”

YEAR 2

“It has been a pleasure watching my daughter gain confidence and ability in reading and maths.”

YEAR 1

“He has made wonderful progress in every area, and continues to be incredibly excited at the prospect of going to school each day.”

RECEPTION
We have many safety and security measures in place and rigorous staff training ensures constant watchfulness.

All procedures are reviewed regularly, to maintain regulatory compliance and to consider improvements suggested by Rose Court staff, parents and sometimes by children themselves.

The emotional well-being and physical safety of young children is of immense importance at Rose Court.

Young children need above all else to feel happy and carefree and Rose Court staff have the experience to identify any need for emotional support. Even tiny signs that all is not well are spotted and acted upon promptly.

A lively setting

Well qualified and caring staff in a lively setting, and a carefully planned curriculum, enable children to make rapid progress.
We support our busy parents by offering a Rose Court bus service and wrap-around care out of school hours.

Our shuttle bus runs between GSAL’s main school site at Alwoodley Gates and Rose Court at the beginning and end of the school day. Children are accompanied for the full journey by Rose Court staff.

Fully supervised care, Early Birds, is offered before school from 7.20am, including a breakfast option. Owls is our after school club which runs until 6.00pm. Children have the opportunity to choose from a range of games and activities, or simply relax, and are well looked after by Owls staff.
Visit Rose Court Nursery and you will find a happy, busy place full of colour and activity.

We pride ourselves on being an exceptional educational nursery; although a choice of attendance options are offered we are distinct from a typical day care provider. Our stimulating learning programme ensures boys and girls are well prepared to progress to Reception, the second year of the Foundation Stage. Parents may choose for their child to attend full time or part time, which is either every morning or three full days on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

All Nursery staff are qualified, experienced and utterly dedicated to the care and sensitive development of your child. We have our own indoor and outdoor space, which includes our own café where Nursery children eat lunch. Nursery is adjacent to the main Rose Court building which children visit regularly for music lessons and trips to the library.

We are very much part of the Rose Court family, sharing the excellent facilities and expert staff, and subject to the same rigorous safeguarding measures.

What our parents say

“He has formed good relationships with other children and his teachers...he has had a happy and productive year and established an excellent foundation to move forward to Reception.”

“She has improved a huge amount with her reading and writing and drawing...her social interactions with other children at nursery have made her more confident in meeting new people.”

“He has been very happy in his nursery class and his progress has been a joy to see.”
The effectiveness of the Early Years Foundation Stage is outstanding. The needs of all the children are met exceedingly well so they make excellent progress in their learning and development. All staff know the children very well and create a welcoming environment where each child is valued highly.
A welcome from Mr Lilley

For a young child, moving from a small primary school to secondary school can be daunting. That is where GSAL Junior School comes in. Our role is to equip your child with the skills and experiences needed to forge a smooth transition from their early years to their secondary education.

The Junior School works with children from Year 3 to Year 6. A large number of our children join us at the age of seven from our own pre-prep school at Rose Court but a significant number come from other schools in the area, both independent and state maintained.

During their time in the Junior School children grow in confidence, independence and academic expertise. Whilst spending the majority of their time with class teachers in Year 3, by Year 6 they move around the school confidently and visit a range of specialist teachers, practising the organisational skills that will give them a flying start in the Senior School.

We have a very strong team of teachers who are always willing to give up their time to help individual children and provide outstanding pastoral care. They also offer an amazing array of co-curricular clubs and activities. We encourage all the children to join at least one activity in order to develop their personality and interests, to make new friends and to make the most of the unrivalled facilities at their disposal.

Mr Robert Lilley
Head of Junior School
“I like this school, the teachers have been really nice to us and we have lots of new friends to play with.”
OLIVER, YEAR 3

“All the teachers were really welcoming.”
ISABELLE, YEAR 4

“I think Junior School is a nice and friendly place because it has loads of fun activities and the facilities are amazing.”
TILLY, YEAR 5

“I like the teachers, the lessons are packed with information. I like the sports, my favourite is rugby.”
BEN, YEAR 6
When your son or daughter joins our Junior School our first priority is to give them everything they need to make friends and feel secure, so they can continue to learn with complete confidence.

Prior to joining, there are many opportunities to see what it is like in Junior School and help us get to know each other.

As part of the GSAL family of schools, our pupils have tremendous opportunities. They learn in bright, contemporary classrooms in spacious, landscaped grounds and enjoy first-rate educational materials and facilities.

Our enthusiastic teachers inspire and care for pupils in small classes, making sure each child gets individual attention.
Once they feel at home, pupils quickly find their voice. Some represent their classmates on the School Council, which meets weekly with teachers to discuss pupils’ ideas and proposals.

As a result, we now have more shelters in the playgrounds and more popular sandwich fillings at lunchtime - though we draw the line at chocolate spread!

From age seven, each pupil belongs to one of several houses. This gives an added sense of belonging and encourages older pupils to support younger ones where it is needed.

“Fantastic facilities”

“I thought the move to the ‘big school’ would be daunting after the lovely homely environment of Rose Court, but everything is done to make it as easy as possible. There are harmonisation days throughout Year 2 to familiarise the children with where they are going, and they have their own playgrounds and classrooms. Best of all they get to use the fantastic facilities of the main site - the swimming pool, the sports pitches, the main hall for their theatre productions and access to the school music faculty. My daughter has just loved it!”

JEREMY, PARENT

Happy and safe
INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS INSPECTORATE 2011

Staff work together to ensure that the passage of a pupil through the school is achieved in as happy and safe a way as possible. In the Junior School, the house system, year group and form tutors are central to the pastoral care of the pupils.
Junior School offers a stimulating curriculum delivered by experienced, supportive teachers, which makes for enthusiastic learners who enjoy coming to school and doing their best.

In addition to the key subjects, pupils learn French, music and sport with specialist teachers, and more subjects are gradually introduced including ICT and team sports. By Year 6 they are ready for the transition to Senior School and the range of subjects they will study there.

Central to our approach is the individual child and his or her needs. Each pupil is carefully observed in all of their subjects, so we can respond if they need further support or additional interesting work to keep them engaged.

Our learning support team is on hand to provide extension sessions and to help where it is needed, working with individual pupils and small groups.

We recognise good work with the award of merit certificates at our weekly celebration assembly. We also award house points for good behaviour, for being kind and considerate to others and for outstanding effort in activities such as sport, dance and drama, handwriting and music.

Pupils thoroughly enjoy school life and respond well to their teachers’ high expectations. Their achievement is supported by their positive attitudes to learning, and by the warm relationships they enjoy with each other and their teachers.
“I loved the house music competition the most. It gave us all a chance to sing and dance together and to perform in front of lots of people. I enjoy sports day which is very competitive. I am proud to be a part of Smeaton House and I try to do my best in the competitions.”

JOSEPHINE, YEAR 5
Junior School is about so much more than classroom lessons. We learn about life, we try things out. We discover what it is like to play an instrument, bake biscuits, act, grow flowers, score goals, take better photographs and explore the great outdoors in our first residential trip away from home. We find out how to be one of the team, while developing our own unique skills and talents.

Clubs run at lunchtime and after school. Children can try art, drama, individual and team sports, music and much more. External specialists run activities such as karate, cubs and speech and drama.

Team sports begin in Year 4 and each week Years 5 and 6 have a full afternoon of games. We play rugby and netball in the autumn, football and hockey in the spring and cricket, rounders and athletics in the summer. There is also swimming and cross country. Older pupils have the opportunity to represent GSAL in sports fixtures against other schools, with some notable successes in regional and national competitions, including netball, rugby, football, gymnastics, table tennis, swimming and cross country.

Individual music tuition is available from our music specialists. The choice is vast, including piano, brass, woodwind, strings and percussion. All pupils take part in a performance of some kind each year, whether it is a concert, an end of term play or a full-scale musical.

The house system is an integral part of life at GSAL. Every pupil has the chance to represent their house in some way, even if they don’t gain representative honours for the school. With house competitions in a range of activities throughout the year, pupils can have a go at something new or use their existing skills for the benefit of their house. There are therefore invaluable opportunities to develop commitment, active participation, loyalty and leadership as pupils progress through the school.
Facilities for all interests

The co-curricular life of Junior School is vital in developing the ‘whole’ child. Our diverse club and activity programme presents pupils with the opportunity to pursue their interests with enthusiasm and dedication. Whilst our programme covers the traditional music and sport, we aim to cater for everyone’s tastes. Inclusive participation is valued by the school and each child is encouraged to discover and hone their talents.

Junior School has three ICT suites, a science laboratory, an art room, a design and technology room, a food technology room, a dance and drama studio, a sports hall and a music room. Outside, there is a garden where pupils learn to grow and tend plants and each year group playground has appropriate equipment.

We have our own library and librarians and lessons in how to use the library begin in Year 3.

“When I visit Junior School I am impressed by the warmth and enthusiasm of the pupils and staff. The teaching and pastoral care pupils receive in Junior School clearly gives them a real head start, and makes for a solid foundation on which to build in the years ahead.”

MR STEPHEN GIBBIN, HEAD OF YEAR 7
A welcome from Mrs Woodroofe

In Senior School we welcome as many new pupils to GSAL as we do those from our own Junior School. As such, Year 7 marks the beginning of the next stage of your child’s learning journey from the age of eleven, with friends old and new.

The move is undoubtedly an exciting one: for the first time, lesson after lesson, students move from teacher to teacher, room to room, with more specialist equipment than ever before. Learning has never been so much fun, nor has it been more challenging!

GSAL also attracts pupils throughout the Senior School years and, as an open and friendly school, we welcome new students whenever they join us and wherever they come from.

But why choose the GSAL Senior School for your child? Our track record of academic success is tremendous, with students leaving Upper Sixth for the very best universities every year.

However, what matters is that every child is encouraged to be the best that they can be, to develop their own strengths and talents, and to feel nurtured and encouraged as part of a large family.

With an array of subjects on offer and a diamond model that brings out the best from girls and boys at different ages, GSAL is distinctive in so many ways. It also has an outstanding success rate in co-curricular achievements, including many students who play and perform on the national stage or playing field. GSAL is a school where our students shine in all areas; we are proud of everything that they achieve and everything that they become.

Mrs Sue Woodroofe
Principal
The pupils’ personal development is excellent. They show high levels of confidence and a healthy competitive spirit, encouraged by the house system, which promotes good self-motivation. Pupils demonstrate strong moral awareness, and highly developed social skills. Their cultural awareness is strong.
Learning for life

Our Senior School takes 11-year-old children and develops them into impressive young adults, academically accomplished and prepared for the wide range of choices and challenges that lie ahead.

Between the ages of 11 and 16 our pupils learn under the diamond model. This means that boys and girls are taught separately for their academic studies but mix freely at other times. We do this because it works! When teaching is adapted to take into account gender differences, the academic performance of all pupils improves.

The school is large enough to offer a rich choice of specialist activity within an unusually flexible curriculum. A generous teacher-pupil ratio, separate space for each year group and a lively house system all help create a friendly, close-knit atmosphere.

Your child will belong to a small form group, run by a tutor who meets the group at least twice a day. They will get to know your child well and will be your first and most informed point of contact with school. All tutors are contactable by email and will respond promptly to any questions and concerns from parents.

Putting high quality pastoral care first pays undoubted dividends. Pupils perform better by any measure, whether in or out of the classroom. They are more confident and optimistic, better behaved, more socially integrated and team orientated while remaining distinct, increasingly characterful individuals.

“Small teaching groups mean that teachers have time for everyone in the class so we feel supported in our learning.”

DANIEL, YEAR 11
The school provides an excellent curriculum that is well planned, wide-ranging and enriching, together with an outstanding variety of extra-curricular activities. It meets its aim of offering balanced education that is suitable for pupils of all ages, aptitudes and interests highly successfully.

“The structure of the GCSE curriculum at GSAL provides students with a wide range of opportunities, prepares them for future life, and promotes academic excellence. Our teachers have expectations that all children can progress, and strive to motivate them through creative, innovative teaching. Throughout GSAL we aim to develop both the learning habits and the mindset of our students, making them more effective learners and encouraging them to enjoy and embrace intellectual challenge.”

MR KEVIN CARSON, SENIOR DEPUTY HEAD (ACADEMIC)
Finding your niche

While our schemes of work are in general based on the national curriculum, as an independent school we are free from its constraints. This enables us to develop our own extension material to stimulate enquiring minds.

Our resulting broader, skills-based GCSE curriculum includes, for example, the compulsory study of a modern foreign language.

This more open approach to education enables us to tailor learning to a pupil’s individual abilities, interests and aspirations. We encourage pupils to take responsibility for their own academic development by managing their time and interests effectively. This emphasis on individual progression includes a comprehensive assessment and reporting system.

One of the many advantages of a large, well-resourced school is that we can support a varied and full programme of activities outside the classroom. Sport, music and drama are particular strengths and other recreational clubs and societies cater for more specialised interests.

We encourage all pupils to engage outside their year group by joining in a flourishing and dynamic house system. House events provide pupils with many opportunities to mix socially, have fun and ‘have a go’ as part of a team, irrespective of their ability.

The house system helps develop confidence through keen, but always friendly, competition in a range of events. Each Senior School and Sixth Form student is a member of one of eight houses. Each house has two house captains and another four deputy house captains offering plenty of scope for putting leadership, negotiation and persuasive talents to good use!
“Everyone should get involved in co-curricular activities because you can grow in confidence and push yourself to a higher level of skill you never thought you could achieve. In your house everyone is encouraging and enthusiastic, supporting you to join in and try something new.”

HOLLY, YEAR 10
Broadening experience for all

Our superb state-of-the-art teaching facilities include a multimedia library, ICT and intranet resources, science and language laboratories, art and design studios and dedicated food technology rooms.

We also have many facilities to support a varied and full programme of sporting, recreational, musical and artistic activities at school, and offer a range of trips and tours to broaden horizons academically, socially and culturally.

With the Yorkshire countryside on our doorstep, we offer an outdoor learning programme tailored to specific year groups in Senior School. Accompanied by our professional outdoor learning team, students head for the great outdoors in their form groups, to try new activities and physical challenges that build self-confidence and camaraderie with fellow pupils and show their teachers in a new light too!

Pupils can also venture further afield as part of a sports tour, music group or specialist society. For example, in the last couple of years Senior School and Sixth Form pupils have taken part in sports tours to South Africa, Dubai and Australia, while the choir has toured the Czech Republic, the scouts have explored the Alps and a group of hardy students and staff trekked in the Himalayas.

Our modern languages department offers visits and exchanges to destinations including the Rhineland area of Germany, Vitoria in the Basque country and Solesmes in northern France.

GSAL’s Malawi project has raised over £310,000 for Malawian charities since 1990, providing 16 classrooms, four libraries, two science labs, educational equipment and scholarships, medicines, funding for orphanages, four orphan centres, three nurseries, a feeding centre, transport for over 200 tons of aid equipment and supplies, financing of an outreach programme and much more. A biennial tour to the country offers senior students the unforgettable opportunity to visit the communities they have supported and lend a hand with practical projects.
Helping you make the right choices

In the Senior School we have a dedicated careers and higher education guidance team. The careers staff offer impartial guidance and an ‘open door’ policy with resources that are second to none.

All students receive formal careers education from Year 10 onwards, with informal discussion encouraged throughout. Students are given extra help at key transition stages such as choosing GCSE and A-level subjects and applying to university. Careers staff have input at every stage.

A programme of outside speakers covers a wide range of careers during the year. Students in Year 11 undertake a week’s work experience after their GCSE examinations.
GCSE subjects

At present students in Years 10 and 11 are studying the core curriculum subjects plus three further subjects of their own choosing:

CORE SUBJECTS
- English language
- English literature
- Mathematics
- Biology, chemistry and physics leading to the double science award
- A modern foreign language of the student’s choice
- Religious studies

SUBJECT OPTIONS
Any combination of three subjects from the following:
- Art and design
- Design technology (resistant materials)
- Drama
- Food technology
- Music
- Geography
- History
- Business studies
- Computing
- French
- German
- Spanish
- Latin

We review the curriculum regularly to ensure that the courses and qualifications offered are the best and most appropriate for our students, therefore the list above may be subject to variation in future.
Our sixth form programme combines academic excellence with enrichment opportunities and personal development.

A welcome from Mr Rushworth

For students who enjoy responding to challenges, who relish embracing new opportunities, who aspire to achieving their full potential and who are keen to study in an environment that will most effectively prepare them for life beyond school, there is no better place than the Sixth Form at The Grammar School at Leeds (GSAL).

Sixth form life involves a great deal more than simply academic study. At GSAL our sixth form programme combines academic excellence with enrichment opportunities and personal development. We believe this way forward is the best preparation for achieving a university place and succeeding in degree level studies while equipping young people for life after graduation.

The students enjoy excellent facilities and resources in a dedicated Sixth Form Centre, creating a real sense of community, whilst remaining an integral part of the school. Student leadership is actively encouraged as a way of providing our students with greater responsibility at the same time as helping them to develop crucial interpersonal skills.

The sixth form staff team is dedicated to providing the students with the best possible experience and in turn we have high expectations of our students and encourage them to be the best they can be.

I sincerely hope my colleagues and I have the opportunity to welcome you into this vibrant learning community in the very near future.

Mr Paul Rushworth
Director of Sixth Form
“Students are pushed above their perceived potential to achieve excellence in their chosen fields”

With a range of stimulating subjects and interesting courses, the sixth form curriculum at GSAL offers a fantastic way to develop a bright mind. The subject choices and combinations cater for all interests, whilst still providing subjects recognised by universities as intellectually rigorous.

With expert teaching staff, small teaching groups and superb learning resources, students are pushed above their perceived potential to achieve excellence in their chosen fields and thereby stand out in the competition for university places. All this is achieved without sacrificing the levels of enjoyment and interest all students develop for their chosen subjects and is complemented by a superb range of opportunities outside the classroom.
Unique opportunities

Whether a student is moving up from Senior School or joining us from elsewhere, Sixth Form at GSAL offers a high quality co-educational experience.

There is a choice of 22 A-level subjects, taught by highly qualified and experienced teachers. Each student is also a member of a small tutorial group, whose form tutor provides continuous academic and pastoral support.

Making the right subject choices is critical to success at A-level, however narrowing down the curriculum from 10 GCSE subjects to just three can be a difficult process. All students will choose four subjects at the start of Lower Sixth, which they will study until the end of the first term. At this stage they will be in a position to choose their preferred three subjects with confidence.

In addition to academic skills, universities and employers are seeking evidence of self-motivation, flexibility, problem-solving, communication skills, technological literacy, team working and leadership. We therefore offer students in Sixth Form additional opportunities – the Aspire programme and the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) – designed to equip students with these qualities and prepare them well for life after school.
An enhanced experience

Aspire

From January of Lower Sixth to December of Upper Sixth, students will participate in the Aspire programme which has been designed to provide Sixth Form students with every opportunity to broaden their horizons, experience fresh challenges and gain new skills to complement those which they develop during their academic studies.

The Aspire programme comprises three key elements:

- Weekly lecture series (in terms 2 and 3 of Lower Sixth) with a series of inspirational speakers sharing their life experiences
- Taught courses (timetabled in terms 2 and 3 of Lower Sixth and term 1 of Upper Sixth) offering opportunities to develop new skills and immerse yourself in a different type of learning
- One afternoon a week (throughout Lower Sixth and Upper Sixth) spent on a range of activities (including many sports, voluntary service and primary school pupil mentoring)

Each student will be allocated a project supervisor in school and will have access to excellent learning resources and training in research skills, both in school and at local universities through a partnership working arrangement.

EPQ

Students in Lower Sixth can also opt to undertake the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ). The EPQ is a self-directed research project, giving students the chance to stretch themselves academically and investigate a topic of their choice. Normally presented as a 5,000 word dissertation, the EPQ is equivalent to half an A-level, and will demonstrate to university admissions tutors that you have independent study skills and interests beyond the core curriculum.

Each student will be allocated a project supervisor in school and will have access to excellent learning resources and training in research skills, both in school and at local universities through a partnership working arrangement.

A-level success 2015

Cumulative percentages of grades achieved by subject area

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject Area</th>
<th>Percentage of A* to B grades achieved</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Languages</td>
<td>91%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>88%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geography</td>
<td>89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics &amp; Economics</td>
<td>83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business Studies</td>
<td>82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law</td>
<td>81%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government &amp; Politics</td>
<td>78%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religious Studies</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biology</td>
<td>78%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemistry</td>
<td>78%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physics</td>
<td>78%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemistry</td>
<td>78%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Design</td>
<td>78%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information Technology</td>
<td>78%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Art &amp; design</td>
<td>78%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>French</td>
<td>78%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Developing potential

All Sixth Form students have superb co-curricular opportunities. They may want to develop an existing interest or try something completely new, even taking a lead by running clubs and teams for younger pupils.

In Sixth Form, students are ambassadors for the school and will be provided with opportunities for leadership, perhaps by running house events, organising faith assemblies, supporting younger pupils or showing visitors around the school.

Relationships between staff and students are based on mutual respect and our commitment to helping individual students fulfil their potential.

We recognise a naturally increasing need for independence and self-expression. For example, there is no requirement to wear school uniform, but as good role models students are expected to follow a dress code that communicates a professional approach to study and high aspirations for the future.

We expect students to take individual responsibility for all their decisions and actions, work to the best of their abilities, and make the most of what is on offer in the Sixth Form.
Outstanding facilities

Our superb, welcoming, purpose-built Sixth Form Centre provides the physical and social base of the Sixth Form at GSAL.

Its many facilities for the exclusive use of Sixth Form students include a café for refreshments, snacks and lunches, a quiet study area with ICT facilities and internet access, careers office, indoor and outdoor social/relaxation areas and personal lockers.

The centre is open before and after the formal school day. The rest of the school is easily accessible for lessons, study, sport, drama, music, art and a whole range of other activities.

We want students to regard the Sixth Form Centre as a base within which they will find friendly support and encouragement from fellow students and staff alike.

Students in Sixth Form have access to all Senior School facilities including:

- The Lawson Library
- Sports pitches and indoor sport facilities
- Fully equipped fitness room
- Swimming pool
- Refectory
- Assembly hall (including extensive lighting and sound) for performances
- Laboratories and workshops
- Art and music facilities
- Theatre
- Studios, practice and rehearsal rooms
Study and exam success is important, but increasingly universities and employers want people who can also offer more than just academic achievement. We help to develop potential leaders, innovators, and creators of change.

The key to this development is participation in the many non-academic pursuits on offer in the Sixth Form. An impressive number of our students excel at local, regional, national and even international level in their chosen co-curricular pursuits.

Sports are very popular; the choice here is wide and standards are high. Music and drama are equally strong, with Sixth Form students taking a leading role in many productions and performances.

Intellectual societies and discussion groups regularly attract high calibre external speakers. Students can join the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme, the Leeds Enterprise Advisory Programme (LEAP) or one of several initiatives that lend a hand to voluntary, charitable and community organisations.

In Sixth Form, students spend Wednesday afternoons out of the classroom engaged in a variety of activities to complement their academic studies.

“Whether your co-curricular interests lie in sport, the arts, debating or anything else, there really is something for everyone at GSAL. For me, participation in a wide range of music ensembles has enabled me to pursue a passion outside the classroom and get to know others who share my interests. Taking part in school activities is a great way to clear your mind doing something you enjoy before you return to the books!”

FRANCES, HEAD GIRL
Broadening horizons

In the Sixth Form there are many opportunities for students to see the world and enrich their educational and life experiences.

Students of modern languages have the opportunity to enhance their linguistic skills and experience another culture with trips and exchanges to France, Germany and Spain. Geographers and biologists undertake fieldwork in destinations ranging from the Swiss Alps to the Yorkshire coast, while a trip to Washington DC is an established fixture for students of government and politics.

Members of our senior sports teams are accustomed to travel, with successful track records in many national competitions. They also enjoy competing further afield, and have enjoyed overseas tours to destinations including Australia, South Africa, Sri Lanka and Portugal.

GSAL’s Malawi project has given hundreds of students the unforgettable experience of visiting communities in the country to see how their fundraising in the UK translates to vital food and supplies.

Lovers of the great outdoors have the opportunity to explore with scouts, through the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme and on treks; whether it’s Helvellyn or the Himalayas the students take on a significant personal challenge and gain a great sense of achievement and camaraderie along the way.

House system

The driver for many co-curricular activities is our highly popular house system, which operates throughout the school.

The house system enables all ages to mix, work as teams, and have fun irrespective of personal ability. In the Sixth Form the house system offers opportunities to develop leadership and interpersonal skills by working with younger pupils in a variety of competitive and enjoyable events.

The annual programme of house events extends far beyond sports. It also includes music, drama, dance, debating, cooking, quizzes and ingenious subject challenges, while new competitions are added to the calendar regularly.
Lifelong experiences

The culture of energy, optimism and friendliness that prevails in the Sixth Form is something that comes from the students. It can be encouraged but not taught. Students will be supported by an experienced team of professionals throughout the Sixth Form - one of our roles is to ensure that the transition to university (and beyond) is successful.

The role of the form tutor

Each Sixth Form entrant will join a small tutor group led by a form tutor who is a subject specialist. Students will see their form tutor daily at registration, and should they need to seek advice, guidance or simply talk to him or her at other times, there will be plenty of opportunities throughout the day. In Lower Sixth every student has the opportunity to attend a residential course with their form group and tutor as part of the school’s outdoor learning programme. They will enjoy a range of activities to develop leadership and team working in a safe and supportive environment.

The form tutor will help to manage each student’s welfare and progress, provide a sympathetic ear if needed and make sure he or she is well informed and advised, especially regarding university application.

The form tutor will monitor academic work and meet with individual students regularly to address any concerns that they or their teachers might have about progress.

Students can also access advice from specialist staff - for example, our careers team can offer guidance through the process of applying to university and can advise on how to prepare for a specific university’s entrance test and interview. In an increasingly competitive university and careers market our care and expertise make a genuine difference. Our internal procedures ensure that all aspects of the UCAS application process are closely monitored and suitably targeted for each individual.

Students leaving our Sixth Form have an impressive record of getting where they want to be. 91% of 2015 leavers went on to higher education, with 65% of the cohort securing places at Russell Group universities.

We work together to ensure that GSAL Sixth Form is a welcoming, professional and friendly environment within which each student is valued as an integral and influential member of a successful team.

---

Leavers’ destinations 2015

Figures refer to the higher education (HE) destinations of the class of 2015 (cohort 201 students)

- 76% progress to HE in the UK
- 14 achieve Oxbridge places (plus 3 from the class of 2014)
- 12 secure places for medicine, dentistry or veterinary science
- 12 achieve places at Russell Group universities
- 65% achieve places at Russell Group universities
- 91% progress to HE in the UK
- 100% success rate for those who applied for HE courses
- 12 will study for degrees in engineering or architecture
- 9 will read law at university
- 100% success rate for those who applied for HE courses
14 leavers secured Oxbridge places in 2015
Thinking about the future

The overwhelming majority of our Sixth Form students progress to higher education. We recognise that many factors have to be considered when making decisions: which course, which university, whether to take a gap year, how to fund it all and where to live. Our specialist careers and higher education coordinators can give individual students all the advice and information they need. Some have specific responsibility for Oxbridge entry, and others for liaison with many businesses and professions.

Together with form tutors, they will ensure that each application is appropriate for that particular student and as strong as possible. Our aim is to do as much as we can to help students make the right decisions about their future career or vocation.

Some leavers may not want to go to university, preferring to follow their own path whether entering employment or starting out on their own. We can help here too, through our wide network of regional and national contacts in many sectors.

Helping students to prepare

In Lower Sixth students will be invited to take the Centigrade test, which profiles their interests and strengths and suggests suitable higher education courses. The test doesn’t commit them to anything but it can help to refine course choices, or identify alternatives if students want to widen their options.

We provide specialist advice to candidates for Oxford and Cambridge, and to those applying for medicine and dentistry. We have a good Oxbridge record with 14 Upper Sixth leavers gaining places in 2015.

From the start of Lower Sixth, we encourage students to use the UCAS website to research courses and check entry requirements against their qualifications and achievements. We also offer mock interview opportunities and help with preparation for entry tests.
Tutors know their pupils well and are able to provide highly effective help, especially at key decision points.

“The support from the teachers even outside lesson hours is superb and it is a testament to their teaching quality that not only have I achieved A grades in Chemistry but it is now my favourite subject. The atmosphere is very positive overall and the co-curricular opportunities on offer – for example, the CREST Gold Award Programme for science students like myself – are invaluable when applying to university.”

ALEXANDRA, UPPER SIXTH
How to apply

It’s easy to apply for a place at The Grammar School at Leeds (GSAL). Once you’ve had a look through our prospectus, simply complete the online application form which you will find on our website at www.gsal.org.uk/admissions/how-to-apply.

Although our main selection process takes place at the end of January for admission the following September, you can apply at any time of year. We routinely receive applications from parents who have just moved into the area as well as those who wish to move school for other reasons. Subject to our usual selection criteria, and available places, we are happy to welcome new pupils mid year.

Please contact Mrs Angela Boult, Admissions Manager, on 0113 228 5121 or by email admissions@gsal.org.uk

Sixth Form

The admissions process to our Sixth Form is straightforward. It starts with an invitation to visit us, so that you can see our superb facilities for yourself and talk informally to members of staff and current students. We offer prospective students the opportunity to come for a taster day to see for themselves what life is like in the GSAL Sixth Form. You’re welcome to make an individual appointment or you may prefer to come to one of our regular Sixth Form information evenings, designed to ensure that everything you need to see and everyone you might want to talk to is available. Please contact us, or check our website for details of the next information evening.

Our Director of Sixth Form will be happy to meet by appointment with parents and students who would like to know more about GSAL Sixth Form.
Please do not let your financial circumstances prevent you from making an application if you believe your son or daughter would do well here. We have a number of means-tested bursaries to help families, which are subject to performance in our entrance assessment. Bursaries are available for new pupils joining us in Year 7 and the Lower Sixth.

What our alumni say:

“While the school helped me get the grades and skills I needed to become a journalist, it gave me more than just a great education: it taught me to be confident, determined, and hard-working.”

ELLIE, GSAL 2010

“GSAL has played an incredibly important role in my life. The high quality of teaching was a key factor in enabling me to attend an excellent university while the superb support from staff was paramount in building further skills and confidence from my co-curricular interests.”

JOSH, GSAL 2011
Come and see us

For further information regarding admissions for all areas of school, please contact our Admissions Manager, Mrs Angela Boult, who will be happy to assist you through the application process.

We strongly encourage you to see the school for yourself and to meet our staff and pupils.

There are lots of opportunities to visit; you can come to an Open Day, arrange a taster day or have a personalised tour.

We have several open events each term and the dates can be found on our website which also has further information regarding entry to the school. Visit www.gsal.org.uk.

We would love to welcome you and show you around.

Contact: Mrs Angela Boult, Admissions Manager
Tel: 0113 228 5121
Email: admissions@gsal.org.uk
Web: www.gsal.org.uk
How to find us

The Grammar School at Leeds
Alwoodley Gates
Harrogate Road
Leeds
LS17 8GS

Telephone: 0113 229 1552
Email: admissions@gsal.org.uk
Web: www.gsal.org.uk

Rose Court Nursery & Pre-Prep School
Buckingham Road
Headingley
Leeds
LS6 1BP

Telephone: 0113 274 4000
Email: admissions@gsal.org.uk
Web: www.gsal.org.uk
Thank you

“A determination to succeed”

The main reason my parents sent me to Leeds Grammar School, now GSAL, is because they wanted me to have an advantage.

Growing up in Leeds, my life was fairly modest, however my parents were determined that a good education was a gateway to a better life, and they were willing to make tough sacrifices to ensure I had that chance. I was acutely aware of the opportunity I had been given, both by the school and my parents, and I was determined not to take it for granted, challenging myself to try new things, work hard, and keep focused.

GSAL has been a huge support for me, helping me fulfil my ambitions. Without GSAL’s academic support, there is little chance that I would now be studying at Balliol College, Oxford; without GSAL’s thriving music scene, I could not have been the leader of the City of Leeds Youth Orchestra; and without the friendly atmosphere created by the students of GSAL, there’s no doubt I would be a very different person too. GSAL truly has been a door-opener for me.

So, I can affirm that GSAL does give its students an advantage: it delivers a world class education, it provides better teaching, better resources, and better opportunities than could be found anywhere else. But its willingness to support those who are willing to work, regardless of financial background, ensures equity and fairness as well. I owe a tremendous thanks to the school.

Matthew, former pupil