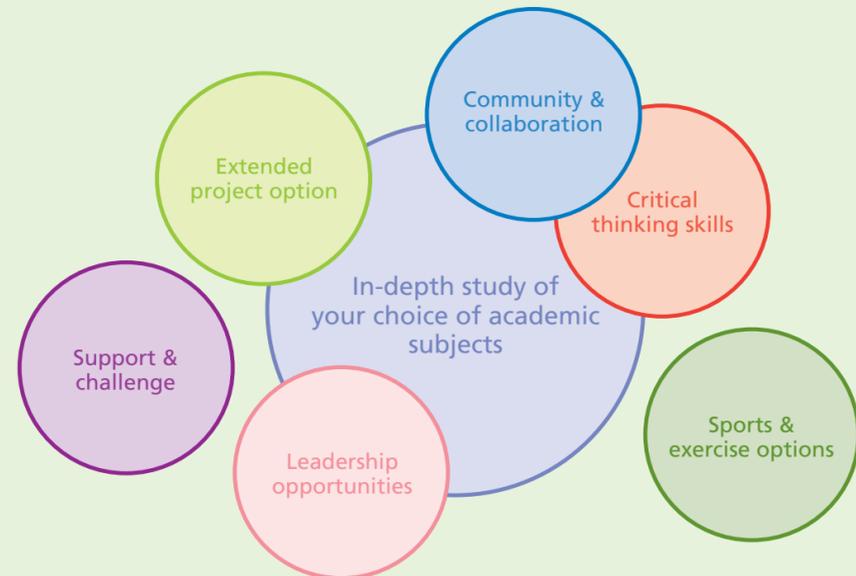


## A GDST Sixth Form – the heart of a great education

Sixth Formers enjoy an exciting and comprehensive offer with the GDST. What other schools provide is just the starting point for us.

### Here's what you get for starters:



- A **wide range of subjects**, many of which aren't readily available elsewhere. If you want to study a particular subject, or a particular combination, we'll do everything we can to make it happen for you
- An **extended project option** fosters independent learning and research skills, and provides a professional platform for university applications
- A wide range of opportunities to **get involved** in clubs and activities as well as in your local community, and trips and expeditions such as Duke of Edinburgh
- Broad choices in **sport and exercise**, whether you want to compete or simply stay fit and healthy
- Opportunities for **leadership** roles: the Head Girls' team; mentoring younger pupils; contributing to the school's development via its Student Council; running clubs and societies; directing drama productions; and leadership development activities organised centrally by the GDST
- **Care and support** when you need it

In short, you get a great academic offer, with a track record of results that is the envy of other schools. You get fulfilling extra-curricular and community activities. You get outstanding personal support. And you get the chance to develop leadership and other qualities in yourself that will take you right through life.

We're very proud of what we have to offer. Our girls love it. And we hope you will, too.

Yet at a **GDST** school, you get so much **more...**

### A word to parents

We want your daughter to feel excited about applying for a Sixth Form place at one of our schools – but we hope we've convinced you, too.

You want her to succeed, and so do we. You want her to grow in character and confidence, and so do we. Most of all, you want her to be happy – and so do we.

The support she'll get is outstanding – not just from her teachers, but from our support staff, from former pupils, and from the GDST's central resources. She'll also be able to rely upon her peers: GDST girls look out for one another, not just at school, but right through life.

And finally, of course, she'll have your support, too. Parents make a huge difference, supporting our schools, and doing everything they can to encourage independent learning and thinking in their daughters.

**Parents want the best for their girls. And the best you can do is to give them a Sixth Form education with the GDST.**

### The next step...

**So there you have it. You won't get everything the GDST offers at other schools, and we believe you won't do better. So please get in touch, and find out more.**

**Step up to a brighter future with the GDST.**



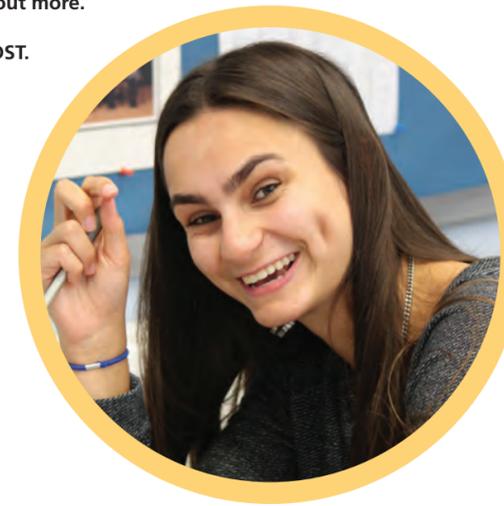
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# Step up!

What being a GDST Sixth Former is all about...



A GDST Sixth Form isn't just about the outstanding education we provide – although our results speak for themselves – it's also about everything else we do to give girls a headstart in their adult lives.

**Why are we special? Because we have a track record in girls' education – 140 years, and counting. Because of our breadth: we're the largest network of independent girls' schools in the country, with greater resources than anyone else.**

**It's also because we know that success in life isn't only about great results, but about happiness, friendship, resilience, leadership and confidence. And it's because we buzz with energy: no one wants girls to thrive more than we do, and no one puts more effort and creativity into achieving it.**

**Ask any GDST Sixth Former and she'll tell you how different it is. Sure, you'll dress differently, and you'll have your own spaces. But it's more than this. Your relationships with your teachers change, too. It's more collegiate, and you take more responsibility for your own learning (and your own time management!). It's a real stepping-stone to higher education, and beyond.**



GDST Sixth Form.  
The best place to be.  
The best education you can get.  
The best friends you'll find.  
And the best start in adult life you'll get – anywhere.

## Support network

**In a GDST Sixth Form, you can call on support from beyond your own school community.**

The **CareerStart** programme provides vital skills to succeed in life outside the classroom. It gives you an edge when applying for university, and in searching for work placements and gap-year opportunities. Practical sessions help with interviews, with memory and presentation skills, and with the basics of independent life such as personal budgeting.

It also gives you a boost in the resilience, negotiation, leadership, teamwork, enterprise and creative skills you'll need, not just in higher education, but throughout your working life.

GDST Sixth Formers can also access wide and willing support. The **GDST Alumnae Network** brings together 70,000 former pupils from across all generations, and across all our schools. No other single school or organisation has a network anything like it – and it's yours to plug into.

It helps you with first-hand experience of universities and careers. It helps with work experience, with internships, and with life skills. It's a practical head start in a big and busy world.

**Why? Because our alumnae, like you, are and always will be part of the GDST.**



## Learning to lead

**How can anyone find her leadership potential, unless she's given the opportunity to put it to the test?**

The GDST has a **Student Council**, with a representative from each school acting as a conduit between pupils and the Trust. On the Council, you'll develop your ability to listen, engage with others, and develop a plan of action to benefit the whole GDST community.

Our Sixth Formers can also participate in our **Young Leaders' Conference**. Once a year, senior GDST students come together for a long weekend, during which they work in teams on a real-life charity project. Along the way, they get inspirational advice first-hand from well-known leadership figures – and the event culminates in presentations highlighting their individual contributions.

Communications, coaching, creativity and other leadership skills are invaluable.

**No one else is as determined to bring out your instincts and abilities for leadership as the GDST.**

## Giving you a competitive edge

**Every year GDST girls go on to study at some of the top universities in the UK, US, and Europe. The rounded education our Sixth Forms offer means our students go on to some of the leading art, music and drama institutions too, and are accepted on competitive school-leaver programmes at prestigious organisations like the BBC and EY.**

We have a great track record in helping our Sixth Formers achieve the universities and careers of their choice. The extent of our support is formidable.

Girls aspiring to Oxford or Cambridge can get a taste of life there at our annual **Oxbridge Conference**. They benefit from presentations by leading figures not just from the two universities, but from our own schools, from business, and beyond. They're helped with interview technique, and also with building their confidence and resilience. We also have courses to help prepare for pre-interview admissions tests.

## Links with global businesses

Over the years, the GDST has developed relationships with a handful of select employers who recognise what GDST alumnae can offer their business.

**PwC, Rolls-Royce, Aberdeen Asset Management, The Royal Opera House, Ericsson and Gardiner & Theobald** have all hosted insight days to help Sixth Formers understand the range and complexity of their businesses, and the variety of roles within them.

In addition to the Nomura GDST Scholarship, the global investment bank, **Nomura**, also offers:

- an interactive 'Introduction to Banking' day for Year 12s
- 'First Step' programme, with ten places for GDST students in Years 12 or 13
- technology scholarships for Year 13 students

For more information on these go to [www.gdst.net/internships](http://www.gdst.net/internships)



We give more specific advice and guidance too. If you want to read **medicine**, or **law**, we run courses to help you prepare for specialist aptitude tests.

Our teaching staff have years of experience in preparing girls for university entrance – and so does the GDST as a whole. We pool our resources to help everyone as much as we can.

**For the course, the university and the career you want, we'll give you the edge you need.**

## "Will I fit in?"

**It's sometimes assumed only privileged people can apply to GDST schools. That's simply not true. We welcome applications from bright, keen girls, whatever their situation.**

Many of our Sixth Formers benefit from **bursaries** and **scholarships** that help towards their fees – and individual schools also offer their own **prizes** and **awards**, recognising individual achievement in specific academic subjects, or in music, drama, sport – or right across the board.

A number of our bursaries and scholarships are funded via charitable partnerships, and by donations and legacies from our former pupils, their parents and other friends. For instance, the **HSBC Scholarship Programme** supports girls joining our Sixth Forms from state schools.

You might be concerned about moving schools, or that you won't fit in. Don't be. Our Sixth Formers have a wide variety of backgrounds and cultures. They're as approachable as you are, and will warmly welcome you.

**So whether you've been through a GDST school, or you're joining us from somewhere else, you'll be made to feel at home.**



**"Finding your passion is something the GDST values – from there, reaching your potential is easy..."**

Sixth Former

## GDST prizes

As well as individual school awards, there are GDST prizes and scholarships available exclusively to our Sixth Formers. These range from travel to classics, law, poetry and all-round achievement.

Visit [www.gdst.net](http://www.gdst.net) to find out more.



## The best education

**GDST Sixth Formers consistently achieve twice as many A\* and A grades at A Level as the national average – and more than independent schools as a whole.**

They thrive because of the **quality of our teaching** and because of our supportive and encouraging environment. Our girls-only policy is also a factor: experience tells us girls not only work better, but develop more rapidly, and have more confidence to empower themselves, in a mutually supportive environment.

Don't take our word for it, though. Listen to some of our Sixth Formers:

**"It's great... You're not shut off from boys, or from other girls. But in school, you're allowed to be yourself."**

**"Girls often undervalue themselves. GDST schools really help them with that. Mine has given me confidence and a belief in myself I never would have thought I could have."**



## Results

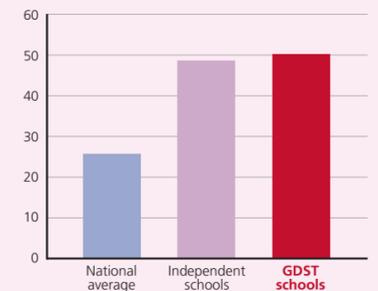
GDST A Level students

Nearly **60%** take one or more **STEM** (science, technology, engineering or maths) subject

Nearly **20%** take one or more **languages**

Over **20%** take an extended project qualification (**EPQ**)

% of A\* / A grades at A Level - 2016



**50.2%** of A Levels were graded A\* or A  
**79.0%** of A Levels were graded A\*, A or B

Our schools are individually **committed to excellence** – and as part of a nationwide group, they share their individual strengths.

At a GDST school, you'll be part of a community of girls like you – hard-working, driven, intellectually curious, but with a great sense both of fun and of commitment to the wider community.

**A GDST Sixth Form education will help you achieve the best results you could hope for – and give you the confidence and skills to build on that success right through life.**