



When a girl joins a Girls' Day School Trust (GDST) school or academy, she becomes part of an exclusive community dedicated to empowering young women with the four Cs of a GDST education – courage, confidence, composure and commitment – ready for whatever future she chooses.

A community that encompasses not just her own school but also 25 sister schools and academies across England and Wales. A community where girls can join nearly 70,000 women in the GDST Alumnae Network, who provide a range of resources and social and professional contacts to help every girl as she makes her way in the world.

The Girls' Day School Trust is the UK's largest group of independent girls' schools, a **national leader** in girls' education. GDST schools and academies share an ethos and a proud heritage of girls-only education and are members of a **unique network**. Our students outperform their peers in public exams, but we strongly believe there's so much more to a truly **broad** and **balanced education** than just stellar

exam results. At our schools, girls can **collaborate** and **compete** with their peers in other GDST schools, taking part in Trust-wide events, rallies, performances and activities ranging from art, sport, music and creative writing through to foreign languages, debating, enterprise and digital technology, and even a nationwide bake-off.

Choosing a GDST school offers the peace of mind that comes from knowing your daughter's school is part of an organisation with an unparalleled track record of **achievement** and **stability**. A charitable organisation, based on enduring values and with over 140 years' **expertise** in girls' education, that always strives to put the needs and wellbeing of our **girls first**, and a place "where girls can".



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Schools

- 1 Blackheath High School
- 2 Brighton & Hove High School
- 3 Bromley High School
- 4 Croydon High School
- 5 Howell's School, Llandaff, Cardiff
- 6 Ipswich High School
- 7 Kensington Prep School
- 8 Newcastle High School for Girls
- 9 Northampton High School
- 10 Northwood College for Girls
- 11 Norwich High School for Girls
- 12 Nottingham Girls' High School
- 13 Notting Hill & Ealing High School
- 14 Oxford High School
- 15 Portsmouth High School
- 16 Putney High School
- 17 The Royal High School, Bath
- 18 Sheffield High School
- 19 Shrewsbury High School
- 20 South Hampstead High School
- 21 Streatham & Clapham High School
- 22 Sutton High School
- 23 Sydenham High School
- 24 Wimbledon High School

Academies

- 25 The Belvedere Academy, Liverpool
- 26 Birkenhead High School Academy



Where
 girls
 can.

An introduction to the GDST

Delivering excellent all-round education for girls

Who are we?

The GDST is the UK's **leading network** of independent girls' schools. There are nearly 20,000 pupils in our schools and academies throughout England and Wales. All but two GDST schools educate pupils from the age of three to 18.

Why girls only?

Experience has taught us girls work better, develop more readily, and have more confidence to stretch themselves, in an environment where the self-consciousness of childhood and adolescence is less intense. They learn and grow as young women, in a **mutually supportive atmosphere**.

How does the GDST work?

Each of our schools and academies is different but, like a family, each shares some mutual DNA. Running through them all is the belief that **each girl is unique** and needs to be encouraged and channelled in her own way. Our excellent teachers bring out the best in her – and what's more, so does the school as a whole. It's a supportive environment, yes – but a refreshing and challenging one, too.

Who, why, how. But we know one last question that is the biggest one of all. **What can we do for your daughter?** Why not visit a GDST school and find out.

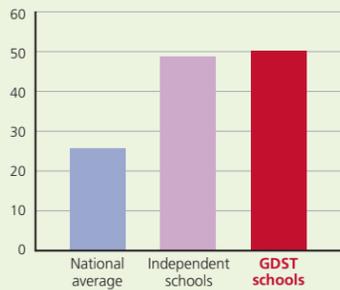
Results

We are proud of the academic attainments of our girls, and of the **consistent successes** they achieve.

GDST girls **outperform** not just the general population of pupils, but specifically those from the rest of the independent school sector.

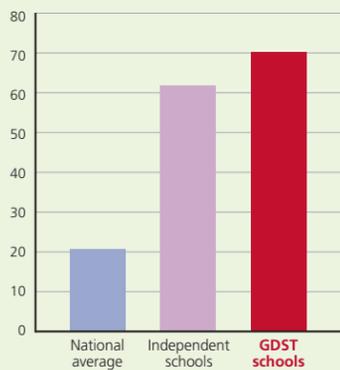
The vast majority of GDST Sixth Formers go on to their choice of higher education, over two thirds of them to the 24 leading (Russell Group) **universities**, and many also defy gender stereotypes: over 40% of our A Level students go on to study science, technology, engineering, maths, medicine or related subjects. The all-round education our schools and academies offer means every year our girls join some of the UK's leading **art, music and drama** institutions too, and are accepted on competitive school leaver programmes with prestigious organisations like the BBC and EY.

% 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

% of A* / A grades at GCSE and IGCSE - 2016



70.1% of GCSEs and IGCSEs were graded A* or A

Our values

Our core values set out how we go about our work and the kind of organisation we want to be.

Girls first: Put the girls' interests, happiness and wellbeing first at all times. Encourage each girl to be the best she can be, to reach her full potential.

Networked: Work together productively within our schools, our communities and within the GDST as a whole. Share inspiration among ourselves and with others.

Bold: Take risks, push hard and overcome setbacks. Do things in a new way. Have a go. Have fun.

Principled: Always do the right thing. Be open, honest and accountable.

A radical history

In 1872, most girls could expect little or no formal education beyond basic literacy and numeracy, and little or no choice of careers. So setting up schools where girls can enjoy an academically rigorous education was revolutionary.

Our first school opened in Chelsea in 1873, and over the next 30 years many more schools were set up in London and other English cities. Schools were founded in response to requests from local people, who became shareholders in what was then the Girls' Public Day School Company. In 1905 the Company was restructured as a Limited Trust, and later as a limited company with **charitable status**.

The Trust evolved through the 20th century, while the schools put down roots at the heart of their communities. In 2007, our **innovative approach** led to The Belvedere in Liverpool becoming the first independent school to become an academy, followed two years later by Birkenhead High School.

Since our foundation the GDST has never wavered in our **commitment** to equipping girls to succeed. That is why, over 140 years on, we are still leading girls' education.

Our aims

We are a **thriving network** of girls' schools, each school providing an **enriching** and **challenging** education for all its pupils

We do this by:

- **Leading in girls' education:** making sure every one of our schools and academies offers the best education at every age and stage
- **Sustaining an innovative and high performance culture:** creating experts and leaders and encouraging creativity and original thinking among our staff and students, enabling and empowering them to be their best and work together
- **Embedding social responsibility:** broadening access and being recognised as a good neighbour in the communities we serve
- **Developing confident women for the future:** encouraging resourcefulness, resilience, risk-taking and emotional wellbeing, developing skills to prepare students for the 21st century workplace

The power of the network

The four Cs of a GDST education

GDST standards, academically, pastorally, in sports, music, drama, and in many other ways, are among the highest in the country. We are experts in educating girls, and our name is a hallmark of quality.

We understand the challenges that women still face in life and work, so our unique **CareerStart** programme equips GDST girls with vital skills – negotiation, leadership, teamwork, enterprise, creativity and more – to succeed.

Our ultimate aim is that our girls leave us imbued with the four Cs of a GDST education – **confidence, composure, courage and commitment**.

The GDST Alumnae Network – a lifelong friend

Every GDST girl automatically becomes a member of our 70,000-strong Alumnae Network which provides a range of resources and social and professional contacts to help her make her way in the world.

This includes ex-pupils currently at university who advise on life there and the courses on offer, professionals who share expertise and ideas, and access to industry networking groups to give the inside scoop on different careers.

Sharing expertise, widening opportunities

Our size and scope allows us to develop and promote talented teachers throughout our network. Staff benefit from GDST-wide training, and sharing knowledge and best practice between schools is encouraged.

Our girls too enjoy **collaborating** and **competing** with their peers in other schools, taking part in GDST-wide events, rallies, performances and prizes.

We seek to educate promising girls, whatever their financial means, focusing our **bursaries** on those for whom the chance of a GDST education would be a transformative, life-changing prospect.

GDST schools also aim to work closely with their **local communities**, providing masterclasses, summer schools, mentoring arrangements and more.

Our ongoing support for our two GDST academies typifies our continuing commitment to access and inclusion, providing beacons of educational excellence available to all.

The financial stability to invest in the future

Our commitment is to our current and future students, not shareholders. All our income goes in to our schools for the benefit of pupils, and we make sure to maintain a **sound financial base**.

The GDST provides **strategic leadership** and closely monitors our schools' performance. We supply our schools with a range of services to share expertise, enhance efficiency and reduce costs.

Our **investment** in a high performing infrastructure and technology ensures that our pupils leave school with ICT and new media skills for the modern world.

As a charity, any surplus is reinvested in our education, mainly in **maintaining** and **improving** our schools' buildings and facilities.

As one of the UK's largest educational charities, you can have confidence in our **long-term resilience** and ability to rise to any future challenges – bringing invaluable **peace of mind** in testing times.

