

University of
Kent

Academies Trust
(UKAT)



Prospectus

2023/2024

Excellence at the heart of our academic community



Welcome to Chatham Grammar

Dear Parents and Carers

Chatham Grammar (CG) is a selective 11 – 19 girls school (mixed UKAT Sixth Form) whose Lead Sponsor is the University of Kent. CG is part of the established University of Kent Academies Trust (UKAT).

As a UKAT Academy, students at CG benefit from access to a range of University resources, which support their academic and social development. These include: graduate and post graduate Student Ambassadors who mentor and coach students supporting them with their academic studies, visits to the University campus, participation in a range of University led curriculum programmes, and extra curricular experiences offered through a wide range of enrichment opportunities.

We welcome you to our £2.3M new building at the front of the academy. The new building is a fantastic modern state of the art learning environment which includes high specification classrooms, conference facilities and multiple Sixth Form learning spaces.

Under the strategic leadership of the University of Kent Academies Trust (UKAT), CG has a progressive and transformative future vision for its young women – one based on ensuring all its young people aspire to achieve, and be the best they can be – future leaders within their communities and families – breaking glass ceilings, smart, confident, resilient, motivated, with healthy mind sets and a real sense of wellbeing.

CG is a grammar school with a new sense of direction that offers a stimulating curriculum up to A levels, providing academic excellence

in all year groups, ensuring future access to the best universities in the country, via the UKAT Sixth Form provision. All this coupled with a range of opportunities to develop future skill sets required for life in the modern world and the confidence and conviction to choose career pathways in non-traditional subjects such as Science and Engineering means the future looks very bright for our young women at CG.

At CG academic achievement is always at the forefront of our focus and we are driven to ensure that all our students exceed their target grades, but we mindfully place our attention on securing academic success with healthy young minds. Working with our experienced Lead Sponsor, the University of Kent we understand and know that emotional wellbeing equals confident, focused and empowered young women, adept at coping with the challenges required for high-level learning.

We are very proud of our young women at the academy and we are confident that if you visit us and meet our students and staff you too will experience a unique educational provision that forges tradition with innovation – bringing a highly creative academic approach to students learning.

Year 7 students joining in September can be assured that the academy will plan well for their individual induction, offering a bespoke transitions programme delivered by the University of Kent – supporting them as they make their transition from primary to secondary education.

Positive relationships are key to the success of our students at the academy

and we believe that every member of CG staff contributes to the educational achievements of all our young people.

Parents and carers are pivotal to the educational successes of our students, which means that everyone is part of the CG experience. Working in partnership with the University of Kent, we have developed higher level learning opportunities to engage our CG families in bespoke learning.

We are also committed to working with our local primary schools and through the University of Kent we have set up the unique Partnership Development Programme. We offer a range of high quality learning experiences delivered by the University lecturers, stretching and exciting the hearts and minds of our local primary school children.

Community is at the heart of CG and our House System ensures that students feel supported, encouraged, cared for and on entry become part of a new but well established extended family. A close-knit community, built around four Houses, that foster kindness and compassion amongst staff and students.

We will exceed your expectations, we will develop and nurture your daughter's aspirations and dreams and we will give them the tools to be empowered, focused, confident successful leaders for the future.

CG is the grammar school for young women of the 21st century.

Wendy Walters
Principal, BA (Hons), MA

Curriculum

All students at CG follow a core academic curriculum, which includes a comprehensive and balanced range of GCSEs and acquisition of the English Baccalaureate. This provides a platform for study at A level.

The curriculum offer is robust ensuring students gain places at prestigious universities across the UK and enter into a variety of high profile careers and professions in key areas such as Science, Medicine, Business, Arts, Law, Sport and Finance.

Emphasis in Year 7 is on building students a range of independent learning and thinking skills, and providing them with a range of curricular experiences to widen their horizons by developing their curiosity, research and leadership skills through the Leadership Development Programme.

Our Careers Programme, starting in Year 7, is purposely designed to challenge stereotypes and maximise aspirations, so that young women feel empowered and confident to pursue their true interests and not simply comply with society's stereotypes.

As students move into Year 10, they embark on their GCSE programmes

Years 7, 8 and 9 students study the following:

The English Baccalaureate

English
Maths
Separate Sciences –
Physics, Chemistry and Biology
Geography
History
Modern Foreign Languages –
Spanish, French and German

Music
Ethics
Physical Education
Art, Drama, Design Technology, Food
Technology, IT, Leadership Development
Programme, Music and Textiles

incorporating all of the subjects above, plus additional options including: Psychology, Sociology, Media Studies, Health and Social Care, Business, as well as a range of other subjects.

In the UKAT Sixth Form, students study a range of subjects at A level, with the opportunity to follow vocational based A level courses where appropriate.

Students are exposed to a wide range of diverse and exciting opportunities, which are key for their personal growth and development and we encourage students to take up new challenges and broaden their interests. Many students

complete an Extended Project, which promotes independent learning and adds depth and experience to their academic achievements; something that is excellent for entry to university.

We have a proven track record in preparing students for Higher Education and the world of work, supported through the University of Kent's innovative Student Ambassador Mentoring Scheme.

This year the large majority of our students went on to university, studying a wide range of degree subjects at more than forty universities across the UK.

When I felt rather overcome with my father's opposition, I said as firmly as I could, that I must have this or something else, that I could not live without some real work.

Elizabeth Garrett Anderson



Leadership

The Leadership Development Programme is a programme of study for Years 7, 8 and 9 students to develop learning capacities, independent learning skills and employability skills. The programme aims to stretch students not just academically, but creatively and emotionally. Lessons help students develop self-belief, resilience, raise aspirations and improve problem – solving skills, enabling them to mature into successful leaders of the future.

The Leadership Development Programme is delivered through the following four modules:

- Critical Thinking
- Enterprise
- Public Speaking
- Mindfulness*

Leadership lessons are adaptable, interactive and creative and aim to develop the following practical leadership habits and life skills:

- Taking responsibility
- Have a goal
- Plan it out
- Sharing success
- Listen, learn, improve
- Be a team player
- Finding balance

Students are encouraged not only to develop these habits within their 'Leadership' lessons, but across the whole curriculum and the wider academy community. The programme directly leads into the academy's reward system and students are awarded leadership points for demonstrating the application of these skills throughout their academic career at CG.

**Mindfulness is a scientific secular practice defined as a moment-by-moment awareness of thoughts, feelings, bodily sensations and surrounding environment, characterised mainly by "acceptance" – attention to thoughts and feelings without judging whether they are right or wrong.*

I attribute my success to this: I never gave or took any excuses.

Florence Nightingale



Wellbeing

We firmly believe that a positive healthy mindset is integral to the success of our young women today.

Wellbeing at CG is dynamic, forward thinking, innovative and different to any other educational organisation.

We have developed a model that encourages students to understand how they can take responsibility for their health and wellbeing, giving them the tools that will assist them whilst at CG, enabling them to be happy, healthy resilient adults who are ready and excited for the world of work and Higher Education.

We understand the importance of combining health and education, which means we work with a range of different health professionals working towards one goal; empowering young people to understand the importance of health and wellbeing. We think differently and we educate and support our young women by offering a variety of different mediums to access up to date advice and guidance around health and wellbeing. At CG we provide access to a range of new and innovative key health initiatives such as therapeutic counselling, mindfulness programmes and our UKAT Furry Friends. Our UKAT Furry Friends include two very friendly and super nice dogs called Blu and Trek. Sapper is our third new four

legged friend and he will be joining us very soon. You might also like to meet our very happy bunnies, Banksy and Derek who can be found munching away on veggies in the Library!

Mindfulness is scientifically proven to help reduce stress, anxiety, sadness and depression. Mindfulness can also increase focus, concentration and encourages students to be more in the present moment, enjoying the now rather than living in the past or worrying unnecessarily about the future. We offer mindfulness sessions as part of our Leadership Development Programme and intensive short booster programmes such as early interventions for our Year 11 students in preparation for their final year exams.

Ultimately, we aim to offer the maximum wrap around support for our young people to excel and enjoy the demands of their academic learning journey at CG, with a clear focus on achieving excellent exam results at GCSE and A level qualifications.

Pastoral Care is part of our wellbeing package and we are committed to providing a nurturing and supportive

learning environment for our young people to feel encouraged, enthused and confident in securing the best educational outcomes for their future successes.

Our aim is that students feel safe, supported and inspired through the team of staff at CG by fostering relationships through personal tutoring and the overarching focus and strategic steer of the Heads of Year. Our students become adept learners who are resilient, robust and able to cope with the demands of examination work from Year 10 onwards.

An inclusive approach is key to meeting the needs of all our students and we recognise that some students, regardless of the fact that they have gained a selective place, might find some difficulties with their academic studies, or with settling into a new secondary environment. Parents and carers can be assured of our positive approach in meeting the needs of our students, with highly skilled staff in place, dedicated to ensuring individual additional support is available and bespoke to your child's needs.

A self that goes on changing is a self that goes on living.

Virginia Woolf



Opportunities

At CG we foster an ethos of equality, fairness and community and all students belong to one of the four CG Houses. The students have named the Houses after inspirational women and the chosen House names are Angelou, Kahlo, Seacole and Sharman. Each House has its own identity, mission statement and chosen charity. Students participate in House competitions and there is a healthy drive to achieve as many leadership points as possible.

Student Voice is an integral part of the CG experience as we foster and encourage our students to take an active part in the direction of their academy. External speakers are invited to attend these meetings and students actively participate in research projects to develop their understanding of the world around them.

A wide range of extra-curricular clubs run after the academy day offering a rich and diverse mix of enrichment opportunities such as Lego League, LAMDA Arts Award, Orchestra, Debating, Chess, Music, Netball, Badminton, Public Speaking, The Green Team and First Aid and many more.

Sports clubs and fixtures are extensive at the academy and we have many

high performing students participating in sports competitions across Kent and Medway. We have won many local and national competitions and our students compete with passion, conviction and dedication to participate and win!

Student leadership roles and responsibilities are encouraged and widely promoted. We encourage all students to take an active part in building their academy community and students can volunteer for leadership positions in key areas such as: Sports Leaders, Library Leaders, Equalities Leaders, House Leaders and not forgetting our fabulous CG environmentally friendly Green Team.

We also offer the internationally recognised Duke of Edinburgh's Award (Bronze and Silver Awards) and the established Combined Cadet Force (CCF), which is sponsored by His Majesty's Armed Forces – both of these programmes are excellent for the development of team building and leadership skills, perseverance, commitment and dedication.

The Online Safety Ambassadors are students who work collectively to plan

events to raise awareness and educate about the dangers of online activity.

A wide range of charities are supported by the CG Houses throughout the year, and every year we have a charity 'Rag Week' at the end of Term two.

We believe that travel and cultural experiences are key to the growth and development of our young people at the academy. Here are some of our CG adventures:

- Language trips – France, Spain and Germany
- History trip to Poland
- English trip to Belgium
- Skiing in Italy
- Geography trip to Iceland
- Water sports trip to Spain
- Theatre trips
- Music concert trips to London

We have a strong alumni at CG and there is a feeling of 'family' at the academy – connecting our younger students with our more mature ex-students who are keen to stay in touch and support the academy.

Life is either a great adventure or nothing at all.

Helen Keller



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