

# Welcome to Garth Hill College



We are passionate  
about our young people and  
the community that we serve.

A modern, successful secondary school providing  
a first-class education in the heart of Bracknell



The Lexicon Shopping

GH6 Sixth Form Centre

*What a fantastic setting, all of the  
pupils looked calm and settled.*

*Student Teacher*



# Welcome

Thank you for taking the time to consider working with us. Garth Hill is a happy and vibrant place of learning. We are proud to be a genuinely comprehensive school and offer a wide and diverse range of excellent opportunities, inside and outside the classroom, that we believe enable our young people to develop exceptionally well both academically and personally. We work in a great learning environment and benefit from superb facilities (we also have our own TARDIS for student voice). We hope that you will be very interested in joining us and becoming a member of the Garth Hill team.



## Aims and Vision

*"A modern, successful secondary school providing a first-class education in the heart of Bracknell"*

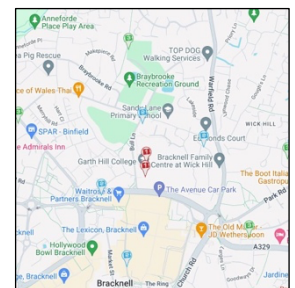
The pursuit of excellence is our purpose. As an ambitious and aspirational comprehensive school, we support every child, irrespective of background or circumstance, to achieve their very best. A wide and diverse range of rich opportunities inspire and promote the development of the whole person. Our aim is to grow well-rounded, confident and ambitious young people, with great aspirations for the future; and the aptitude, determination and commitment to go on and achieve well in life as active and responsible global citizens.

- *Ambition with excellence as standard*
- *Developing the whole child*
- *Inclusive and inspirational*



## The Local Area

Bracknell is located in the heart of Berkshire, 30 miles west of London and 10 miles to the east of Reading. Garth Hill is located on the edge of the town centre, a short walk from the railway station and a five-minute drive from rural countryside. The town itself is a thriving commercial centre with headquarters of many national and international companies. Transport links are good and allow staff to live within a large geographical area. The M3 and M4 motorways are each within ten minutes of the College. There is a direct rail link to London Waterloo or via Reading (a fast train to London Paddington). London airports are within easy reach.



Bracknell centre has recently undergone a £240m regeneration named the Lexicon, including restaurants and a new 12 screen 4DX cinema. Travelling to The Oracle in Reading, The Meadows in Camberley or to other shopping centres at Guildford, Slough and Windsor is straightforward. The South Hill Park Arts Centre in Bracknell comprises a theatre, cinema and galleries. Centrally there is a 10-screen cinema, bowling alley, night club and many restaurants and pubs. Sporting and leisure facilities include a Sports Centre with three swimming pools, indoor halls and an outdoor athletics track. The recently refurbished Coral Reef watersports 'funpool' and the Lookout, a local heritage centre, are on the edge of the town.



## Staff Well-Being, Support and Development

There is a clear staff well-being strategy. The staff well-being group meet regularly to inform plans and decisions. We are also committed to investing in staff and providing the best professional development opportunities. The College has an induction programme for all new staff and early career teachers, and the support we provide to ITT and early career teachers is highly regarded. A range of support and professional development opportunities are available at Garth Hill College. These include:

- A comprehensive Induction programme for ECTs and new staff
- Allocation of a professional mentor (ECTs)
- Personal mentor/Learning Partner programme (all staff)
- A supportive and emotionally literate leadership and management and strong staff camaraderie
- Regular staff meetings
- An extensive in-house INSET Programme
- External INSET opportunities
- An active Staff Association





## Support in Relocating

There are a number of estate agents in Bracknell, Reading and the surrounding areas with a good selection of property to buy or rent. Please also refer to these website for assistance:

- <https://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/housing/looking-housing/buying-your-first-home>
- or the national site <https://www.helptobuyportal.org.uk>

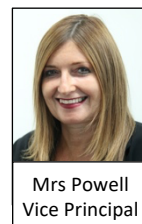


## Management and Organisation

The Senior Leadership Team (SLT) comprises the Principal, a Vice Principal, seven Assistant Principals and Associate Assistant Principal. The College's Senior Team comprises the SLT along with the Senior Teachers, Business, Administration and Site Managers.



Mr Grainger  
Principal



Mrs Powell  
Vice Principal

The College is organised into six schools. Each school is led by an Assistant Principal ('Head of School').

On the main site, there are four 'schools' each home to a faculty and one of the College's pastoral 'houses':

- School of Human, Creative and Physical Studies and Home of Haversham House
- School of Languages and Communications and Home of Lawrence House
- School of Mathematics and Information Studies and Home of Fielden House
- School of Science and Technology and Home of Brownlow House



Each faculty is led by a Faculty Leader and there are also subject leaders for each of the subjects within the faculty. Each pastoral 'house' is led by a Head of House.

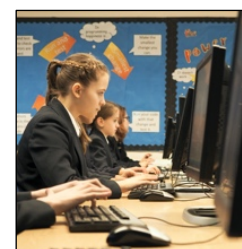
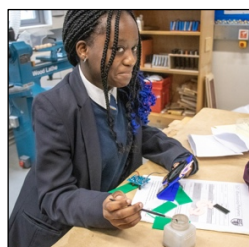
The fifth school is the Sixth Form. The sixth school is the School of Supported Learning comprising all aspects of mainstream and specialist Special Educational Needs (SEND) provision including Rise@GHC.



## Facilities

A complete £40m re-build of the college was completed in Summer 2010. Facilities include large classrooms, cabled and wireless ICT network access in all learning spaces, a theatre auditorium with bleacher seating, drama and dance studios, technology/manufacturing centre, specialist vocational catering kitchens, music suite with recording studio, a well-equipped gym, fitness room and a floodlit G3 artificial pitch. A new Sixth Form centre was opened in September 2015 and Rise@GHC, specialist provision for SEN learners with ASC, was also opened in 2015.

IT support is first rate and all staff and pupils have email and Internet access. All staff are supported by a 'Print Room' team who undertake photocopying and other services such as the preparation of teaching materials and laminating. There is a support team of finance and administration assistants, secretarial staff, site staff, technicians and learning support assistants.





## The School Day and the Curriculum

Our day is staggered slightly between key stages, but after morning registration (8.35am for KS3 and 8.45am for KS4), the teaching day for everyone commences at 8.55am. There is a morning break of 20 minutes and a staggered lunch break of 40 minutes. There are four lessons in the day (75 minutes – perfect for practical subjects) and we operate a two-week timetable.

Pupils study key stage 3 over years 7-9, before commencing GCSE study in year 10. A varied choice of GCSE subjects and some vocational subjects are available to study from year 10. There is also a wide choice of A Level subjects on offer in the Sixth Form.

Pupils are carefully allocated to tutor groups – each tutor group belonging to a house. Early in year 7, pupils are set by attainment in mathematics, English, science and some foundation subjects.

Pupils also benefit from a wide range of extra-curricular and enrichment activities. As well as sporting and musical activities, many departments organise clubs where pupils can seek extra help, extend their knowledge and skills, help others or do alternative projects related to a subject area.

For more information please visit our website - <https://garthhillcollege.com>



## The School of Supported Learning (SEND and Learning Support)

The College has a strong team committed to supporting the learning of pupils, particularly those with SEND. The range of extra help is extensive and includes the teaching of pupils in smaller groups, in-class support and more specialist support and intervention. We can also call on the help and advice of other professionals, expert in hearing, sight, language, learning, physical and emotional difficulties. Those pupils on the Special Educational Needs register receive in-class support and guidance from Teaching Assistants, as well as support in the Learning Support Centre (LSC).

Rise@GHC is specialist resource provision serving pupils aged 11-19 with high functioning autistic spectrum conditions living in Bracknell Forest and other local authorities. Rise@GHC operates in dedicated buildings within a ten-minute walk and two-minute drive of the main Garth Hill site.



## Community and Industrial Links

The College has close links with other local schools, including our main feeder primary schools to ensure smooth transition for pupils, as well to promote staff development and the sharing of expertise, resources and facilities. We also have very well established partnerships with local business and community groups.



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