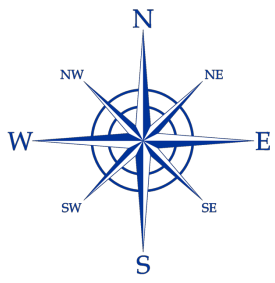


# THE GREENWICH FREE SCHOOL

Building an exceptional new state school in Greenwich



# THE GREENWICH FREE SCHOOL

An introduction

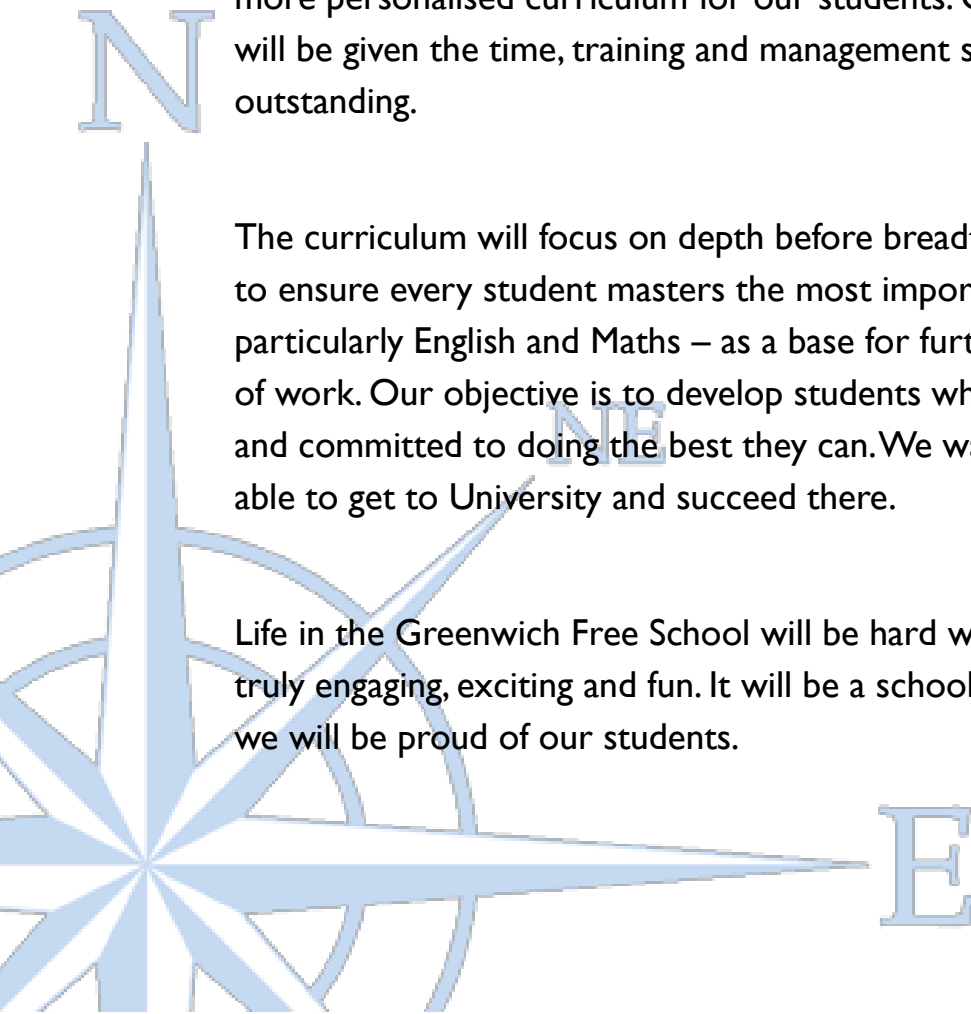
We believe that all students can succeed if given outstanding teaching and pastoral care.

The Greenwich Free School will be a smaller, more personal school, with just no more than 100 students in each year group. This means teachers will get to know every student as an individual and be able to closely nurture and challenge them all.

We will demand a lot, setting high standards for students and staff, with a “no excuses” approach to attitude, work and discipline. We also recognise the importance of students’ wellbeing – building their characters and skills, and developing young people who will truly flourish. We will have a longer school day, a wide range of daily extra-curricular activities and a more personalised curriculum for our students. Crucially, our teachers will be given the time, training and management support to be truly outstanding.

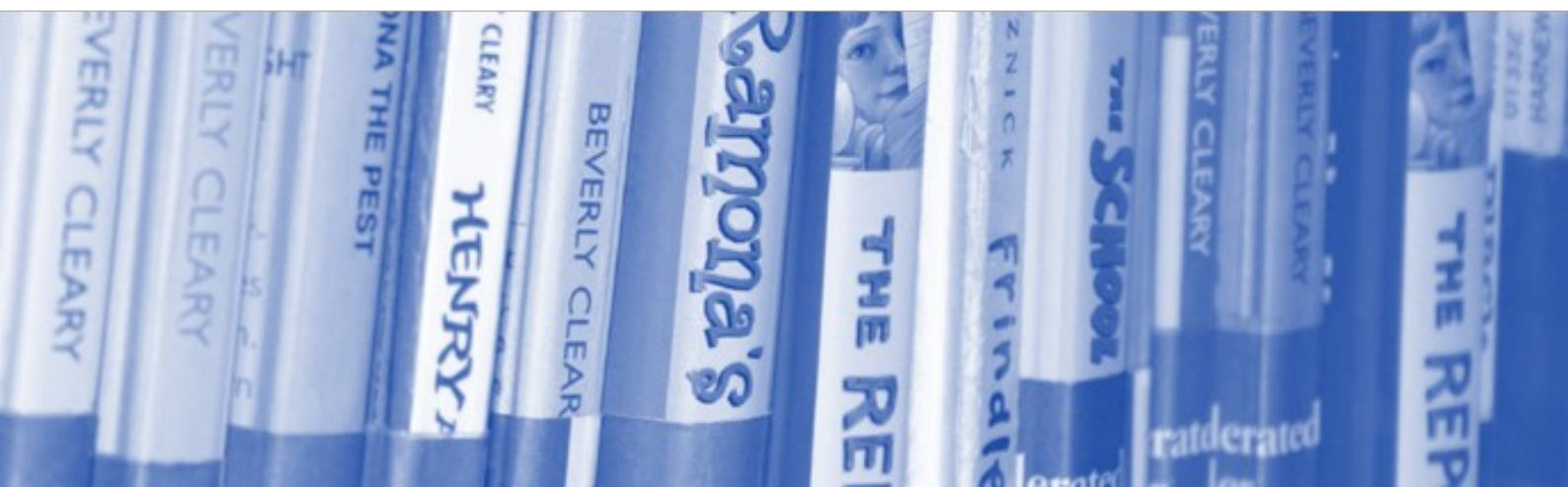
The curriculum will focus on depth before breadth. Our priority will be to ensure every student masters the most important subjects and skills – particularly English and Maths – as a base for further study and the world of work. Our objective is to develop students who are happy at school and committed to doing the best they can. We want all our students to be able to get to University and succeed there.

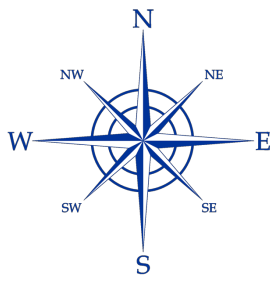
Life in the Greenwich Free School will be hard work, but it will also be truly engaging, exciting and fun. It will be a school to be proud of – and we will be proud of our students.





What are Free Schools?	4
Welcome from our Head Teacher	5
What makes the Greenwich Free School approach different?	6
Our extended school day	7
Our Curriculum	8 - 9
Nurture and Challenge	10 - 11
Extra Curricular Activities	12 - 13
Moving from Primary to Secondary	14
Next steps	15





# WHAT ARE FREE SCHOOLS?

How are Free Schools different?

*In June 2010, the government invited groups of parents, teachers, charities and local communities to develop proposals to set up a new type of school: a 'Free School.' Where the Department for Education believes that a proposed school meets a local need and will be successful, a new Free School is set up.*

Free Schools are funded by the government, so parents do not pay anything to send their child to a Free School and groups running Free Schools cannot make a profit.

Although the government funds Free Schools, because they are a type of Academy, they can do things differently from other state schools. For example, they can follow a different curriculum, or change the length of the school day. Just like any other school, though, they will still be inspected by Ofsted to make sure they achieve high standards.

Free Schools must be open to pupils of all abilities and cannot be academically selective. Normally, parents would apply to a Free School in the same way as for any other school. However, this year, the date for approving new Free Schools was after Greenwich Local Authority had published their schools booklet, so for this first year we will run our admissions separately. This process is described at the back of the prospectus.

The Greenwich Free School is one of the second group of proposed Free Schools. The first group of schools opened in September 2011. The Greenwich Free School plans to open in September 2012, taking a single year group of no more than 100 Year 7 pupils, divided into classes of 25.

# WELCOME FROM OUR HEADTEACHER

Lee Faith

Dear parents and carers,

Welcome to the Greenwich Free School. I am extremely proud to introduce our school and congratulate you for embarking upon the first step of your journey to join a school whose ambition is unashamedly to be the best in the country!



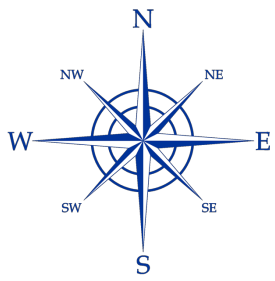
Our goal is to provide our pupils with the knowledge, skills and understanding they need to perform to the highest standard in all their academic pursuits, as well as ensuring they develop the necessary personal characteristics to become creative, emotionally intelligent and independent thinkers. We want all our pupils to set themselves high aspirations – and then to exceed them.

You may well ask how we will achieve such great outcomes. Our ‘no excuses’ ethos and the mindset of our teachers to do ‘whatever it takes’ to improve the life chances of every pupil in the school is only the start: life at GFS will be hard work! We make no apologies for this because we know that for our pupils to thrive in an increasingly challenging world, we need to maintain the highest expectations for all those in the GFS community.

I invite you to share in our success and be part of GFS’s journey. Not just to be an ‘Outstanding’ school, but to be an ‘Exceptional’ school for the families and young people of Greenwich, whom we are privileged to serve.

*Lee Faith,*

*Headteacher, The Greenwich Free School*



# THE GREENWICH FREE SCHOOL

What makes our approach different?

*We believe all students can succeed if given outstanding teaching and pastoral care. The Greenwich Free School will be a small, 700 student, 11-18 secondary school that will succeed because:*

## **High expectations**

We will insist on high standards from students and staff, adopting a 'no excuses' approach to attitude, work and discipline where everyone takes responsibility for their actions

## **Curriculum**

We will focus on 'Depth before Breadth' – helping our students concentrate on *mastering* the fundamentals, whilst stretching and supporting them in a much more individualised curriculum

## **Outstanding staff**

We will invest in recruiting, training and managing outstanding teachers. We will give them fewer classes, and fewer students in each class, so they can spend more time on each student

## **Small size**

Our students will be in classes of 25, spending more time (and forming a closer relationship) with a Form Tutor who will act as each child's mentor and oversee all aspects of his or her progress

## **Extended day**

Acknowledging there are no short-cuts to success, our students will be at school from 8.00 until 5.30, so they will spend  $\frac{1}{3}$  more time learning than most schoolchildren

## **Excitement**

We will engage our students with school so they *want* to work hard. Classes will be supported by a wide range of extra-curricular activities that reinforce the core curriculum



# AN EXTENDED SCHOOL DAY

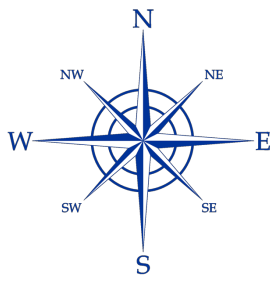
Because there are no shortcuts to success

At the Greenwich Free School we know that there are **no shortcuts** when it comes to success, in academics and in life. We will therefore have an extended school day, giving our students more time in the classroom with their teachers, and more time for extra-curricular activities.

This will help them achieve the high grades we expect of GFS students. It will also help them develop into the well-rounded individuals that the top universities and employers are looking for.

An example of our proposed school day is as follows:

Time	Activity	Description
8.00—8.30	Tutor time	Registration with form tutor, including well-being curriculum covering personal, social and health education
8.30—9.30	Lesson 1	Core timetable
9.30—10.30	Lesson 2	Core timetable
10.30—10.50	Break	
10.50—11.50	Lesson 3	Core timetable
11.50—12.50	Lesson 4	Core timetable
12.50—1.40	Lunch	
1.40—2.40	Lesson 5	Core timetable
2.40—3.40	Lesson 6	Core timetable
3.40—4.00	Break	
4.00—4.30	Tutor time	Supervised homework time with form tutor
4.30—5.30	Extra-curricular clubs	Compulsory extra-curricular activities, which students select from a range of options



We will help students develop: a core foundation of **knowledge; skills** relevant to the future; and an **understanding of how they learn** to prepare them for further study, university and employment.

Our curriculum will:

- Focus on **depth before breadth**, enabling our students to concentrate on mastering the essentials of English and Maths
- **Engage and excite** our students through non-classroom learning in our innovative 'Enrichment' programme of daily and fortnightly extra-curricular activities designed to support the core curriculum
- Be **closely personalised** to the needs of individual students, for example including 'booster classes' in English and Maths to help support students where necessary

**N** Students will spend much more time than most state schools on English, Maths and Science—but our extended day means we will also have time for a broad range of other subjects such as sport, the humanities and the creative arts.

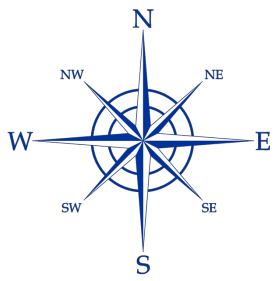
Three days a week students will choose from a range of exciting extra curricular activities, such as sports teams, music, dance, debating, arts and crafts, model UN and cultural excursions.



## OUR CURRICULUM (CONTINUED)

In year Seven, students at the Greenwich Free School will study a timetable that focuses on ‘Depth before Breadth.’ This means more English, Maths and Science than usual to help them master these fundamental subjects that underpin so many others. However, we recognise the importance of balance, so our students will also follow a challenging ‘Breadth’ curriculum as detailed below:

	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Hours each week</b>
<b>Traditional core curriculum</b>	English	5 hours
	Maths	4 hours
	Science	4 hours
<b>Breadth curriculum</b>	History	2 hours
	Geography	1 ½ hours
	PPE (Politics, Philosophy and Economics, including RS and Citizenship)	1 ½ hours
	ICT and Enterprise	2 hours
	French	1 ½ hours
	Spanish	1 ½ hours
	Art	1 hour
	Music	1 hour
	PE	2 hours
<b>Enrichment curriculum</b>	Daily extra-curricular clubs	3 hours
	Enrichment day (once each fortnight)	3 hours



# NURTURE AND CHALLENGE

A personalised curriculum that helps every child exceed expectations

*We aim to combat the 'one size fits all' approach by personalising students' timetables so every child is supported and challenged at the right level.*

We will have classes of 25, and no more than 100 students in a year group—so we can truly get to know students as individuals, and be able to support and stretch them appropriately.

Our standard curriculum will be a starting point from which we design personalised and flexible timetables for students. For example, if a student falls behind in his or her core Maths class, we would replace a non-core subject – for example, one of the two foreign languages – with a maths booster class.

Our aim is that all our students, whatever their learning needs or talents, will fulfil their potential.



*The Library at Lincoln's Inn, where barristers train after university*



*University College Hospital is a teaching hospital, which trains aspiring doctors and nurses*



*Oxford University, one of the top universities our students will visit*



*Canary Wharf, one of the sources of our academic mentors*

# NURTURE AND CHALLENGE (CONTINUED)

---

## STRETCH AND CHALLENGE

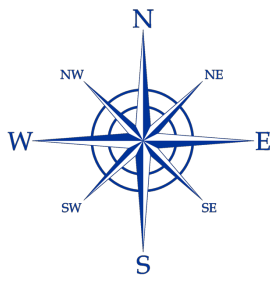
We are committed to excellence and are planning to prepare every one of our students for university or full-time employment in a respected profession by:

- Providing them with excellent role models—high-calibre teachers who went to top universities themselves
- Inspiring students with trips to top universities and workplaces from Year 7 onwards, so students immediately set their sights high
- Pairing our older students with mentors from top universities
- Providing a stretching curriculum that supports our students to gain the kind of respected qualifications and experiences that will prepare them well for university

## NURTURE AND SUPPORT

We plan to invest heavily in supporting our students who have special educational needs to ensure they reach their potential. We will support students with SEN in the classroom wherever possible, so that they can learn alongside their peers. We will also provide additional smaller 'nurture groups' for any students who require that little bit extra to access the curriculum.

Our SEN coordinator will be an Assistant Headteacher who will work with all our staff to ensure that they know how best to support all our students as individuals.



## EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Inspiring, developing and teaching students beyond the classroom

A great education involves far more than outstanding lessons in the classroom. Extra curricular activities excite students about school, teach important skills that help them in and beyond the classroom, and let them discover new passions.

As well as our daily hour of extra curricular activities, we will operate a two-week timetable, with every second Friday set aside as a full day of extra curricular enrichment.

This will give our students unparalleled opportunities to engage with a wide range of exciting cultural and educational activities. For example:



### **Supporting the curriculum**

Some activities will directly support the core curriculum. For example, students can reinforce their understanding of angles from Maths by orienteering—or learn to develop an argument in a History essay at debating society.

Visits to places like the Natural History and Imperial War museums will provide reinforcement for the topics that students have covered in class.



N

E

# EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

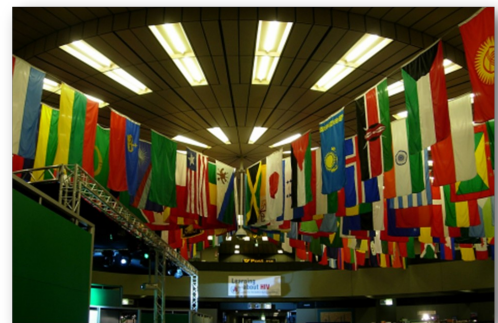
## Engaging students

Other activities will be designed to excite, engage and inspire students—for example rewarding students for exceptional effort or achievement with reward trips that also help to build teamwork within classes



## Building skills

Students will participate in full day projects that stretch and develop them, such as representing a country in a Model United Nations Conference, designing a new enterprise in an 'Apprentice' challenge or campaigning to improve their local community



## Developing passions

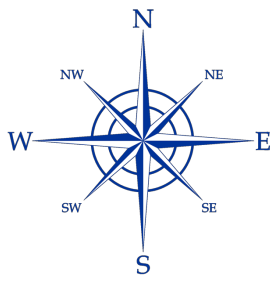
Creativity is an increasingly important skill for employers. Our enrichment days will work alongside curriculum lessons to develop students' artistic, dramatic and musical abilities—and hopefully develop passions and hobbies



## Happy and healthy students

Regular sports days will celebrate students' physical achievements and emphasise the importance of a healthy lifestyle. We will welcome the whole school community – students, staff and parents – to come together, get healthy and have fun!





# WELCOMING YOUR CHILD

## The move from Primary to Secondary school

### OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY

From the start, we want to work with parents and carers in a close partnership that will begin before your child arrives in September 2012.

We intend to visit every student accepted to the Greenwich Free School—and their family—at home before school starts to answer any questions, talk about how life will be at school and agree expectations.

This will be the first stage of a close partnership we hope to have with our students' families, which will include:

- Holding regular progress meetings at school—as well as informal social events
- Giving parents access to our electronic data so they can easily monitor grades, rewards and sanctions
- Offering evening classes for parents in areas like ICT, English and parenting topics such as gangs, drugs, health and relationships

# N

### HELPING STUDENTS SETTLE INTO A NEW COMMUNITY

Moving from primary to secondary school can be a worrying time for parents and students, but the right transition programme can ensure new students have a happy and confident beginning. In addition to our home visit, we will:

- Work closely with primary schools to ensure that we have as much information as possible about what kind of nurture and challenge our students need
- Hold an induction day at the end of the summer term for students to visit their new school, meet their class and their Form Tutor
- Hold a holiday camp in the summer before students begin so they can get to know their new peers and teachers
- Take students on a sponsored residential team-building trip in their first term to build relationships and skills

# NE

# E

# NEXT STEPS IN OUR JOURNEY

What next for your child and the Greenwich Free School?

---

## DEVELOPING THE GREENWICH FREE SCHOOL

We were excited to be selected by the Government as one of the Free Schools to open in September 2012 and are busy preparing for our first intake of students.

You can follow our progress on our website, [www.greenwichfreeschool.co.uk](http://www.greenwichfreeschool.co.uk), where we will be keeping you up-to-date with important milestones in our development—particularly on the development of our site and the recruitment of our staff.

Our Parents Association will be hosting a number of informal events where you can meet key members of staff and other interested parents. Please email [lgriffiths@greenwichfreeschool.co.uk](mailto:lgriffiths@greenwichfreeschool.co.uk) to find out when our next event is.

## APPLYING TO THE GREENWICH FREE SCHOOL

Admissions to the Greenwich Free School will open formally in January. Before then, you can register your interest in the Greenwich Free School for your child in one of several ways:

- Visit our website at [www.greenwichfreeschool.co.uk](http://www.greenwichfreeschool.co.uk)
- Write to our admissions office:  
Greenwich Free School Applications  
8 Grove House  
Blackheath Grove  
SE3 0DG
- Email [info@greenwichfreeschool.co.uk](mailto:info@greenwichfreeschool.co.uk)
- Phone **07926 637903** to speak to one of our team or leave us a voice message

Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.



Email: [info@greenwichfreeschool.co.uk](mailto:info@greenwichfreeschool.co.uk)  
Website: [www.greenwichfreeschool.co.uk](http://www.greenwichfreeschool.co.uk)

