



The High School
Leckhampton
PRORSUM SEMPER

PROSPECTUS



INFORMATION FOR PROSPECTIVE PARENTS

OCTOBER 2020

WELCOME FROM THE CEO

A very warm welcome to the first ever prospectus for The High School Leckhampton. The Balcarras Trust is proud to have been chosen to sponsor this new school and we have worked tirelessly over the last two years to lay the foundations that will enable it to go on to be one of the most successful state schools anywhere in the country.

At Balcarras we have always believed that our mission is to create a school that we would be delighted to send our own children to—so it is with The High School Leckhampton. We will work closely with the newly appointed Headteacher, Mrs Helen Wood, to make sure that the school offers an outstanding education to each and everyone of its pupils.



We are totally committed to comprehensive education—we believe that **ALL** children deserve a superb start in life regardless of their background or prior attainment.

Comprehensive education at its finest



Dominic Burke

WELCOME FROM THE HEADTEACHER

I am absolutely thrilled and honoured to have been recently appointed as the inaugural Headteacher of The High School Leckhampton. It is a huge privilege to grow the school from the very outset and I am totally committed to ensuring it is a flagship school at the heart of the local community.

Working alongside the Trustees at Balcarras, I am determined to create an exceptional school with a culture of high aspirations and academic excellence where the pupils are inspired to become curious, confident, socially attuned, independent thinkers who go on to be happy and successful in 21st century society. The values and ethos of the school will closely mirror those of The Balcarras Trust and we will ensure our pupils experience the highest quality of teaching and the highest standards of pastoral care. As a parent myself, I understand the importance of creating a school that develops the whole child, one that values their individual strengths and teaches them the skills that they will need to lead happy and fulfilled lives in the future.

Starting with a small cohort of 120 pupils will allow us the opportunity to get to know and nurture all our pupils as individuals. Yet, they will have access to a full curriculum and exciting opportunities for enrichment in all areas, including music, drama and sport. I believe that young people deserve the highest quality accommodation in which to learn and, in our first year, we will be housed in our own brand new school on the Balcarras site, allowing pupils easy access to all the specialist facilities that Balcarras has to offer. As the school grows we will, of course, take ownership of our state of the art school in Leckhampton.

It is a very exciting time indeed and I very much hope you will join us on this journey.



Helen Wood



A flagship school at the heart of its community

THE HIGH SCHOOL LECKHAMPTON

The High School Leckhampton is being built to cater for an expansion in pupil numbers at secondary level in the south Cheltenham area. The school has been commissioned by Gloucestershire County Council but is being 'sponsored' and developed by The Balcarras Trust. The Chief Executive, Dominic Burke, and the Trustees have been centrally involved in all aspects of the new school's development including very close attention to detail in the design of the building. The school is located on the southern edge of Cheltenham, just over 2 miles from the Balcarras site, in a very pleasant area overlooked by the magnificent Leckhampton Hill.

The school will open, to Year 7 pupils only, in September 2021 as a 4 forms of entry school, rising to 5 and then 6 forms of entry with an eventual capacity of 900. Because of delays during the planning process (beyond the control of The Balcarras Trust) the site will not now be ready for use until part way through school year 2021-22. So it has been agreed that the 120 Year 7 pupils of The High School will use purpose built accommodation on the Balcarras site for the first year. This will involve some sharing of specialist facilities such as PE but The High School will operate as a separate school, in its own right, with its own Headteacher, school uniform etc. The delay will be worth it because the facilities on its site will be superb when complete.



A culture of high aspirations and academic excellence



HIGH EXPECTATIONS FOR ALL

At The High School Leckhampton we will have high expectations for all of our children. We believe that effort is the key to success and from the start we will actively develop a 'growth mindset' amongst our pupils. We do not believe in fixed abilities and will encourage our young people to constantly push themselves and to aim high. Like our sister school, Balcarras, we will aim for value added that places the school amongst the very best in the country and ahead of Gloucestershire's selective schools. Last year Balcarras' Progress 8 score was comfortably ahead of the average for Gloucestershire's 7 grammar schools. We are determined to match and even exceed this level of performance.

Outstanding progress across the school



ETHOS AND CULTURE

The High School Leckhampton's educational philosophy is simple—we believe all children deserve a first rate start in life regardless of background or prior attainment. School should be a golden time in a young person's life and we will actively seek to make education an enjoyable and rewarding experience.

We are committed to the highest standards of pastoral care. We believe that all young people should feel safe and secure in school and that they should be valued as individuals. We will insist on the highest standards of behaviour at all times. Pastoral care will be organised through the House system which underpins the whole organisational structure of the school. Not only does this model provide for a superb level of pastoral care, it promotes a sense of belonging and community whilst also facilitating the structure for school competitions. The school will have four Houses and siblings will automatically be enrolled into the same House. Each House will have its own tutors and House Head to oversee pastoral care and communication with parents.

We want the school to develop a wide and diverse range of extra-curricular activities so that every young person has the opportunity to develop a broad range of interests beyond the academic curriculum. Some of these activities might run alongside those of Balcarras, particularly in the early years of the school's development.



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PRORSUM SEMPER

The High School Leckhampton will be an inclusive and welcoming school. Children with specific learning needs will receive excellent levels of support from the Individual Learning Department which will be led by the school's SENDCo.

Prorsum Semper—Always Forward

The school's motto—*Prorsum Semper* means *Always Forward*. It is also the motto of Gloucestershire County Council and because the school is being funded by GCC, we decided that including this motto on the school badge was a nice way to recognise the important role that GCC has played in the development of this fabulous new school.



A BRAND NEW SCHOOL

The High School Leckhampton is a £30 million flagship school project which is being funded by Gloucestershire County Council. The Balcarras Trust has worked closely with the architects, AHR, and the developer, Kier, to design a stunning school which will have state of the art facilities including:

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|--------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 6 science labs | individual learning centre |
| 10 ICT suites | 2 art rooms |
| learning resource centre | 2 product design suites |
| music suite | food technology suite |
| drama studio | textiles suite |
| auditorium to seat 400 | large canteen with additional cafe |



Superb facilities in a wonderful setting

SPORTING EXCELLENCE

The school will have great facilities for sport including:

- full size floodlit astro turf surface
- grass pitches for rugby/football/cricket/athletics
- 3 cricket nets
- 3 court MUGA for tennis/netball/basketball
- 6 outdoor table tennis tables
- full size sports hall with viewing gallery
- fitness suite
- activity studio for dance and PE



THE CURRICULUM

Our curriculum will equip our students, regardless of their starting point, with a wide range of knowledge and skills, enabling them to fulfil their potential and realise their ambitions.

The curriculum will:

- ♦ be broad, balanced and relevant, developing all the essential knowledge, understanding and skills, regardless of gender, ability, ethnicity or social background
- ♦ encourage students to enjoy their learning and get a sense of success through their achievements
- ♦ foster scientific, technical, linguistic, cultural and sporting achievement
- ♦ generate a wealth of cross-curricular activities including events, clubs, performances and trips which will be open to all
- ♦ promote British values, including the rule of law, democracy and individual liberty. We will instil in students the importance of tolerance, fair play and a generosity of spirit
- ♦ prepare students for the next stage in their lives by encouraging resilience, self-reliance and an understanding of their responsibility to take ownership of their own learning

During Years 7, 8 and 9 pupils will take the following:

Art
Computer Science
Design Technology
Drama
English
French (second language introduced in year 8)
Geography
History
Mathematics
Music
PE
PSHE
RE
Science

During Years 10 and 11 students will follow the core:

English
Maths
Science
PE
PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education)

Students will then have a choice of optional subjects including:

Art, Business, Computing, Design Technology, Drama, French, an additional language, geography, history, music, PE, RE

A final list of optional subjects will be explained to students during the options process in Year 9

ENJOYMENT

We believe that school should be an enjoyable experience and that the curriculum should be brought to life by lively and engaging teaching. There will be all sorts of additional activities to look forward to such as music, sport, drama, clubs and educational trips, whether they be day excursions, say for geography or history or residential trips, perhaps in languages or sport. Learning beyond the classroom is absolutely crucial and from the start there will be plenty of opportunities for your children.

A golden time in your life



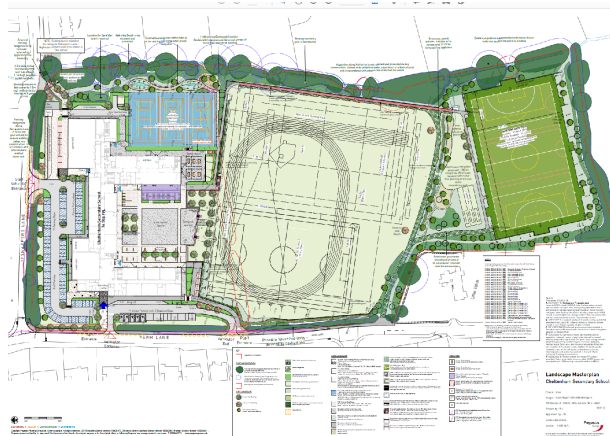
FURTHER INFORMATION

You might want to look at our development website which will give you more information about us including the plans for the school.



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<http://newschoolcheltenham.ovw4.devwebsite.co.uk/>



A WONDERFUL SETTING

The photograph, taken from the top of Leckhampton Hill, shows the site of the school. The school will occupy an idyllic setting, a stone's throw from the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and nestled below Devil's Chimney. It is a superb place for a school site.





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