



Welcome to
Sir Graham Balfour School

Open Evening

Tuesday 5th October 2021



6.00 pm – 8.00 pm

Sir Graham Balfour School

Recent University Destinations

University of Cambridge	University of Warwick
University of Edinburgh	University of Leicester
University of Durham	University of Newcastle
Kings College London	University of Nottingham
University of Sheffield	Keele University
University of Liverpool	Staffordshire University
University of Manchester	Liverpool John Moore's
University of Bristol	University of Southampton
University College London (UCL)	Aberystwyth University
University of Lancaster	Nottingham Trent University
University of Exeter	Queens's Mary University of London

Recent University Courses

English Literature	Economics
Mathematics	History
Medicine	CGI and Visual Effects
Geology	Design for Stage and Screen
Artificial Intelligence and Computer Science	Financial Management
Medical Genetics	Human Geography
Law	Biomedical Science
Journalism and Public Relations	Paramedic
Graphic Design	Primary Education
Psychology	Civil Engineering
Midwifery	International Business
Creative Writing	Management
Mechatronic and Robotic Engineering	Chemical Engineering
Sports Science	Nursing
	Physiotherapy

Recent Higher and Degree Apprenticeships

Highways England
Severn Trent Water
Rolls Royce
Jaguar Landrover
Staffordshire County Council
Wates
BAE
Smith and Williamson Investment

Dear Parents and Carers

A very warm welcome to Sir Graham Balfour School. We hope you will find our Open Evening interesting and informative.

We are immensely proud of our students, our staff and our learning environment, which we are sure you will agree, is first rate. We are also proud of our academic standards, the destinations of our students, our values-based ethos and our commitment to make certain every child can achieve their very best.

Tonight, you will have the opportunity to meet key staff, experience subject sessions and explore our facilities. Many members of our school community will be on hand to answer any questions you may have. Please also speak to the numerous students who will be around, they will be pleased to answer your questions.

I hope you have an enjoyable evening and look forward to meeting you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lesley Beck". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal line.

Mrs Lesley Beck
Proud Headteacher of Sir Graham Balfour School

Programme for the Evening:

In order to maintain a free flow around the school, please follow the route you have been allocated on the school map you received upon arrival.

<u>Key Events and Times - update</u>		
6.00 pm	Doors open. Departments are ready to welcome visitors	
6.15 – 6.45 pm	Headteacher's Presentation 1 – Blue Tickets	Main Hall
6.45 – 7.15 pm	Headteacher's Presentation 2 – Yellow Tickets	Main Hall
7.15 – 7.45 pm	Headteacher's Presentation 3 – Green Tickets	Main Hall
8.00 pm	Conclusion of our Open Evening Don't forget to claim a SGB memento as you leave the building	

Sixth Form School Ambassadors

Can be found in the Dining Room, Main Reception and at key points around the school if you wish to ask any questions.

What's On?
Ground Floor Activities
Main Reception Area/Front of School

- **Meet Mrs Cartwright, our Office Manager**

School Shop
(Opposite the Dining Room)

- **Visit our school shop where our students can purchase essential items to aid their learning, including revision guides, art equipment etc. All items are purchased in bulk and sold at the cost price, making sure our students benefit from the best possible price.**
- **Meet our Finance Team – who will be happy to answer any questions regarding finance, including Parent Pay.**

Pastoral Hub
(in the School Dining Room)

Please take time to visit our Pastoral Hub located in the School Dining Room. Here you will find an abundance of information regarding student life at Sir Graham Balfour, including our Pastoral Care, Enrichment Opportunities, links with the wider community and key staff members.

- **Meet the Pastoral Care Team**
 - **Head of Year 7 & Shugborough House - Mrs Collins**
 - **Head of Year 8 & Chetwynd House – Mr Martin**
 - **Head of Year 9 & Sandon House – Mrs Tinsley**
 - **Head of Year 10 & Tixall House – Mrs Cooper**
 - **Head of Year 11 & Weston House – Miss Simmons**

- **Student Support and Intervention Team**
 - **Student Welfare Officer – Mrs Hedges**
 - **Student Hub – Mrs Travis**
 - **School Intervention Unit Manager – Mrs Mayer**
 - **School Intervention Unit – Mrs Bowyer**

- **Learning Support - Our SENCO – Mr Chamberlain, will be on hand to give advice and answer any questions**

- **Introducing other key members of staff**
 - **Head of 6th Form - Mr Hancock**
 - **Careers and IAG (Information, Advice and Guidance) - Miss Watson**
 - **Pupil Premium - Mrs Healey**
 - **Cultural and Enrichment Lead - Mr Tilsley**
 - **Oracy Lead and Debate Club - Miss Bunter**

- **6th Form School Ambassadors – They will be in the Dining Room waiting to answer any questions about life at Sir Graham Balfour School**

- **Uniform – Take a look at our school uniform and compare prices from different suppliers. Samples of our uniform will be on display courtesy of Crested Schoolwear, who will also be available to answer any queries or questions.**

- **Sir Graham Balfour Cambodia – View pictures of our sister school in Cambodia and meet Mrs Bowyer and some of the students who are due to visit the school in 2023**
- **School Dinners – View our break and lunchtime options and meet our catering staff (6.00 – 7.00 pm)**
- **Community Links – Meet Mrs Gannon our School Community Liaison Officer**
- **Refreshments – Eve and Jemima will be on hand to serve hot and cold refreshments**



The Learning Resources Centre

Library Detective

- Visit the Book Fair – The fair is popular with our students where they can buy the latest titles!
- Have a go at the previous week's News Quiz – this is a weekly Form activity and is quite competitive!

Expressive Arts Department

Art

Room 53

- Prove you are a budding artist and add your blossom to our Impressionist Trees
- Join students from Year 10 and 11 as they demonstrate their artistic talents and coursework in progress
- See our A Level art students showcasing their creative skills in the creation of a mixed media mural

Drama

Room 58

- Come and cast the *Balfour Murder Mystery*: see the crime scene and create the culprit

Music

Room 64 and Practice Rooms

- A chance to play the keyboards, instruments or use music technology

- Interested in learning an instrument or having singing lessons? As a school we offer a range of lessons including wood and string, brass, piano and vocal lessons. Mr Field will be available to answer any questions and offer guidance

Modern Foreign Languages Department

Rooms 40 and 42

- Take a photo in our Paris Photobooth!
- Create a foreign passport in French, German or Spanish
- Have a go at ordering numbers to 10 in the fastest time!

English Department

Rooms 34 and 36

- Contribute to our collective story
- Help us build a reading tree
- Complete the quiz

Technology Department

Food Preparation and Nutrition

Room 21

- Taste Testing – Jelly Beans
- Guess the sugar content
- Making butter

**Textiles
Room 20**

- **Have a go at being a fashion designer – customise our mannequins**

**Technology
Room 18 – Test your skill**

- **Can you keep your hand steady? Try the D & T Steady Hand Activity**
- **Have a personalised keyring cut**
- **Identify the tools**
- **View examples of student work**

**Physical Education
Sports Hall (separate building by the tennis courts)**

- **Come and experience new and exciting sports!**
- **Meet the PE staff**
- **Check out our fantastic facilities**

What's On? First Floor Activities

Science Department Room 414/423/424

- **Watch a live dissection**
- **Be electrifying on the Van Der Graff**
- **Dare you do the Methane Bubbles**
- **Chromatography of Pens – find out who wrote the message**
- **Alien Goo – it's slimey!**
- **Burning Money**
- **Flame Testing**
- **Microscopes – looking at microscopic objects**
- **Fruity Batteries**
- **Make your own Hologram**

Computing Department Room 458

Do you want to set up a home network, create your own games and apps or become a Snapchat hacker?

The Computing Department will be running taster sessions on programming techniques, setting up networks and the dangers of social media.

- **Learn how to network your tablet, phone, laptop, computer and other devices in your home**
- **Kodu-Program your own computer game that can be played on the X-Box!**

- **Become a Snapchat hacker and spy on people in your community.**

Geography

Room 428- 'Around the World in 8 Ways'

- **Find out about challenges which exist around the world in the 21st century!**
- **Decide on (and in some cases have a go at making!) the best solutions to these challenges!**
- **Find out what jobs this may lead you to in the future with a Geography qualification**
- **Come and see us to take on our challenges!**

Religion and World Views Room 430-Reflective Room

Experience a range of activities that will encourage you to think in a deeper, more spiritual way

- **Watch your worries fizzle away in the water**
- **Catch your dreams on the dream web**
- **Make your mark on the diversity canvas**
- **Peg your pendant on the prayer tree**
- **Take what you need from the envelopes of Hope**

History
Room 436-Horrible Histories

Come along and join us to explore:

- **World War II ration challenge – can you make a weekly menu from your rations?**
- **Medieval Medicine – how healthy are you?**
- **Go dig... can you use the sources to identify our famous figure?**
- **Chronology Challenge-are you a budding History superstar?**
- **Really how horrible could History be? Picture quiz**
- **On this day in History...**
- **Interactive games, quizzes, word searches**
- **Samples of students' work**

Maths Department

Room 439-Can you 'Rise to the Challenge'?

- **Take part in Mathematical problem solving**

Room 469-Treasure

- **Come and discover Maths career opportunities**
- **Watch the real world relevance of Maths video**

Room 441-Treasure Hunt

- **Take part in our carrot hunt (Angles)**
- **See what you can find in our faculty treasure hunt**

Community Liaison

At Sir Graham Balfour School we actively encourage working links with our community. This academic year we will continue to support numerous charities, including Children in Need, Katharine House Hospice, Comic Relief, to name but a few.

Our students will be spending time in our community, including singing carols in St Mary's Church in December and working closely with our Primary Schools to build partnerships between older and younger students. Our community activities will continue to grow and develop, and we look forward to undertaking even more projects in 2021/22.

Enrichment at Sir Graham Balfour School

Here at Sir Graham Balfour School we believe in preparing our students for the future by providing a range of opportunities to gain new experiences, develop life skills and pursue interests via our enrichment opportunities. Our extensive Enrichment programme encompasses three main strands:

Extra-curricular clubs and activities: We have a weekly timetable of clubs and activities that provide further opportunity to develop curriculum-based skills and interests in lunch time and afterschool. This timetable is reviewed each term to ensure new activities are offered. Our extra-curricular programme also offers the chance to

engage in competitions and events with other schools such as our school sports teams and associated fixtures.

Extension: Extended learning opportunities include masterclasses, music lessons, foreign trips, educational visits and events. These are all undertaken to extend learning, provide stretch and challenge and inspire ambition. For example; our Scholars Award programme offers students the opportunity to extend their learning and interests via a structured achievement programme.

Engagement in wider personal development: we offer opportunities for students to engage in experiences which develop skills and knowledge that they would not usually develop in the mainstream curriculum. For example; Duke of Edinburgh and a variety of optional enrichment activities such as British Sign Language and First aid.

An example of our current extra-curricular clubs and activities (Sept-Oct 2021):

ENRICHMENT TIMETABLE

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Lunchtime	<p>Y8 Badminton Sports hall</p> <p>Vocal Group (<i>singing</i>) Coming soon from 4th October Music room 64 (see Mr Field or Mrs Jupp)</p> <p>Y8 History film club (Mrs Johnston)</p>	<p>Y9 Badminton Sports hall</p> <p>British Sign Language Club (See Miss Marshall or Ms Anthousis for details)</p> <p>Coding Club computing room 458 (see Mr Tisley for details)</p>	<p>Chess Club (<i>all years</i>) room 439</p> <p>Year 7 Badminton Sports hall</p> <p>Art Club (<i>Y7 and 8</i>) room 53</p>	<p>Cipher Club (starting October 7th) see Mr Metcalfe for details</p> <p>Year 11 Badminton Sports hall</p> <p>Orchestra (<i>coming soon</i>) Music room 64 (See Mr field for details) Debate Club</p> <p>DAC centre (see Miss Bunter or Miss Boulton for details)</p> <p>CREST Award</p> <p>Science Club (<i>invitation only</i> - please see your science teacher to express your interest)</p>	<p>Year 10 Badminton Sports hall</p> <p>Creative Writing Club (Mrs Giles - English room 30)</p> <p>Y8 History film club (Mrs Johnston)</p>
After-school	<p>Basketball - Boys Sports hall</p> <p>Football – Girls School field</p> <p>Lego Robotics Club (<i>invitation only</i> - please see your science teacher to express your interest)</p> <p>Computing Masterclass (<i>Y11 only</i>) See Mr Tisley for details</p>	<p>Basketball – Girls Sports hall</p> <p>Football – Boys School field</p>	<p>Netball Sports hall</p> <p>Rugby School field</p> <p>Family Community Cookery Club 4-6pm starting in October – <i>invitation only</i> (see Mrs Hales for details)</p>	<p>GCSE PE Club (GCSE students only)</p>	

School Trips and Educational Visits

Sir Graham Balfour School prides itself on the opportunities we offer to students in the form of school trips and educational visits. Students in the past have visited Spain, Rome, Germany, Switzerland, France, London to name but a few. This year we have already arranged a ski trip for February half term and our GCSE Geography visit to Iceland is planned to take place in April 2022.



Sixth Form Ambassadors and School Council

In the Dining Hall and around the school corridors you will find Sixth Form representatives and members of our School Council. Please stop and ask questions, they will be happy to answer any queries or guide you in the right direction if you need any help.

Sir Graham Balfour School Cambodia

Chi Phat, Koh Kong Province, Cambodia.



In 2002, through the help of World Assistance for Cambodia, we began supporting a primary school in Chi Phat village, rural Cambodia. By 2003, \$16,000 had been raised and this money was used to build a brand new school in the village, with a further \$18,000 raised by 2010 to fund an extension.

We have remained fully committed to this worthwhile cause and every year pupils raise thousands of pounds through a variety of fundraising events. The donations allow us to pay the salary of an English and Computing teacher, which the school itself would not be able to afford. The difference to the children's lives that the education of these subjects provides is immense. By receiving an education in English and Computing, opportunities are created to careers that otherwise would be too difficult to achieve. The ambitions of pupils to become teachers and doctors is now a realistic possibility.

Over the 19 years of supporting the school, students, parents, teachers, and the local community have helped raise a truly outstanding \$80,000. This continuing generosity enables us, every year, to provide every pupil with exercise books and stationery. In addition, we provide the school with teaching resources, classroom furniture, sports and playground equipment and pay for the school to have electricity. The difference that our support makes to the lives of children in Chi Phat is outstanding and everyone associated with the school is incredibly proud.

"We are very thankful for what you do for the children in Chi Phat. I went the school in 2007 and my sister and brother. I am now a tour guide, my sister has gone to university and is now a teacher and my brother is now a policeman. Before, nobody could speak English, the older generation cannot, but now we can. We now have jobs that we would not have without the school."

Local villager.

Cambodia School Visit

To reinforce our commitment to the school in Cambodia, every two years, a trip is organised to the country. For the pupils who make the visit, the impact it has upon them is immeasurable. They understand the unfortunate truth of the unequal world in which we live and realise the positive contribution they can make to it. The experience opens their minds for accepting and understanding of others as they are immersed in a different culture and way of life.

The most recent visit was February 2020, where 18 Sixth Form pupils embarked on a life changing experience. The trip included a visit to the capital city, Phnom Penh. Here, the group went to S-21 and the Killing Fields and learnt the horrific truth about Cambodia's recent past. They then threw themselves into Cambodian culture, visiting the markets and eating Cambodian street food, including deep fried spider and cockroach. They also visited the UNSECSO World Heritage site of Angkor containing the magnificent remains of the different capitals of the Khmer Empire, from the 9th to the 15th century. This included the famous Temple of Angkor Wat and the Bayon Temple with its countless sculptural decorations.

The highlight of the trip was teaching in the school in Chi Phat village. For 3 days, the Sixth Formers took on the role of teachers and taught children a range of lessons that they had themselves created.

"When I taught in the school I was amazed at how happy everyone was when they had so little. Teaching in the school made me feel so good knowing the difference that our support is making to their lives and seeing the smiles on their faces."

George Hill, Sixth Form student.

"I was surprised by how well many of them could speak English. This made me realise the impact that the English teacher was having in the school. It was lovely to be able to talk to the children and I now have many happy memories that will stay with me for the rest of my life."

Holly Till, Sixth Form student.

If you would be interested in helping us raise funds or becoming a sponsor please contact the school - any amount is gratefully received. Tel: 01785 223490 – please ask to speak to Mrs Gannon.

Email: lgannon@sirgrahambalfour.staffs.sch.uk



Daytime Tours

If you wish to visit during the school day, we will be conducting daytime tours on **Wednesday 6th and Thursday 7th October at 9.15 am and 11.45 am.** If you wish to book a place please contact our school office on 01785 223490.

We do hope that you have had chance to ask as many questions as you wanted over the evening. If, however, you feel that you would like to discuss anything further, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us at school.

Thank you for visiting us.

We hope you have enjoyed our Open Evening, if you would like to receive further information from the school regarding transition opportunities, please complete the information below and hand into Reception on your departure.

Name of parent _____

Current School _____

Contact number _____

Address _____

Email Address _____

Any other comments _____