

FORT PITT

GRAMMAR SCHOOL

YEAR 7 *(CO-ED)*
PROSPECTUS
2026 ENTRY

A **Beyond** ACADEMY
SCHOOLS TRUST

WELCOME FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Welcome to Fort Pitt Grammar School.

Here at Fort Pitt, a school founded in 1919, we are proud of our long tradition of academic success, sporting and cultural achievement and service to the community.

It is a vibrant and dynamic school with high expectations and great ambitions for every one of our students. We are proud to be part of the Beyond Schools Trust, as one of the leading schools, we share in an exemplary network of educational leaders who put standards of learning and teaching at the heart of all we do.

A child has one opportunity to gain their education, and our role is to make sure their educational experience is outstanding. We work tirelessly to achieve this. We strive for excellence in all areas, ensuring that every student is challenged, supported, and prepared for their future. We offer a broad and balanced curriculum, rich in opportunities both within and beyond the classroom, and we encourage our students to be curious, creative, and confident individuals. Alongside academia is the pastoral care and support that we are renowned for, with a dedicated team who provide this personalised experience.

As a school we take pride in the positive relationships we develop with our students and their families. Successful co-operation between home and school is vitally important, and I firmly believe a key ingredient to our success. Teachers, families, support staff and leaders work together to ensure that every student realises their potential. We therefore ask that when applying for a place, you also embrace our high expectations and core values. The decision of where to send your child to school is one of the most important decisions that a parent/carer will make. Rest assured that in selecting Fort Pitt, you are opting for a school which has exceptional teaching and learning at its heart, and where students feel safe and happy.

The following information gives you an overview of our school and what to expect, please do ask questions of our students and staff if you wish to find out more!

Best wishes



Salena Hirons
Headteacher

“Fort Pitt Grammar School is a remarkable place to learn.” (Ofsted)



OUR VALUES

This is based upon our new '**Fort Pitt Values**', a set of core beliefs devised by both students and staff, which we feel encapsulates what we wish our students to strive towards during their seven years with us. Our values run through everything we do, and reflect our culture of ensuring our students' happiness is at the heart of all our decisions.



LEARNING & TEACHING

Exceptional learning and teaching is non-negotiable and underpins life at Fort Pitt. Students are privileged to be taught by a team of superb teachers who are passionate about their subjects. Every lesson counts in ensuring our students achieve the very best that they can, and as such, teachers came together to design our learning and teaching charter, which provides a snapshot of what excellent learning and teaching should look like.

We believe in high quality professional development of all our team, and this has clear benefits for students who learn from exceptionally skilled and knowledgeable teachers. Expert teaching and support staff are resolute in their resolve that Fort Pitt be a happy and thriving community, where academic excellence is entwined with ensuring our students are happy, confident and resilient. Students are challenged and supported in equal measure, and this fine balance enables them to fulfil their potential in all areas of school life. Teachers aim to foster a lifelong love of learning within our students, with their passion and expertise clear in all that they do.

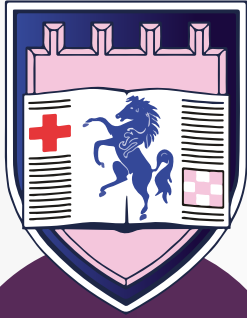


Outstanding learning and teaching should support students in their pursuit of academic excellence, and encourage them to take responsibility for their own learning. We also aim to develop grit and resilience, teaching our students that overcoming setbacks is a key skill, one which will serve them well throughout their school years and beyond.

We believe that outstanding teaching comes in a variety of guises, but at its core are teachers with a passion and enthusiasm for their subjects, who are excited by inspiring young minds. The teaching team at Fort Pitt are fantastic practitioners, who really do go ‘the extra mile’ for all their students.

Subject leaders continually review and refresh the curriculum, ensuring it equips our students with the knowledge and skills essential for a successful future.

“Leaders and staff nurture pupils’ aspirations and self-belief. The well-established curriculum inspires pupils and students. Pupils know that staff want them to excel.” (Ofsted)



MAKING EVERY LESSON COUNT

CHALLENGE

- All students challenged
- High expectations
- Use of academic language
- Pace
- High challenge, low stress

EXPLANATIONS

- Shared vision
- Build on prior knowledge
- Engaged, active and enthusiastic
- All learning styles incorporated
- Development of student schema

MODELLING

- Suitable scaffolding
- Novice learners led by expert teachers
- Stretch and challenge
- Fluency and retention
- Safe learning environment

STUDENTS ENGAGE IN DELIBERATE PRACTICE

- Curriculum mapped
- Time to revise and practise
- Independent and resilient
- Retrieval and interleaving
- Low stake quizzes

DIFFERENTIATED QUESTIONING

- Learning checked and misconceptions identified
- Contextualised learning
- Assessment for learning
- Exam style questioning
- Application of knowledge

FEEDBACK

- Encourages progress
- Metacognition
- Retrieval of knowledge
- Planning based on marking and assessment
- Self and peer assessment

OUR CURRICULUM

Our curriculum has been expertly designed to ensure that every student has the opportunity to achieve success at the highest level. It is delivered by talented and committed teachers using a variety of teaching methods, both inside and outside the classroom. Regular reviews of subject content, teaching and learning and assessment take place, to ensure that our practice is always improving. A focus on breadth, balance and differentiation at every level means that we are uniquely positioned to address the individual needs of our students.

Key Stage 3

Our Key Stage 3 curriculum at FPGS endeavours to provide a broad and balanced experience for all students, which allows them to discover and begin to fulfil their potential in a wide range of subjects.

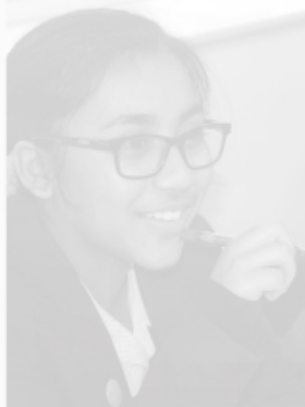
In the first three years of a student's time at Fort Pitt, lessons will cover the full range of National Curriculum subjects, together with Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PSHEE), Philosophy and Ethics, and Careers Guidance.

To further enrich this core academic curriculum, we also offer Modern Foreign Languages, Arts and Design & Technology, and we have invested in a large number of peripatetic music staff, trained to give specialised, individual or group lessons.

Key stage 4

Students study GCSEs from the beginning of Year 10 and complete their courses in Year 11. Our aim is to ensure that by the age of 16 all students have an exceptionally strong core of GCSEs, including English, Mathematics and the Sciences, together with a variety of other subjects. At present, all students continue to study core Philosophy and Ethics, PE and PSHE throughout Key Stage 4. Students are strongly encouraged to choose English Baccalaureate subjects, alongside those subjects they really enjoy.

From the start of Key Stage 4 to the end of their time at Fort Pitt, students receive current and relevant information, advice and guidance relating to careers, higher education and future pathways.



ACADEMIC SUPPORT

We offer significant academic support to all students and closely monitor attainment and progress throughout the year. In addition to the evaluation of test and assessment scores that are reported to parents, we also take the time to discuss concerns or worries with students and families on a regular basis.

Our highly committed and superb teaching staff offer an abundance of out-of-hours extension, booster and catch-up sessions, and are always happy to go the extra mile to help students. We utilise subject experts in the Sixth Form that support younger students from years 7-11 that have been identified as requiring help to catch up in certain areas.

We encourage all our students and parents to speak to us openly and frankly if they feel additional academic support is needed and we will always do our best to help.



STUDENT WELLBEING AND PASTORAL CARE

Pastoral care at Fort Pitt is first-class and ensures that our students' pursuit for academic excellence is balanced with a focus on their wellbeing. Each year group is led by a dedicated Head of Year who has over-arching responsibility for the progress and care of the students in their year. We also have a House system comprised of six Houses: **Aderin, Angelou, Attenborough, Kahlo, Mandela** and **Turing**, all of which encompass a mixture of students from Year 7 through to Year 13. This helps develop mutual cross-year support and challenge, which is a significant part of our ethos and culture. It also instils a healthy competitive spirit between the six Houses, in particular through House Arts, Sports events, Inter-House activities and a variety of other fun challenges.

We have a dedicated Wellbeing Lead and a team of Student Support Managers, who further support students' academic, personal and emotional needs. Allied to this, we are also fortunate to have a number of links to specialist external agencies.

**“The promotion of pupils’ personal development is exemplary...
they receive excellent pastoral support and care.” (Ofsted)**



DEVELOPING THE WHOLE STUDENT

We take real pride in offering a wide range of activities which enrich and extend our students. Our offer is dynamic and varies from year to year according to the expertise of our staff, but we always endeavour to provide stimulating options to suit every student's talents and interests. These activities enhance and extend the taught curriculum and give opportunities for students from different year groups to mix together.

Out of school

Cultural visits abroad: recent overseas trips have taken students to countries such as France, Spain, Iceland, Poland and the USA.

Skiing trips: destinations have included the French Alps and Austrian Tyrol.

Fieldwork: including geographical trips.

Visits to historic buildings, galleries, theatres, museums and workshops:

to complement specific areas of the curriculum, especially Art, Geography, History, Philosophy and Ethics, and English.

Visits to universities and public lectures: we have close links with Russell Group and 1994 Group universities.

In school

Music: Our awesome Music department provide a wide array of clubs, including choir, flute ensemble, jazz band, recorder group and ukulele group.

Drama clubs and House activities.

School productions involving music, drama and dance - culminating in the whole school summer performance.

Debating Society and Philosophy Club.

Sports clubs and teams.

Mathematics Challenge, Mini-Enterprise, and various Scientific Lectures.

Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.

Surgeries and clinics to support learning in specific subjects.

Community and voluntary work for older students. This involves a regular placement at a local primary school, charity shop, residential home, or animal charity etc.

Student mentorship opportunities.

THE SCHOOL DAY

At Fort Pitt, the school day begins promptly at **8:25am** and ends at **3:00pm**.
Students are expected to arrive at school no later than 8:20am.

We operate a two-week timetable, with each school day divided into six 50-minute periods, with a 20-minute morning break and 50 minutes for lunch. The morning session begins with registration and/or assembly. Assemblies are tailored to include students of all faiths, and we encourage everyone to participate fully in these special shared occasions.

At lunchtime and after school, many students participate in a wide variety of enrichment and extension activities, ranging from competitive sports to music lessons. In addition, the school provides study support groups across the curriculum, to ensure that students consolidate and build upon their academic learning.

An exemplar KS3 timetable:

	WEEK A					WEEK B				
PERIOD	MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
REGISTRATION/ASSEMBLY										
P1	Spanish	Maths	PE	History	Maths	Maths	Science	Music	Geog	PLE
P2	Drama	Spanish	Art	Science	Comp Sci	Spanish	Spanish	PE	Sci	Science
BREAK										
P3	English	History	Maths	Maths	Spanish	PSHE	PLE	Science	English	English
P4	Music	Comp Sci	Science	Geog	Art	PE	Science	English	Drama	Art
P5	Comp Sci	Science	Spanish	English	PE	Art	History	Maths	Science	Art
LUNCH										
P6	Science	Geog	English	PSHE	English	Science	English	Science	Maths	Maths

Timings of the day:

	FROM	TO
SCHOOL OPEN FROM	7:30AM	4.30PM
REGISTRATION/ASSEMBLY	8.25 AM	8.45 AM
PERIOD 1	8.45 AM	9.35 AM
PERIOD 2	9.40 AM	10.30 AM
BREAK	10.30 AM	10.50 AM
PERIOD 3	10.50 AM	11.40 AM
PERIOD 4	11.45 AM	12.35 PM
PERIOD 5	12.40 PM	1:30PM
LUNCH	1.30 PM	2.10 PM
PERIOD 6	2.10 PM	3.00 PM
EXTRA-CURRICULAR	3.00 PM	4.30 PM

GREAT EXPECTATIONS

Uniform

At Fort Pitt, we believe that successful and happy learning starts with self-respect. Accordingly, we have high expectations of how our students should behave and present themselves at all times, wherever they may be.

All students in Years 7 - 11 wear the school uniform and are expected to take pride in their appearance. This attitude of self-respect does not start at the school gate, but should apply at all times that a student is wearing the Fort Pitt uniform, including the journey to and from school.

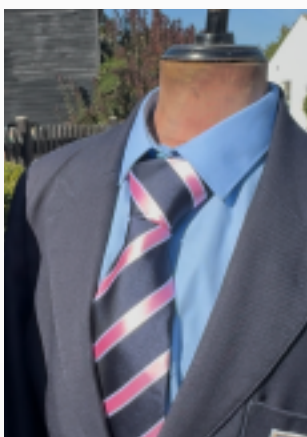
The following list provides details of what constitutes the correct school uniform. It is non-negotiable, and any persistent failure to comply with it will lead to appropriate sanctions.

Year 7 Girls should wear

- Official Fort Pitt blazer with school badge.
- A light blue collared blouse, long or short sleeved.
- Official Fort Pitt Navy Blue and Pink tie.
- Charcoal grey pleated school skirt, which must measure no longer than 6cm below the knee and no shorter than 6cm above the knee. Please note pleats must be stitched down at the top of the skirt and a consistent, equal width around the entire skirt, i.e. no front box panels.
- Optional: Charcoal grey Trousers tailored fit.
- Optional: A navy blue, V-necked, long-sleeved sweater.
- Plain white, navy or black socks (no logos and under knee) or navy, black or flesh-coloured tights with no patterns.
- Plain black shoes: this means no platform heels, stilettos, sling backs, trainers, boots or canvas shoes, and no heel higher than 4cm.
- All coats must be plain and display no prominent logos

Year 7 Boys should wear

- Official Fort Pitt blazer with school badge
- A light blue collared shirt, long or short sleeved
- Official Fort Pitt Navy Blue and Pink tie
- Charcoal grey Trousers, tailored fit
- Optional: A navy blue, V-necked, long-sleeved sweater
- Plain white, navy or black socks (no logos)
- Plain black shoes: this means no trainers, boots or canvas shoes.
- All coats must be plain and display no prominent logos.



GREAT EXPECTATIONS

PE Kit

- New 2026 Fort Pitt Polo Shirt (embroidered with student initials)
- New 2026 Fort Pitt Shorts and/or Skort (embroidered with student initials)
- Optional: New 2026 Fort Pitt ¼ Zipped Training Top
- Optional: New 2026 Fort Pitt reversible Rugby Top
- Plain white ankle socks (no logos or frills) or Fort Pitt long blue socks
- Plain navy jogging bottoms (no logos and no leggings)
- **Sports** Trainers
- Black or Navy Blue PE bag (Optional: Fort Pitt logo bag available from School time)
- Hair band for long hair
- Optional according to extra-curricular activities: Football/rugby boots and shin pads

ALL UNIFORM IS AVAILABLE FROM THE 'SCHOOL TIME' SHOP IN CHATHAM.

Address: School Time, 87-89 High Street Chatham, ME4 4EE
Phone: 01634 831684
Email: info@schooltime.co.uk
Website: www.schooltime.co.uk

Jewellery/Make-up/Hair

Jewellery is not allowed, apart from a watch and one small stud (no larger than 0.5cm) in the lobe of each ear. Multiple ear, facial and body piercings are not acceptable and should be removed whilst in school uniform. The school adheres to Health and Safety rules, to avoid injury whilst activities are taking place. Therefore, no jewellery is allowed during Physical Education lessons. Parents can help by ensuring that school guidance on jewellery is adhered to and that ears are pierced at the start of the summer holidays to allow maximum healing time. It is not acceptable for ears to be taped in school.

Tattoos. It is prohibited for under 18s to have a tattoo, even with parental permission. Subtle make-up only. No false eyelashes.

Hair should be of one natural colour and conventionally styled: shaved hair/ skin fade/ zero fade/ bald fade cuts/ Tramlines or shaved patterns are not permitted. No shaving or slits in the eyebrows.

For afro-textured hair, we pledge to follow the Halo Code, which promises "freedom and security to wear all afro-hairstyles without restriction or judgement" (www.halocollective.co.uk). Please contact the school if you are unsure as to what is acceptable; this will ensure there are no misunderstandings and will avoid unnecessary expense.

Students with afro-textured hair can choose a range of styles that support their hair's health and maintenance, including headscarves and wraps, although these should be plain and navy blue or black.

No nail varnish, gel nails or false nails. Please note that nails should be of natural colour and of a safe length which is not a Health & Safety issue or a danger to other students.

With all jewellery, uniform, hair and accessories, we ask students and parents/carers to be aware of cultural appropriations.

Parents are asked to note these basic rules and to support the school in maintaining high standards of appearance. We would ask that you check with the school before buying anything about which you have doubts, to avoid unnecessary expense.

GREAT EXPECTATIONS

Rewards and Sanctions

Behaviour at Fort Pitt is superb, and every student is expected to behave in a sensible, considerate and courteous manner, respecting other people, their possessions and the environment. Our House system links closely to our Fort Pitt values. Students can gain house points for a variety of activities both in and out of school. As they accrue House points, students receive a variety of rewards, from certificates to vouchers. We celebrate everyone's successes with Celebration assemblies taking place at the end of every term.

For the rare occasions when students fail to live up to our values and code of conduct, the school has a detention system. Any student who earns a detention will be asked to remain for an hour after school, during which time she might be given additional academic work or supervised tasks to improve the school environment. Parents will always be given 24 hours' notice of a detention, and they are responsible for their child's journey home afterwards

“A caring and supportive ethos permeates the school. Relationships are exceptionally strong between pupils and staff. Pupils behave extremely well. They are polite, articulate and considerate. They respect each other's differences and celebrate the school's diverse community.” (Ofsted)



YEAR 7 ADMISSION PROCESS 2026 ENTRY

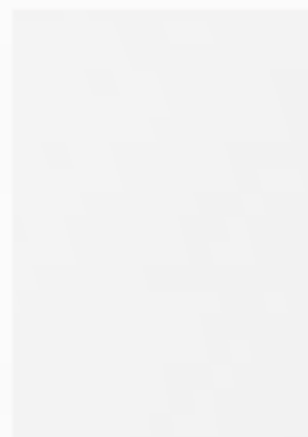
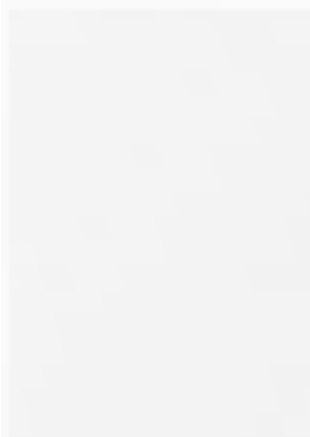
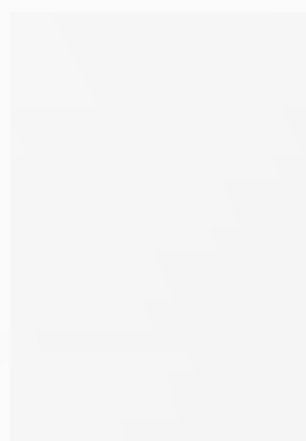
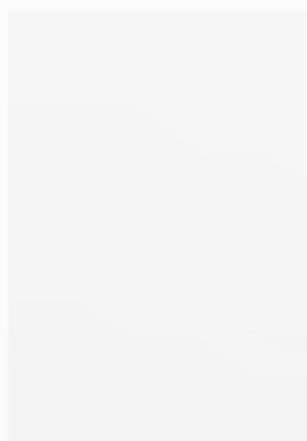
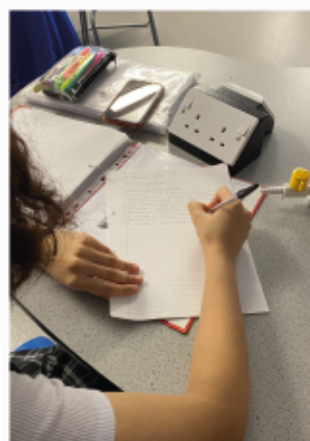
Fort Pitt is a selective grammar school for students aged 11-18. It has no particular religious affiliation. Every September 150 students are admitted to Year 7 on the basis of a selection procedure. Late entry to Years 7-11 will be decided by assessment and to the Sixth Form on the basis of GCSE results.

If you would like to apply for a place for your child in Year 7, your child should have been successful in recent selection tests and you should then:

1. Explore our website, attend our Open Evening or one of our Open Mornings.
2. Complete a Medway Secondary Common Application Form, indicating Fort Pitt Grammar School as a preferred school.

Closing date for 2026 entry applications: Friday 31st October 2025

National Offer Day: Monday 2nd March 2026



OVERSUBSCRIPTION CRITERIA

1. Students in Public Care

Looked after children defined as being in the care of the local authority or being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of their social services function at the time of making an application to Fort Pitt Grammar School. This applies also to those students who are previously looked after children who have ceased to be so due to being adopted or who have become subject to a child arrangements order or special guardianship order as defined in the Admissions code

2. Siblings

The sibling of a student who will still be attending the school at the time the student would be admitted. In this context "sibling" means children who live in the same house, including natural, adopted, step and foster siblings

3. Children of staff

Where the member of Fort Pitt staff has been employed for three years or more at the time at which the application for admission is made and/or where the member of Fort Pitt staff is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage

4. Children residing within 2 miles of the school

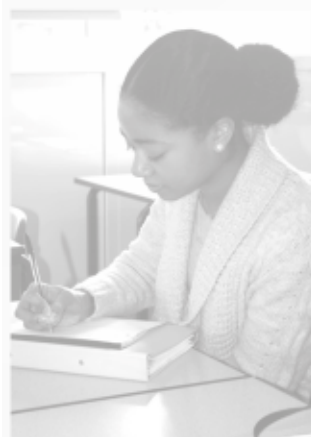
This is measured by the Medway Council Geographical Information System

5. Children residing in one of the following parishes: Allhallows, Cliffe and Cliffe Woods, Cooling, Cuxton, Frindsbury Extra, Halling, High Halstow, Hoo St Werburgh, St James, Isle of Grain, St Mary Hoo, Stoke

6. All other eligible children seeking a school place

These will be allocated according to nearness of home to school, using the shortest, safe walking distance, measured by the Medway Council Geographical Information System.

Tiebreaker: In the unlikely event that two or more children in all other ways have equal eligibility for the last available place at the school, the names will be issued a number and drawn randomly to decide which child should be given the place.



INTRODUCTION TO OUR TRUST

We are an ambitious organisation of 10 schools, serving the educational needs of nearly 7,000 children and young people aged 3 to 19.

Our academies are based in a tight geographical area drawing students and employees from Kent and Medway in the South East of England and this creates a unique opportunity for our employees to work collaboratively. We believe that by working together, rather than in isolation, we can accelerate educational improvement towards achieving our strategic objectives. The result of this is that we can create better training and professional development for our staff and more opportunities for developing lifelong success for our students.

To read more about our Trust and its role in leading and supporting your child's education please visit our website: www.beyondschoools.co.uk

Above & Beyond
SCHOOLS TRUST