



BURGESS HILL — GIRLS —

Excellence in Education Since 1906

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WELCOME TO OUR FIRST ISSUE BURGESS HILL GIRLS POST

KATHRYN BELL

HEAD

Whatever your daughter wants to be, Burgess Hill Girls is the place to be. We are a truly remarkable, happy and vibrant school. Every day is busy, active and exciting. So much is packed into every minute of the day. As one of our Sixth Formers commented – ‘this is a school for *‘Only Motivated Girls’* (OMGs)’, and how right she is! The school is an infectious place and I really encourage you to come and sample a day with us.



Our girls are truly valued for who they are, for the wonderful and unique gifts and talents they possess and for what they can bring and give to the wider community. It is a happy, caring, friendly and supportive environment. It is proactive so that every girl flourishes, excels and does her very best. In fact, we put the ‘excel’ into excellent! The school is filled with pupils who enjoy learning and aim to be the best they can be. As our motto says: ‘I am, I can, I ought, I will’.

Burgess Hill Girls is known for its reputation for excellence. Of course, we set very high standards in every area of education; from academic to creative, and in the personal lives of every girl; however, we also ensure that we develop the individual character of every one of our students. Our girls work in an environment where they develop confidence and independence, enabling and encouraging them to be themselves and where no barriers exist that prevent them from being who they want to be.

Every member of our community is important. Our girls are comfortable and therefore prepared to take risks. They are keen and willing to be stretched and challenged. The size of the school is such that it is large enough to provide a wealth of opportunities, both academically and in the diverse co-curricular and extra-curricular programme, but also small enough to ensure no girl goes unnoticed.

The support offered encourages our girls to look after each other, to listen to the needs of others and to seek the good in everyone. The girls are self-aware and have self-worth. This is why our girls develop into thoughtful and successful young women. They leave school with a sense of hope for the future, a positive outlook and a desire to go that extra mile. They are the bright sparks of the future.

So don’t look anywhere else. We offer your daughter the very best education she and you could ever ask for. Come in and meet me and my team. Every day is an open day at Burgess Hill Girls.

With warmest good wishes,

Kathryn Bell
Head

‘The achievements of all pupils are excellent. Pupils of all ages are conscientious and diligent learners with a strong commitment to their work, so that progress is high in relation to their abilities.’

INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS INSPECTORATE 2014

Burgess Hill Girls provides an ambitious academic and creative education that enables our girls to excel and to be leaders of the future. Girls are at the heart of all we do; we are aspirational for their futures, collectively and individually.

We balance stress-free academic achievement, success in sport and the creative and performing arts and exceptional pastoral care with a forward-thinking, unpretentious, ‘can-do’ attitude.

Our academic curriculum provides an individual focus, a broad, balanced education, the opportunity, confidence, motivation and support so that our girls become the best they can be.

We focus on developing bold, inquisitive and creative girls who achieve outstanding academic results in an aspirational community. We do this by providing a supportive and stimulating environment. Academic success at Burgess Hill Girls is due to excellent teaching that inspires intellectual curiosity.

The curriculum at Burgess Hill Girls is very much about the present and the future. Many of the current ‘in-demand’ jobs did not even exist ten years ago, and our task is to equip the girls of today with the ability to embrace a future that few can imagine.

The girls achieve because they challenge convention, push boundaries, celebrate success. If and when they fall, they learn to get back up, embrace their mistakes and move forward; for only through making mistakes in multiple ways do we learn. In a single-sex environment, girls have the ability to let fly their thoughts, dreams and ambitions. Above all, they learn that the future is bright, bold, brilliant and big. And theirs for the taking.

BURGESS HILL GIRLS. BRIGHT SPARKS



“The contribution of arrangements for pastoral care is outstanding... Relationships are positive between staff and pupils... The school is extremely successful in setting out high expectations of good behaviour.”

INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS INSPECTORATE 2014

At Burgess Hill Girls you will instantly feel a sense of warmth and friendship. The individual care, support and true sense of belonging will guarantee your daughter has an exceptionally fulfilling experience at each and every stage of her education.

At whichever point your daughter enters this outstanding school, the partnership between you as parents, the whole school community and your daughter, you start an exciting journey.

The transition from the Junior School through the Senior School and into the Sixth Form is a seamless, stress-free, process. We pride ourselves in knowing your daughter and how best to support her at every stage of her school life.

At Burgess Hill Girls we ensure that your daughter

- is made to feel welcome
- is individually known for who she is and knows this to be the case
- is provided with a supportive, stimulating and challenging learning environment
- is encouraged to take advantage of the vast range of opportunities available to her
- knows who she can approach and feels able to do so
- has the necessary guidance to support her in making important life choices

Burgess Hill Girls is the right choice. The partnership between you, the staff and your daughter is fundamental in ensuring that her school experience is positive, personal and productive.

BURGESS HILL GIRLS. LEAPING AHEAD





BURGESS HILL

— NURSERY —

“A caring and friendly environment where every child feels valued and understood.”

PARENT



In our Nursery, practitioners take the time to observe, listen and understand what makes your child the person he/she is.

Your child's early school experience should celebrate their uniqueness. Our dedicated team will strive to identify the strengths, interests, preferences and development pathways of your child so that we can respond appropriately with experiences that are meaningful and tailored to them as an individual. Through an on-going process of reflection and self-evaluation we will provide an outstanding level of education.

Your child will be encouraged to explore new experiences in an atmosphere of mutual trust and respect. They will have opportunities to make sense of the world supported by knowledgeable, interested and sensitive adults. They will be encouraged to think creatively, knowing that their ideas and contribution will be valued.

Every day there is a contagious sparkle in the air; the children are deeply engaged in their learning and their confidence soars as they are free to move at their own pace on their learning journeys.

We pride ourselves in having exceptionally positive links between high quality education and your child's healthy progress through to the next step of their education.





BURGESS HILL

— JUNIOR —



“Pupils achieve high levels of knowledge, understanding and skills in curriculum subjects and extra-curricular activities. Pupils come happily to learn in an environment where they feel safe and secure and where they are valued for their unique personalities and qualities.”



Burgess Hill Juniors has a happy, confident, 'can do' attitude which is endemic and infectious. At each stage of your daughter's schooling this attitude is built upon and further encouraged.

The Junior School plays its part in providing new creative opportunities and experiences which build upon the solid foundations of your daughter's nursery education. The early contagious sparkle of our Nursery is nurtured so that your daughter is deeply engaged in her learning and with soaring confidence she is free to move constructively on her individual learning journey.

We know that our high quality education is vital for your daughter's progress through school and into adulthood. We secure this link by ensuring your daughter grows up healthy, safe, and resilient, developing the ability and curiosity to learn. We provide learning experiences that challenge young minds and develop character.

We want your daughter to build upon those early experiences of enquiry, creativity and critical thinking, problem-solving, reasoning and conflict resolution and continue on her journey of discovery, becoming ever more confident to embrace the risks and challenges that new learning brings.

We recognise emotional and cognitive conditions for learning aren't straightforward — we all learn best when we are motivated, interested and happily engaged in experiences that both fascinate and challenge us. We are aware that this happens when your daughter feels confident in herself as a learner and when she knows that her thoughts and feelings are sought after and valued.

INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS INSPECTORATE 2014





BURGESS HILL

— SENIOR —

“This is a school that is rightly proud of its pupils and what they achieve as individuals. Things like academic success naturally follow but the school does not chase statistics.”



PARENT

Wherever you turn you see the evidence of enthusiastic learners and teachers. The quality of the girls' educational experience is at the core of everything we do.

The standard of academic achievement at Burgess Hill Girls is excellent and the 'value added' as measured by Durham University's Centre of Evaluation and Monitoring (CEM) is something of which we are extremely proud. Using baseline data gathered as the pupils join the Senior School in Year 7, GCSE performance of each pupil is on average more than one grade higher per subject than would be expected from pupils of similar ability. This regularly places Burgess Hill Girls in the top 1-2% of schools using CEM statistics.

The data confirms what we see daily; that the girls thrive in this environment and exceed all expectations, giving them the confidence and foundation for a successful future.



The academic curriculum is kept under review and we value the independence we have to build a programme of study that we know will support your daughter in building a strong portfolio of qualifications. This will equip her with the best possible foundation for her future, whichever path she takes.

Alongside strength in core subjects, your daughter will benefit from our commitment to sport and creative and performing arts. Your daughter will develop her independent learning skills and continue to build her general knowledge through a rich variety of courses designed to encourage curiosity and feed her enthusiasm for learning. In Year 9, as she approaches the time to choose her options for GCSE, she will be given advice and guidance on making decisions which will keep her options open for the future.

Our aspirational girls are supported in their decisions for the future by numerous career events. These are delivered by experts in a wide range of fields.





“The Engineering Experience day has made me realise that engineering is not just about fixing things but about being creative and making a difference”

STUDENT (YEAR 8)



“Pupils are well educated, achieving the school’s aim that they should be happy and successful. Pupils of all ages, including those in the Sixth Form, display excellent levels of knowledge, understanding and skill across all subjects and activities.”

INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS INSPECTORATE 2014



LIFE AT BURGESS HILL GIRLS

SOPHIE

How has Burgess Hill Girls helped you develop your passion?

I joined Burgess Hill Girls aged five, and have loved every bit of it. From a young age, I have always been very competitive and energetic, so since we began doing proper sport in around Year 3, I found my passion lay in netball, hockey, and running. In Years 3-5, the P.E. staff encouraged me to join clubs for these sports to give me more chance to develop my skills.

Has the relatively small size of Burgess Hill Girls helped?

Being a smaller school has really benefited me and my sport in so many ways; for example, having fewer girls in lessons allows coaches to concentrate on each individual. Coaching is so focused, it really helps girls reach their full potential and excel. I can't thank Burgess Hill Girls enough for supporting me and encouraging me to achieve my goals. I couldn't have done it without their help.

How do you find time to fit everything in?

Many keen athletes are in a club but a lot of girls at other schools have to leave as their school requires their availability on a Saturday morning. This means missing out on club opportunities, friends and connections. One of the biggest things that I love about our school is that weekends are completely free, so you can carry on your extra curricular activities as you wish.





“If I had a cross country competition on Friday, school hockey tournament on Saturday, and a club match on Sunday, the PE staff make sure that I have time to catch up with any missed work.”

Sport can be very pressurising and hard work, especially when balancing school work at the same time. At many schools, communication between departments is rare, but at Burgess Hill Girls it is the complete opposite. For example, if I had a cross country competition on Friday, school hockey tournament on Saturday, and a club match on Sunday, the PE staff make sure that I have time to catch up with any missed work. There is so much trust between the staff and girls. They look after you so much.

Have you represented the school in any overseas competitions?

Trips are another one of my favourite things about sport at Burgess Hill Girls. The School always runs amazing sport tours, which are often abroad. I recently went on the Disneyland Paris Netball tour, which was an experience I'll never forget. The tour ran for Years 8 & 9 and was incredible. Everyone was allowed to go - they didn't even have to be in a team. When we arrived the years were mixed to form three teams. In previous years the school has run skiing trips to America, staying in Killington, with a one night stop in New York!



“My daughter feels valued for her own achievements and is encouraged to try things she may be unsure of. The team spirit I have witnessed at different competitions is fantastic!”

PARENT

Sport plays a major role within the school, with many extra-curricular activities, local and national fixtures and trips, and international sports tours.

Burgess Hill Girls has an outstanding reputation throughout Sussex and beyond for the range and exceptionally high standard of sport. Each year brings a variety of opportunities and an enviable record of success. Our teams regularly reach county, regional and national finals in a number of events such as: Netball, Hockey, Athletics, Cross Country, Tennis and Equestrian events.

Lunch-time and after-school clubs include Ultimate Frisbee, Basketball, Badminton, Fitness, Dance, Volleyball, Netball, Hockey and more. Lunch-time leagues give girls an opportunity to play competitively and Inter-House competitions involve everyone at some point in the year.

The whole school, including staff, are encouraged to take part in the annual 'Sport Relief Mile', raising necessary funds for underprivileged children.

The P.E. department's philosophy of no weekend fixtures other than major tournaments, encourages the girls to play in local clubs with accomplished players, giving them more match experience and aiding their skill development. Giving girls the time and space to train and compete outside school is vital if they are to be able to commit to their chosen sport and pursue it to a high level.

Supported by teaching staff who are passionate about sport, the girls strive for, and achieve, excellence.





BURGESS HILL

— VI FORM —



If GCSE years provide the building blocks of core skills then the Sixth Form is the foundation on which each individual builds their future — the first real opportunity to stretch their wings, make decisions and take responsibility for their learning and development. This is where students make the transition from a structured, prescriptive programme designed to keep their options open, to the freedom to follow their chosen courses, forge their own path, and pursue their aspirations.

Most girls choose to study four subjects in the Lower Sixth and take three A Levels in the Upper Sixth, whilst others take advantage of our flexible approach, creating a personalised programme to ensure the development of our truly individual learning portfolio.

In the Sixth Form, the girls have a fabulous and exciting co-curricular enrichment programme.

Careers advice and support with university applications form a significant part of the exceptional guidance we provide. A full programme of mock interviews, networking opportunities and relevant work experiences are all offered to our students.

We are very proud of the consistently high levels of success gained by the girls in all aspects of their endeavours. The vast majority of the girls go on to their first choice art courses or music colleges. The excellent careers advice and academic support ensures that our students secure places at the leading universities, colleges and organisations in their chosen field.



“As Head Girl I have had the chance to give something back by supporting existing events, organising new events to provide you with new opportunities and by being a small part of the amazing team of people that dedicate their time to supporting, inspiring, and developing all of you.”

HEAD GIRL 2014/15

BURGESS HILL GIRLS. THOUGHT PROVOKING



“The standard of music at Burgess Hill Girls is outstanding; the performances at every level bring much acclaim from appreciative audiences.”

PARENT

Drama is not just about performance; the formal curriculum supports personal development and critical analysis. Exploring the different genres, in Drama builds understanding of human behaviour and emotions and helps self-confidence and interpersonal skills.

Students are involved in all aspects of the productions and they take great pride in playing their part in 'putting on the show'. With students operating the lighting rig, forming the make-up or backstage teams, taking the role of stage manager, running front of house or being in the cast, the satisfaction gained from being a part of the team is there for all to see.

The commitment and professionalism shown at every level is impressive and illustrates the enormous value of these opportunities for personal development.

Pupils in Junior School take part in at least one production annually and in the Senior School there are Drama clubs for Years 7 to 9, which are run by Sixth Form students. There is a Performing Arts competition led by the Lower Sixth, which involves girls from Years 7 to Upper Sixth, bringing together their creative talents in a wonderful collaborative atmosphere much enjoyed by the whole Senior School. There is also an excellent and very successful Speech and Drama department that offers individual lessons for a range of New Era examination courses.

Musical inspiration begins in the infant classes where the girls enjoy taking part and performing. The capacity of these young children to concentrate and perform is impressive and the foundation is laid for progress and emerging talents which lead to the outstanding musical contribution seen throughout the Junior and Senior Schools.

The significant proportion of girls who play at least one instrument or sing is testament to the enthusiasm and inspiration of the music teachers and peripatetic staff.

Our choirs and ensembles regularly gain success in local, regional and national competitions and their reputation in the community is second to none.

The team work, determination, commitment and focus evident in any musical performance are a great credit to those involved. These habits and skills underpin 'being the best you can be' and develop attributes much sought after later in life by universities and employers.

“I challenge any parent visiting Burgess Hill Girls not to feel proud to be part of this lovely school. The girls are an absolute credit to the school – polite, confident, happy and caring. There is a real sense of friendship, creativity and fun – evidenced by endless photographs and artwork everywhere.”

PARENT

Enthusiasm is excitement with inspiration, motivation, and a pinch of creativity and we see that in abundance in Art, Textiles and Resistant Materials.

The passion and enthusiasm of the staff encourages and inspires the girls they teach. The creative talent is evident around the school with beautiful Art and Textiles work on display alongside Design and Technology projects.

Years 5 and 6 take part in the ‘Brighton Festival Children’s Parade’ each year and the visual spectacle of their creative endeavour is simply outstanding.

The high quality of the Textiles work produced by girls from all areas of the school is recognised each year in local, regional, national and international competitions where girls regularly gaining significant success.

The Sixth Form Art students have a large dual level studio with their own work area, mirroring the environment at Art colleges and universities. The students’ impressive portfolios ensure that many then progress to prestigious Art Foundation courses.

BURGESS HILL GIRLS. LATERAL THINKERS





MY TALENTS AT BURGESS HILL GIRLS

POLLY

Can you remember your first term at Burgess Hill Girls?

When I started at Burgess Hill Girls in Year 7 I had never run a 1500m, held a hockey stick, explored my academic potential or pushed my creative limits. Looking back I am reminded of the world I was introduced to by my new school, one where limits did not seemingly exist inside or outside of the curriculum.

And did that excitement and world of opportunities continue?

By Year 8, I was in the athletics, netball, hockey, cross country and rounders teams, had played the White Rabbit in the production of Alice in Wonderland, discovered my passion for history, art, textiles and most importantly my love of life and of learning. Burgess Hill Girls invigorates you with a drive and vigour that has carried me through my academic career with enthusiasm and ambition for future possibilities.

Looking back, what is it that Burgess Hill Girls has given you?

My time at Burgess Hill Girls has been packed with successes and achievements, failures and challenges. The school encourages an outlook that is full on, one that questions the status-quo and encourages us to look to ourselves for solutions. Taking independent responsibility for yourself and your actions is of utmost significance at Burgess Hill Girls. I now realise that the school has taught me not only how to excel in exams, but to overcome the tasks and trials of life.





Is Burgess Hill Girls a very academic school?

Studying at Burgess Hill is certainly both demanding and rewarding. But, for me, it was the combination of excellent academic and first-rate results along with the innumerable extra-curricular opportunities that inspired. The school believes in a rounded individual and nurtures every diverse talent. I remember well my GCSE year where, not only did the teacher push for top class grades, but I also took part in the production of 'We Will Rock You', and took my Grade 8 ballet exam. Girls at Burgess Hill are a little bit mad, almost too ambitious and total go-getters. It's easy to sum up learning at Burgess Hill Girls: personalised not standardised, centred around the individual and grown on raw talent and passion. Burgess Hill Girls cultivates out-of-the-box, creative thinkers, who challenge and work from their own perspective.

How do you think your future will be affected by Burgess Hill Girls?

In many ways I have Burgess Hill Girls to thank for my aspirations. Before I began at the school I had no idea of the creative ability that lay within me. The school seems to have a unique ability to draw the potential out of all the students. For me, all my dreams lie within the creative field. Not only have my artistic and creative abilities developed in the art and textiles studios, but flourished, thanks to the free-thinking and modern outlook of the school. My textiles and art lessons will remain an important part of my memories of this school; colourful, messy and extravagant. There was no right or wrong and no particular goal. Like all lessons, they were optimistic and exciting and enabled all of us to solve problems and create. The school gave me the opportunities

to take part in 'Artist of the Year' at the Clothes Show Live, take workshops in Textiles CAD/CAM, gave me time off for courses at Central Saint Martin's and put me in contact with the creative industry. Burgess Hill Girls allowed me to create a CV bursting with experience in my desired field, prestigious awards and successes.

What is Burgess Hill Girls Sixth Form really like?

Sixth Form is a challenging time for any pupil; it is the transition period between school and the future. At Burgess Hill Girls it is wrong to say Sixth Form is safe or steady. It is a time where you are encouraged to take risks and make important decisions. However, despite being thrown in the deep end, the individual attention provided ensures that you don't drown. There is less a sense of hard-lining the specifications of a subject and more of a sense of vast wider learning and a focus on expanding from individual interest points. My art and textile courses in Sixth Form felt almost entirely free from an exam programme. I ended up doing a Menswear portfolio and garment in textiles and creating the title 'Contemporary Interpretation of the Human Form' for my A level art project. This is a topic I am hopeful to challenge later in my artistic career and I hope to study Menswear as a BA at university.

So it's really Sixth Form and beyond, with inspired careers advice?

A huge area of excellence at Burgess Hill Girls Sixth Form is the university application process.

I have always wanted to study art and textiles, which is an incredibly demanding and competitive field, so the program was altered to ensure



I met my goals. I wrote 13 drafts of my personal statement for one particular art college in close co-operation with my tutor and Head of Sixth Form. I was also given a massive amount of individual attention from the careers advisor and my subject teachers. I didn't go through UCAS, so I was allowed to work and extend my portfolio whilst the UCAS students learnt about their application process. When it came to interview, my debating and public speaking experience at Burgess Hill Girls enabled me to obtain a place on the prestigious Kingston Art and Design Foundation Course.

Were you able to gain any experience of the world of fashion outside the school?

I managed to gain a few weeks work experience at Burberry during my holidays, applying through a Burgess Hill Girls contact. I worked with the fabric and print development team on the design floor of their head offices, in the presence of their top designers. This experience has given me invaluable knowledge and contacts for the future. This just shows me that Burgess Hill Girls is a school that moulds to fit your every need. It presents a world of opportunities where you can create your life exactly as you want it.

“My textiles and art lessons will remain an important part of my memories of this school. Colourful, messy and extravagant.”

BURGESS HILL GIRLS. TUNED IN



“The friendly rivalry between the four houses – Burns, Milton, Thomas and Yeats – forms the basis for many activities throughout the school.”

DEPUTY HEAD

‘Getting involved’ and ‘doing stuff’ is the norm when it comes to a Burgess Hill Girl. Amidst the daily academic focus, each and every student sees the benefit of new experiences, enrichment, and an opportunity to really enjoy themselves in a slightly less formal environment. There is no end to the students talents and their capacity to take on more is no surprise. The vast range of opportunities on offer, whether provided by staff, external coaches on or off site, or driven by students themselves is simply stunning. A ‘can-do’ attitude is what we like to promote and we are never disappointed.

Students are encouraged to commit to one or more extra-curricular activity when they join the school and as a result they acquire an additional raft of life skills as they enjoy their time outside lessons. They are more likely to work more effectively with these things to look forward to, and a greater work/life balance can be achieved.

The House system offers a huge range of opportunities from charity fund raising, sports events, music and drama through to chess and debating. One of the highlights in the Senior School is the Inter-House Performing Arts competition, which involves girls from Years 7 to Upper Sixth working together to showcase their amazing range of talents, from composing songs to writing scripts, producing and performing.

Burgess Hill Girls has a real sense of community in all that it does and stands for. We believe the partnerships formed between the girls, staff, parents, local and wider community are important elements in creating a learning environment that will support and develop each girl to be the best they can be.



BOARDING AT BURGESS HILL GIRLS

TIFFANY

When did you join Burgess Hill Girls?

I joined as a Year 10 student boarder. I am really glad to have the opportunity to study overseas and especially at Burgess Hill Girls. I chose this school over all the other boarding schools because I was impressed by the site, facilities — such as the art and music blocks — and the resources. The Art block has so far been my favourite place and has given me a quiet and motivating workplace — it is inspiring.

It must be stressful joining a new school away from home. Did you settle in quickly?

I was made to feel really welcome on the first day I came. The day girls are very modest and unassuming. They are willing to help me and we all get on really well.

What have you enjoyed most at Burgess Hill Girls?

The school has offered many outings, which allowed me to explore this country, and even the world. For instance, I joined the Olympic experience trip in London and the 9-day ski trip in Killington. The ski trip was especially remarkable as it was my first experience of a trip such as this that I have gone on without my parents and it is also my first time skiing. I was awarded 'Most Improved Skier' and I felt all of my hard work had paid off! On boarding trips, I have had the chance to try trampolining and horse riding - both new to me. I am a GCSE PE student so also able to join tournaments held between other schools, which I find really fun and inspiring. I believe I have become stronger in sport as I am always encouraged to try out new things.





“I am quite an independent person so I have settled into boarding life easily.”

Am I right in thinking that you are quite competitive?

Yes, I am! I have taken part in many competitions since I joined. I took part in the Kangaroo Maths challenge; in art, a 60th birthday card design for the Burgess Hill Lions Club. In sport, I took part in tournaments which included beach volleyball, athletics and my favourite, the badminton tournament. I believe competitions motivate me and encourage me to push myself so I can achieve more. For me, participating in competitions is stepping out of my comfort zone. I even took part in the Christmas concert playing the guitar!

Is boarding life at Burgess Hill Girls everything you hoped it would be?

I am delighted to have found my second family in the boarding house. In my house, Avondale, everyone has been so friendly. I am quite independent and so settled in to boarding life easily. Our House Mistress plans really fun and exciting weekly boarding activities, such as going to Thorpe Park, a trip to Bournemouth and paintballing. I am part of the boarding house committee, gathering opinions from the boarders of my year and passing them on for discussion. The school will listen to our suggestions and work out better solutions if appropriate. My House Mistress is a great listener. I often share my happiness and struggles with her and she has given me a lot of support, especially as my parents are not around. She takes good care of all the boarders.

Do you get homesick?

Though boarding is a home for me, I still miss my home in Hong Kong very much. I will be studying in England for quite a long time and do feel a little homesick sometimes. But I have realised just how important my family is to me. Whenever I think of my parents, I think of how they have supported me and given me a chance to study in an excellent school. This gives me the determination to work hard so that I can go to a top university and have a successful career to repay them.

And when you do go on to University, what will you take from Burgess Hill Girls?

I have learnt such a lot coming to this school; how to take care of myself, cope with difficulties and to get on well with others. With the help of the teachers and my friends, I have become more confident and willing to ask questions. Most importantly, I have overcome my language barrier and fear of speaking English in public. My English has improved a lot since I came here.

Life at Burgess Hill Girls is full of colour and really good fun.





Burgess Hill Girls offers boarders a wealth of opportunities and experiences whilst living in a nurturing and supportive community.

Truly a home from home, the two Edwardian boarding houses provide welcoming and warm communities where boarders form firm friendships which last a lifetime. The normal school day and separate accommodation allows girls who board to treat their boarding house very much as their home — with space and time to relax, make snacks and socialise as well as develop study habits that will ensure they achieve the highest possible academic standards.

Girls can also make use of the school facilities in the evenings and weekends — practising on the grand piano in the school hall is a favourite, as is playing volleyball in the gym. The Learning Resource Centre is a great place for supervised prep for boarders, whilst the older girls may enjoy private study in their comfortable and well-equipped bedrooms.

Activities help to build the sense of community, and healthy competition between the houses in the Boarders' Performing Arts and Quiz night brings a great deal of fun and laughter within the community. Weekend activities range from medieval banquets, theatre trips or visits to outdoor activity centres, to the ever-popular shopping expeditions.

The boarders become self-reliant, learning to live with and support others, understanding the importance of tolerance, compassion and respect.

“I realise now how much the boarding community at Burgess Hill Girls helped me to grow and how it gave me the confidence to feel relaxed in the company of others.”

FORMER BOARDER

COME & SEE FOR YOURSELF

Words cannot do justice to the atmosphere and ethos of the school; to fully understand the special qualities of Burgess Hill Girls, a visit is essential and easily arranged through the Admissions Department.

BY CAR

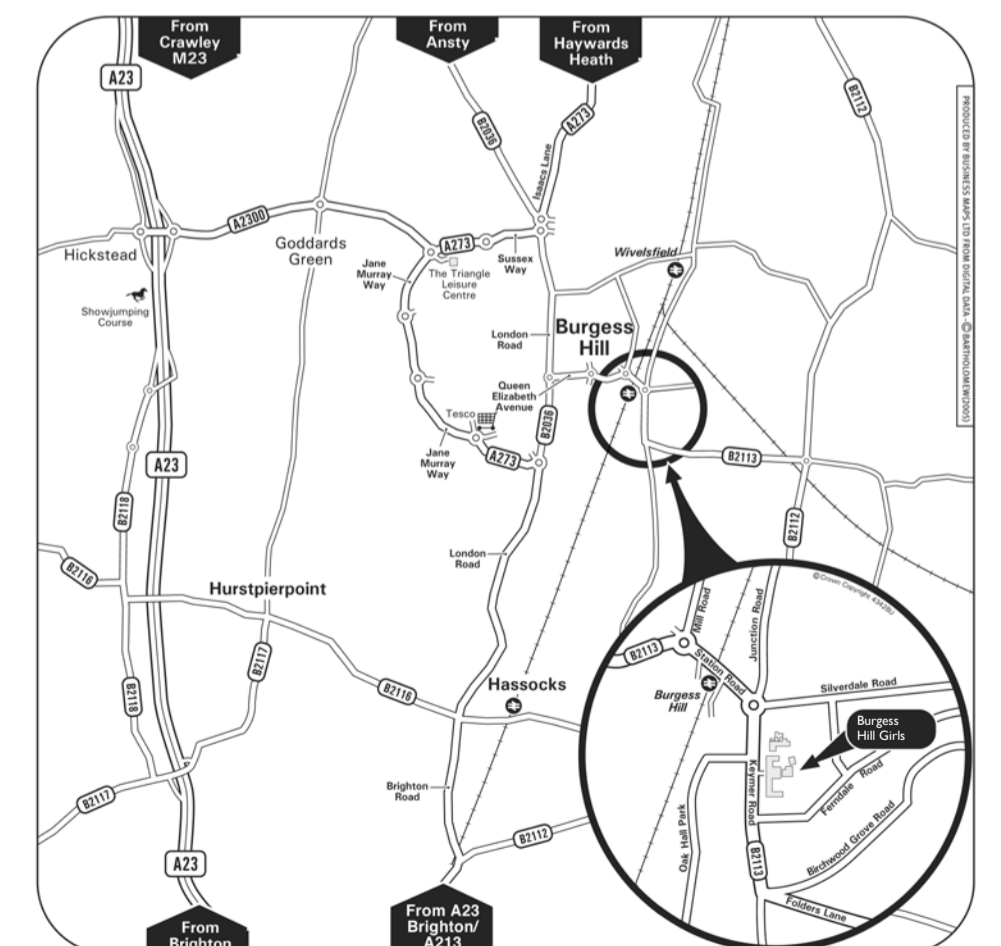
Leave the A23 at the Hickstead junction with A2300. Join the A2300 following signs for Burgess Hill. Continue straight over the next roundabout. At the next roundabout, take the third exit onto A273 (Jane Murray Way). Continue straight over the next two roundabouts. At the next roundabout take the third exit. At the next roundabout take the second exit onto the B2036 (London Road). Proceed ahead at the traffic lights. Turn right onto the B2113 (Queen Elizabeth Avenue). Continue straight over the roundabout onto Station Road, go straight over the mini roundabout onto Station Road, go straight over the mini roundabout, take the third exit onto Keymer Road (B2113). The main entrance to the school is the second entrance on the left. Please come to Reception on arrival.

BY RAIL

Burgess Hill Girls is a five minute walk from Burgess Hill railway station. Burgess Hill is on the main London to Brighton line and direct services include trains from London Victoria, London Bridge, Gatwick Airport, Haywards Heath and Brighton.

ADDRESS & DIRECTIONS

Keymer Road, Burgess Hill, West Sussex RH15 0EG





HEAD GIRL AT BURGESS HILL GIRLS

SALLY

What does it take to be a Burgess Hill Girl?

It means being hard working, determined, interesting and passionate. Also not being afraid to ask questions and aspiring to be happy and successful.

What do you love about being a Burgess Hill Girl?

The general attitude that it's 'cool to be involved', both inside and outside the classroom. Going 'above and beyond' in a piece of independent study is respected amongst girls. This creates an energetic, inspired learning environment where the teachers love to teach and the students want to learn. In this environment I have been able to thrive as an academic and develop a true love for my subjects — Maths, Physics and Chemistry.

What has Burgess Hill Girls provided you?

I joined Burgess Hill Girls in Year 3 as an academic scholar. Through engaging lessons, challenging exercises, attending lectures and getting involved in competitions, I developed a love of Maths. Whilst passion and ability in a subject are the most important requirements for universities, effectively communicating this to make a successful application requires individual, tailored support. The Sixth Form team gave me the confidence and final touches that I needed to gain my conditional offer at the University of Cambridge as well as from four other Russell Group Universities.





In what other areas has the Sixth Form been important?

The fundamental purpose of Sixth Form is to start you on your journey to your future career. Sixth Form is the stepping stone between school and university. Excellent teaching and working hard helps achieve top A Level results. A Burgess Hill Girl is supported but not 'spoon-fed'. We gain the independence, maturity and confidence needed to allow us to make the most of our time at University, to be able to work independently, achieve a healthy work-life balance and recognise valuable opportunities.

What about life outside the classroom?

Girls are encouraged to celebrate involvement both inside and outside of school so extra-curricular activity is all about enjoyment and self-development. I've achieved Grade 7 Singing and competed in many school sports teams. With the absence of Saturday commitments I can have a job and compete in a local running club. Both in school and out, the Sixth Form is full of variety and different experiences. This makes Burgess Hill Girls a genuinely stimulating environment, whilst I am also able to relax with a cup of tea in the common room!

How important has a girls' only education been to you?

At Burgess Hill Girls we are able to focus on who we are as individuals and feel comfortable without worrying about our appearance pleasing anyone other than ourselves. We do not grow up with the stereotypes that exist in a male dominated society. We choose A Levels such as Maths and Physics primarily based on our interest in the subjects and can be leaders without being labelled 'pushy'. We're encouraged to be ambitious, self-confident and take risks. And with long holidays, weekends, and out of school activities, we are hardly shut off from all male contact!

We often hear people talk about the Burgess Hill community. What does that bring?

The size of Burgess Hill Girls is large enough for diversity, great performance in extra-curricular and unlimited subject choices for GCSE and A Level. However, it is also small enough to have a close whole-school community which enables and encourages relationships between year groups. I am a Chemistry mentor for GCSE students. The pastoral care provided by staff is outstanding, but having mentors that are also peers is a very comfortable resource for the girls.

Is being Head Girl a valuable privilege or a hardship in a school as full on as Burgess Hill Girls?

As Head Girl I have had the opportunity to lead a team of fifteen Sixth Form 'School Officers' to initiate and support school events. In weekly meetings with the Head we provide regular contact between students and staff and discuss our ideas on engaging students — always looking for ways to enhance our community. Integration is key to the success so I have made it my responsibility to get to know both Junior and Senior girls. We have the responsibility to be role models for the whole school community and lead by example. I have improved my people management skills, organisation and confidence and the experience has definitely encouraged me to take on challenges and become totally involved.

What values will you take to University and beyond?

As a Burgess Hill Girl, I have grown to be an academic, confident, determined and happy individual in a community of like-minded but distinctive girls.





BURGESS HILL

— GIRLS —

Excellence in Education Since 1906

“I have grown in confidence, learnt how to fail and pick myself up again and developed such a strong passion for learning. I couldn't have done this without the support and opportunities provided by the school.”

UPPER SIXTH STUDENT — SALLY

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