

A FOUNDATION **FOR LIFE**





Catharine Darnton – Headteacher

Gillotts is a high performing, innovative school where every student is valued as an individual, and is supported and encouraged to achieve their potential. We pride ourselves on being inclusive of all, developing academic achievers and individuals who make a positive contribution to society now and in their future lives.

I hope that these pages will give you a flavour of the school. If you want to know more, do come and visit us. You would be very welcome.

## Catharine Darnton

Headteacher



### A PERSONALISED EDUCATION FOR EVERY STUDENT

Students are at the centre of everything we do, and receive a personalised experience of the school both in terms of the curriculum and the monitoring of their progress. Each student belongs to a mixed age tutor group, and the form tutor monitors their academic progress and well-being on a daily basis to ensure they are both happy and achieving their potential. Our house system creates a sense of identity and belonging.

Students learn best when they understand where they are in their learning, and where they are going - and are supported to take the next steps. We use assessment as an integral part of the teaching process, helping students become partners with teachers in their learning, to enable them to achieve their goals. We prepare our students to be lifelong learners in a changing world by helping them to understand how they learn best. We actively develop the skills that they will need – managing information, problem solving, working independently and working as a team – as well as nurturing the social and emotional aspects of learning.



### CREATIVE, EXPRESSIVE EXPLORERS OF IDEAS

Gillotts encourages creative thinking and freedom of expression as a means of learning and personal development.

### HIGH ACHIEVERS, STRIVING TO BE THE BEST WE CAN BE

We instil within our students a philosophy that achieving or exceeding their potential, whatever it may be, requires hard work, dedication and a high level of commitment.





*Every student is valued as an individual,  
and is supported and encouraged to achieve  
their potential.*



Gillotts instils all the qualities required to be successful in life both from a personal and professional point of view.

#### **ASPIRATIONAL, BELIEVING THAT ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE**

Instilling a sense of self-belief in students helps to set their ambitions high, and removes any barriers in their thought process that limit their success.

#### **COMMITTED TO INNOVATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

The world of education is continually evolving and we embrace the new thinking and technologies that will help our students achieve more. We never stand still, and are always developing new ways of using technology to ensure that no opportunity is lost in today's connected world to develop our students as individual learners.

#### **INSPIRATIONAL AND INNOVATIVE TEACHING**

We know that our teachers are our most valuable resource. For the school to be innovative and forward-looking, we must have a highly skilled team whose ongoing development needs are met. Time for staff development is set aside each week and our leadership structure supports individual progress, which in turn supports the progress of students.



#### **A MOTIVATING CURRICULUM**

Gillotts offers a flexible curriculum to meet the needs of all learners, from challenging the most able to providing alternative routes for those for whom a traditional academic path is not appropriate. Our curriculum is enhanced by additional subjects, including a second modern foreign language, dance and drama for students aged 11 to 14.


#### **HONESTY AND INTEGRITY IN ALL THAT WE DO**

Honesty and integrity is at the heart of everything that Gillotts stands for. Without honesty and integrity, academic success counts for little. Gillotts instils these values in both students and staff from the beginning, and this leads to an open and transparent relationship between everyone in the school.

#### **PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE, WHATEVER THAT MAY BRING**

A Gillotts' education is a culmination of many factors that combine to help our ultimate aim: to prepare students for the life they are going to lead. Gillotts instils all the qualities required to be successful in life both from a personal and professional point of view.





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#### **PRIDE IN OUR PERSONAL AND COLLECTIVE ACHIEVEMENTS**

A sense of pride in achievement is encouraged at Gillotts and isn't only measured in academic success. Achievements are made at every level and in all aspects of a student's life at Gillotts. Others' achievements in the school community are also celebrated with the same deserved sense of pride.

#### **RESPECT FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS, AND INCLUSIVE OF ALL**

Mutual and self respect are fundamental to Gillotts. Mutual respect between staff and students creates an atmosphere that allows the mature exploration of ideas and the freedom to express those ideas without fear of criticism. We treat everyone's cultural differences and views with equal respect to encourage diversity and a tolerant, open-minded view of society.

#### **COMMUNITY PARTNERS AND VALUABLE CITIZENS**

The school is a community of 900 students, aged 11 to 16, and about 100 adults, of whom about 55 are teachers. We have strong partnerships with parents, governors and the wider community. Our aim is to develop students into individuals who, from the very beginning and throughout their lives, contribute to their local community and the world they live in wherever that may be.



#### **STUDENTS AS DECISION MAKERS**

Students actively participate in school decision making. Students are an essential part of our teacher recruitment process and they give teachers feedback on their lessons and on the curriculum. Older students act as mentors and counsellors for younger ones in their vertical tutor groups.

#### **A WIDE VARIETY OF ACTIVITIES**

Our extra curricular programme is varied with Drama, Dance, Music and PE all adding vibrancy to the student experience. In addition, study support is available, either for specific subjects or through our well resourced Open Learning Centre.

#### **A WONDERFUL LOCATION**

Gillotts' location is inspirational as the school is set on the edge of Henley and occupies a 33 acre site that includes a Victorian manor house and two cottages. We continue to seek to develop what we have to ensure students and staff have the best environment for 21st century teaching and learning.





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