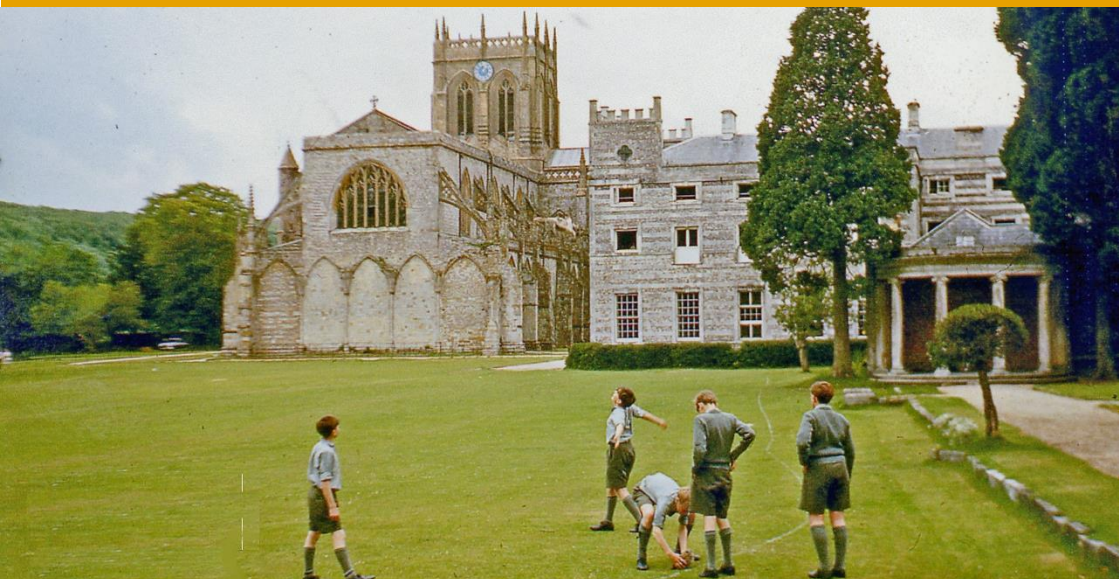


Milton Abbey School Strategy

Looking towards 2029: our 75th anniversary



MILTON
ABBEY

LEARN
DIFFERENTLY

Introduction

Although Milton Abbey as a seat of learning spans over a thousand years of monastic tradition, the current school was founded just 68 years ago. In 1954, with only 24 boys, in a draughty mansion with an overgrown farmyard, a group of teachers, supported by the Hambro family and various forward-thinking businesses, set about forming an exciting alternative to the traditional, conventional public schools. One of the founding ideals of the school was that it would prepare pupils not just for university but for careers in commerce. Milton Abbey education has been holistic, inclusive and humane since its inception, with a firm focus on wellbeing, before other schools knew the meaning of the word.

We are proud to be beneficiaries of this tradition. Today, as we look towards the 75th anniversary of the school in 2029, Milton Abbey is nationally recognised as a leader in vocational study and continues to provide a genuine alternative from 'one-size-fits-all' education. Our approach works: in 2021 96% of our students left us having secured their first choice of university or apprenticeship. More than that, they leave us having discovered who they are and how they can contribute. We are proud to send out young people who are interesting and interested: irresistibly employable.


After the strains of the last two years' pandemic we now need to take stock, face forwards and plan for the future at Milton Abbey. The school is in a sound position, with healthy pupil numbers, a financial surplus in each of the last seven years and the ability to support a large number of current families with a bursary or scholarship. However, there are issues to address, not least the investment needed to maintain and develop our facilities. We aspire to fund pupils of all backgrounds to access a transformative Milton Abbey education.

This document lays out our thoughts for the next decade at Milton Abbey. It contains our development aims which encompass the philosophical, educational, ethical, operational and financial matters which we believe impact our community.

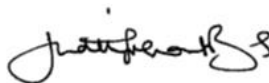
Milton Abbey School in 2022 is a transformational learning environment in which every child is known, noticed and nurtured. As a co-educational senior boarding school, we are small by choice, to enable extraordinary focus on the holistic development of each individual. We are committed to removing barriers to learning and equipping students with the strategies they need to succeed in 21st century life. Our committed staff team work in partnership with parents at this critical period in the development of each young person.

All of this takes place in an exceptional environment, landscaped by Capability Brown, with our stunning Abbey at its heart. In our high challenge, moderate pressure environment, 'personal best' is the target in every aspect of performance. We offer the broadest possible choice of courses of study and aim to develop a lifelong love of learning. We build character and confidence in our young people, by providing extraordinary opportunities for all, in and beyond the classroom.

To ensure that our school continues to prosper and develop through the next 75 years, we need to invest now in the environment and experience of the current and future students. We very much hope that you will join us in this important work.



Ian Bromilow
Chair of Governors



Judith Fremont-Barnes
Head

Our key aims

Our chief ambition as a school is to be **the first-choice independent boarding school for young people who will benefit from learning differently.**

To achieve this in the next seven years, as we approach the school's 75th anniversary in 2029, we will focus on four key development aims:

A | To establish Milton Abbey as the premier, world-class centre for teenage learning development

B | To place the unique learning needs of our pupils at the heart of school life

C | To deepen our community commitments to equality, diversity, inclusion, sustainability and wellbeing for all

D | To maintain financial stability and growth, to support our school's ambitious aims for development

A | Milton Abbey: the premier centre for teenage learning development

Over the next decade we will focus intently on building our Learning Development facilities into a world-leading centre of excellence.

We already have a team of leading teachers in the field. To support their cutting-edge Learning Development work, we will:

- Build a purpose-designed, state of the art Learning Development Centre
- Relocate the Learning Development department to a larger suite of rooms in the interim
- Develop our team to include in-house professionals in all therapeutic disciplines
- Hold in-person and remote training for parents and professionals including an annual Learn Differently Conference
- Work closely in conjunction with university research departments to share best practice



B | Milton Abbey: placing the unique learning needs of our pupils at the heart of school life

We are determined to ensure that every aspect of all our activities takes into account the ways our pupils learn. To do this we will:

- Resolutely continue to offer the broadest possible choice of courses in the UK independent sector, including vocational and traditionally academic subjects
- Focus rigorously on employability, providing outstanding work experience
- Place ourselves at the forefront of cutting-edge tech development to assist learning
- Continue to embed pupil voice at the heart of our decision-making



C | Milton Abbey: deepening our community commitments to equality, diversity, inclusion, sustainability and wellbeing for all

Milton Abbey has always been a community of individuals who dare to be different and celebrate their uniqueness. Wellbeing is at our heart and we rejoice in our extraordinary environment. To develop these legacies, we will:

- Sustain and increase the £700,000 of bursary support that we give each year to enable access for more families to send their children to the school
- Increase the frequency of events with the Parent Teacher Association and Milton Abbey Association, ensuring all generations of Miltonians feel a sense of community
- Root ourselves more deeply in the local community, enabling our students to experience, understand and contribute to Dorset life
- Preserve and develop our grounds, including the Capability Brown legacy
- Celebrate the diversity and internationalism of our pupil body
- Strengthen our workforce and governance through diversity

D | Milton Abbey: maintaining financial stability and growth, to support our school's ambitious aims

Small by choice, we have nonetheless consistently achieved a healthy financial surplus. In order to enable development for current and future generations, we will:

- Build on our marketing strategy to raise our national and international profile, ensuring that all those who stand to benefit from our unique offer are aware of Milton Abbey
- Increase the school size, targeting 250 boarders by 2027

Although we have spent around £1 million on infrastructure works every year for the last five years, most of this development is unseen in items such as heating, electrics and plumbing. **Significant investment is still required in the physical fabric of the school site.** We will:

- Build on the good work of the Community Fund by launching **The 75th Fund** (see page 10) for capital works and transformational bursaries
- Enable parents, pupils and alumni to play a part in shaping development project directions through consultation
- By 2033 we will have completed a decade long site upgrade of the school buildings including classrooms, boarding houses, sport facilities and the restoration of our Grade 1 mansion
- Explore additional funding from national heritage institutions to protect and enhance the listed status of our site for the benefit of pupils and the local community

In order to maintain the school's sound financial position, we will:

- Develop the school's trading arm, maximising income (e.g. from training and professional development courses)
- Continue to work closely with our education-specialist banker (Barclays) to make best use of the school's income and resources, identifying development opportunities



How you can get involved: The 75th Fund

We very much hope you will support us in these ambitious aims, designed to ensure that the current and next generation of Miltonians can flourish in this glorious place, rooted in the proud traditions of Milton Abbey School and enjoying fantastic facilities. The school is a registered charity and we rely on the philanthropic support of our community to meet our charitable objectives.

To celebrate 75 years of Milton Abbey School in 2029, we are launching 'The 75th Fund'.

The twin aims of the fund are to invest in the physical fabric of the school and to support bursaries.

Capital investment will focus on upgrades to classrooms, boarding houses, sports facilities and our Grade I mansion, and works planned for the first stage of development include:

- Upgrading the Boat House gym with a new roof, decoration and gym equipment
- Refurbishing boarding dormitories and bathrooms in Athelstan, Hambro and Hughies
- Relaying the astro-turf outdoor pitch
- Completing the equestrian facilities with a manège
- Redecorating and upgrading the main school classroom blocks

How to give

There are a number of ways to support The 75th Fund. Throughout the next seven years we will be hosting sponsored challenges, fundraising events and an annual ball to meet our targets. Supporting the fund can be tax efficient, using Gift Aid, and result in personal tax relief where applicable under UK tax law.

One-off donations

A one-off payment makes an immediate impact on the school and its pupils. To arrange this please visit

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/milton-abbey-75th>

75th Fund monthly pledge

A monthly pledge, however small, gives a constant stream of income, which is very useful for the school in planning future investment. For The 75th Fund we have set-up a 75-month pledge which will finish in January 2029, when we begin the celebrations for the school's anniversary. Just £10 a month over the life of the fund would equate to £750 for you, topped up with £187.50 from Gift Aid at no extra expense. To arrange this please email accounts@miltonabbey.co.uk and we can provide the details needed.

Legacy donations

Gifts or donations in wills leave a lasting impact for many years to come and are usually tax free, so result in a reduction in the inheritance tax burden on your estate. Please let us know if you intend to leave a legacy bequest.

To discuss any donations or legacies, please contact Senior Deputy Head, James Watson, on james.watson@miltonabbey.co.uk or Milton Abbey Alumni Association Manager, Hugo Mieville, on hugo.mieville@miltonabbey.co.uk.

Testimonials

“I have been a student at this transformational school for the past four years. Throughout my time at Milton Abbey I have grown to be very affectionate of this special place and it has become a home away from home. I have accomplished a vast array of things since joining, and I feel the school has pushed me to do this. It was during the covid pandemic that I realised how much I relied on the Milton Abbey family. It was only when I was not able to spend my time with close friends or be able to interact with the staff that it became clear how much I valued it. This is something I want to build upon, ensuring other pupils who attend Milton Abbey do not just make friends for their time here, but build friendships that will last long into the future.”

Lower Sixth Former

“What we really feel sets Milton Abbey apart, is that as a school you look at each child and appreciate who they are. Faults and all! Other schools talk about pastoral care, MA just get on with it. Our son, when not forced into a round shaped hole, found his feet and absolutely flourished.”

Parents of a Middle Sixth Former

“The teaching at Milton Abbey is outstanding and the positive feedback and encouragement that staff give has made our son love learning. It has made him want to do well. He has raised his expectations and is now far more ambitious. He feels 100% supported. Thank you. You are really doing something special.”

Parents of a Fourth Former