

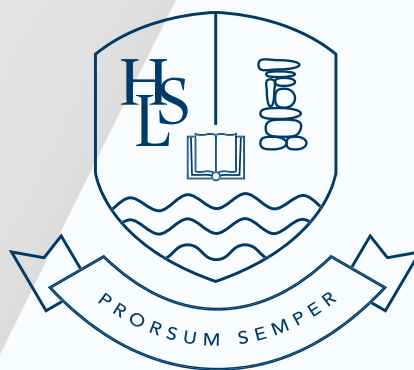
The High School  
Leckhampton

2025  
2026  
PROSPECTUS



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The High School  
**Leckhampton**

# WELCOME

## TO THE HIGH SCHOOL LECKHAMPTON

I am absolutely delighted to hold the privileged position as the inaugural Headteacher of The High School Leckhampton. Having opened the school to a fantastic cohort of Year 7 pupils in September 2021, my colleagues and I have worked tirelessly, laying the foundations of what we hope is becoming a 'Flagship school at the heart of its community.' I am very proud of how our school is taking shape as we move into year five and grateful for the tremendous support we have had from our parental body. We were inspected by Ofsted in 2024, who found the school to be 'outstanding' in every area. In addition, we are notable for being the only secondary school in Gloucestershire to have achieved 'Gold' accreditation as a UNICEF 'Rights Respecting School' - so we have much to celebrate, but I can assure you that we remain committed to continually improving the school and will never be complacent!

Having recently welcomed a new cohort of 180 Year 7 pupils, the school is on a continuous journey of growth. In 2026, we will have additional places for another 180 Year 7 pupils, bringing the total school population to 810, with pupils in years 7-11. By 2028 we expect to have a community of 900 pupils.

Our school is driven by a determination to secure the best educational outcomes for all our pupils, its unrelenting focus on teaching and learning, and its commitment to continuous improvement. We have a culture of high expectations and a commitment to academic excellence, where all pupils are inspired to become curious, confident, socially attuned, independent thinkers who go on to be happy and successful in 21st century society. We want our pupils to excel academically but also to expand their horizons, and we are absolutely committed to providing them with a great many enriching opportunities outside of the classroom. In doing so, we have recruited the very best teachers and support staff, so that school is enjoyable and lessons impactful. I believe that people make a school, so recruiting staff who share our high expectations and go the extra mile for our pupils, is always at the top of my priorities.

Schools are wonderful places, they spring into life each morning with a tremendous amount of energy, and I hope that all the pupils of The High School Leckhampton will feel eager to come to school, to participate, and that they will be inspired by their expert teachers, their interesting curriculum, and the variety of enriching opportunities provided for them.

I hope that you share our vision for and the values of The High School Leckhampton. I am very much looking forward to welcoming new families to our growing school.

Helen Wood

Headteacher

The High School Leckhampton

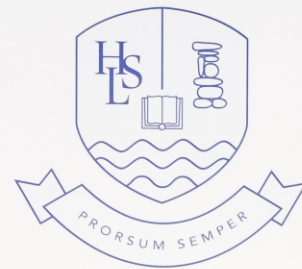


**The school has a relentless drive for excellence.**

Ofsted 2024



The High School Leckhampton			
House Captains		House Captains	
2025	Euan Cameron-Mitchell Ella Riordan	2025	Amelia Coates Lachie Hart
2025	Will Ford Anabella Smith	2025	Noah McCrea Talia Phelps Garcia



## OUR SCHOOL

The High School Leckhampton is an 11-16 comprehensive school which opened its doors in September 2021. The school was commissioned by Gloucestershire County Council to cater for an expansion in pupil numbers at secondary level in the south Cheltenham area. The school is part of The Balcarras Trust, along with Balcarras School and Winchcombe School. The school opened to Year 7 pupils in September 2021 and was temporarily located at Balcarras School. In September 2022, we moved to our permanent home on Farm Lane, where the school welcomed a new cohort of Year 7 pupils. Eventually we will accommodate 900 pupils. The Farm Lane site is located on the southern edge of Cheltenham, just over 2 miles from Balcarras School. The school occupies an idyllic setting, a stone's throw from the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and nestled below Devil's Chimney - a superb place for a school site.

### **Our Vision - A flagship school at the heart of its community**

At the High School Leckhampton we have an ambitious vision that fully embraces the inclusive and aspirational philosophy of The Balcarras Trust. We are committed to creating an exceptional school with a culture of high expectations and academic excellence, where all pupils are inspired to become curious, confident, socially attuned, independent thinkers who go on to be happy and successful in 21st century society.





**This strong shared vision,  
means that pupils attending this school  
receive outstanding education.**  
Ofsted 2024

## TIMELESS VALUES

The High School Leckhampton is a values-driven school with a positive, **inclusive ethos** – actively promoting the highest standards of pastoral care. Our **ethos** and values are underpinned by a belief that every child should enjoy school and make **superb** progress, regardless of their starting point. We are committed to ensuring that pupils' experience of school is **happy** and **safe**, that they develop healthy and positive relationships with their peers and go on to achieve fulfilment in later life. We value partnership working and are totally committed to becoming the number one school of choice in the community we serve.

We were delighted to be recognised as '**one of the happiest schools in England**' by the Sunday Times newspaper in 2025.

# OUR APPROACH

## PRORSUM SEMPER (ALWAYS FORWARD)

In order to raise the aspirations of our pupils, to champion their intellectual growth and academic achievement, and to develop them as well-rounded people, our approach is to value every individual. As a growing school, with big ambitions, we pride ourselves in knowing every child. We encourage and support each pupil to take responsibility for their own development, to be active participants and to pilot their experience through school, rather than being passengers on the journey. We do this by building leadership opportunities into our systems, by encouraging all pupils to actively participate in our extra-curricular provision and by involving them in their academic progress.

Everyone associated with the school will:

- strive for excellence and encourage resilience
- participate, work together, and contribute positively to the community
- expand our horizons

We are committed to ensuring that:

- all pupils make superb progress, regardless of their starting point and achieve outstanding academic outcomes
- the curriculum is interesting, suitably challenging, relevant, and delivered by first-class teachers, who go the extra mile to bring out the very best in our pupils
- we are ambitious for all pupils and relentless in our quest for continuous improvement
- our staff uphold and instil in our pupils the school values
- we develop the whole child by providing enriching opportunities in areas such as sport, music and drama
- we nurture a community spirit of friendliness and understanding
- school is a safe, happy environment with a calm, purposeful atmosphere, where all pupils thrive
- pupils have access to the best possible facilities and resources to support all aspects of their learning
- we look after our environment and build a sustainable future for all
- we listen to and support parents and carers with their child's journey through school
- as a UNICEF Rights Respecting School, all adults promote and uphold pupils' rights, as codified in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child







**The behaviour and attitudes  
are exemplary.**  
Ofsted 2024

## OUR TEAM

### A DEDICATED TEAM WITH BIG AMBITIONS

Your child will be joining the school at an incredibly exciting time in our development. Over the last few years, we have recruited a high performing team of teachers and support staff. These colleagues have proven themselves to have all the skills and character attributes required to support the pupils in our growing school. We have specifically recruited colleagues who are not only extremely well-qualified in their respective field but who are excited to join as pioneers in our venture. Our teachers have been able to demonstrate a track record of outstanding teaching and crucially the inclination to go the extra mile for their pupils. We expect all our staff to demonstrate the very highest standards of professional conduct, a total commitment to the safeguarding and the welfare of young people, alongside a passionate commitment to shaping the whole child by leading extra-curricular and super-curricular opportunities.







**The school has planned a broad  
and highly ambitious curriculum.**  
Ofsted 2024

# OUR CURRICULUM

## CHAMPIONING INTELLECTUAL GROWTH AND ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

We believe that our curriculum is transformational, equipping 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. We are unapologetic in our academic ambitions and our teachers will work tirelessly to secure the best educational outcomes for all our pupils

The curriculum aims to:

- be broad, balanced and relevant, developing all the essential knowledge, understanding and skills, regardless of gender, ability, ethnicity or social background
- ensure equal access to learning for all pupils, with high expectations for every pupil and appropriate levels of challenge and support
- encourage students to enjoy their learning and get a sense of success through their achievements
- foster scientific, technical, cultural artistic, musical and sporting achievement



- equip students with strong levels of literacy and numeracy
- support pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development
- support pupils' physical development and responsibility for their own health, and enable them to be active
- generate a wealth of cross-curricular activities including events, clubs, performances and trips which will be open to all
- equip pupils with the knowledge and cultural capital they need to contribute positively to their community
- 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

## Curriculum Design

Careful thought has been given by our school leaders to curriculum design, ensuring that our implementation closely reflects our values and local needs (our curriculum intent). As subject specialists, Curriculum Leaders are empowered to develop their own department's curriculum. There is a strong emphasis on progression within each subject, with lessons carefully sequenced in order to maximise learning and supported by timely and appropriate assessments.

## Key Stage 3

We ensure a smooth transition from KS2, by collaborating closely with our partner primaries and with early experiences organised for new pupils and their parents. All pupils will study the same subjects, including **English, Maths, Science, History, Geography, Computing, Art, D&T, PE, Drama, French, Music, RE and PSHE (which includes careers guidance)**. This model will develop lifetime skills and inspire our students to gain mastery of the core curriculum.

## Key Stage 4

All students in Years 10 and 11 will study **English Language, English Literature, Maths, Combined Science, Physical Education (Core) and PSHE (including RE and Careers Guidance)**. Other subjects will be optional, but we expect the vast majority to choose a combination that will meet the criteria of the English Baccalaureate. The assumption is that all students will study GCSE courses. The final list of subjects offered will be confirmed when pupils are in Year 9, however we currently offer: **Business, History, Geography, Computer Science, Art, D&T Product Design, Art Textiles, D&T Food & Nutrition, Drama, Health and Social Care, French, Spanish, Music, RE, and PE**.



# PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

At The High School Leckhampton, Personal Development is taught once a fortnight in Key Stage 3 and weekly in Key Stage 4, supported by a rich programme of assemblies, tutor time, and wider enrichment. Our curriculum equips students with the knowledge and skills to thrive—covering health, relationships, British values, rights, and careers. Through engaging lessons and experiences, students build confidence, broaden their horizons, and grow into kind, informed, and responsible young people, ready for life beyond school.





# PASTORAL CARE

## THE HOUSE SYSTEM

Our House system is at the heart of our pastoral care provision, allowing each child to fully immerse themselves in the school values. As well as providing a happy, safe, and supportive community, the House system allows all pupils to engage with the spirit of competition throughout their time in school but to also seek support from staff when needed.

Each child who joins the school is placed in one of our four Houses: **Chelt, Isbourne, Lilley Brook or Windrush.**

All pupils will go on a journey during their time at The High School Leckhampton, much like the rivers and tributaries we have named our Houses after, and although each House has its own 'personality' they are all committed to providing a supportive community where opportunities are offered, and achievements celebrated.

There is a full calendar of House competitions including Music, Sport, and Languages.



# FUTURE LEADERS

Our pupils are in the unique and privileged position of being able to lead and shape the school community as we grow. Consequently, your child will have significant and frequent opportunities to develop their leadership and teamwork skills. For example, they may stand for election to represent their tutor group on our House Councils, Learning Council or as a Sports Leader. They could volunteer to be a member of our Eco-Committee which works to raise awareness about protecting the environment and drive sustainable initiatives involving our whole school community as part of the Eco-Schools programme. They may also choose to join the Rights Respecting School Steering Group. Our Year 11 pupils are elected to be House Captains and Prefects, acting as important role models to younger pupils.



# BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS

## WITH PARENTS

We know that our pupils will have the best chance of success and the best possible educational experience if we work closely with parents. We are always happy to hear the views of our parents and hold a Parent Forum each term, as well as having calendared opportunities for feedback throughout the school year. To sustain the involvement of parents throughout your child's time with us, all parents are automatically welcomed into the school's Parents, Teachers and Friends Association (PTFA).





**The school provides an  
extensive range of extra-curricular  
and enrichment opportunities.**  
Ofsted 2024

## ENRICHMENT, ENGAGEMENT & ENJOYMENT

An important part of your child's education at The High School Leckhampton is our enrichment curriculum. The school offers a wide range of clubs, before and after school, as well as at lunchtimes - there are over 100 every week - and all pupils are expected to participate. We also offer an extensive range of trips and visits throughout the school year. The school production is a highlight of the school calendar, and a very high percentage of our pupils have private music tuition during the school day. We also offer Public Speaking (LAMDA) tuition.





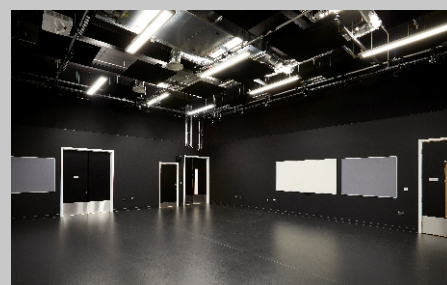


**Pupils make significant contributions to the running of the school.**  
Ofsted 2024

## OUTSTANDING FACILITIES

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

- 6 science labs
- 10 ICT suites
- Learning Resource Centre
- music suite
- drama studio
- auditorium to seat 450
- individual learning centre
- 2 art rooms
- 2 product design suites
- food technology suite
- textiles suite
- large canteen with additional café







**Pupils at this school develop  
their character and interests alongside  
their academic achievements.**  
Ofsted 2024

## SPORTING EXCELLENCE

The benefits of developing a healthy, active lifestyle cannot be underestimated and your child can expect to be fully involved in a fantastic sporting calendar. From highly competitive team sport to recreational clubs, we promote and value physical activity for all our pupils.

The school has great facilities for sport including:

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





# SCHOOL UNIFORM

The uniform standards at The High School Leckhampton are exceptionally high and our pupils feel proud of wear it, believing that it creates a sense of community: "I am proud to wear our uniform, it makes me feel part of the HSL community". We believe that high standards of appearance reflect high standards elsewhere. Our uniform is distinctive and engenders a feeling of belonging, linked to the House system. It has been designed to promote a collective identity, where every child feels included and that any differences in family income are not apparent. The items have been chosen in order to provide a smart, durable, working outfit for school that represents good value for money for our parents.

## Our Uniform:

- promotes a sense of pride in the school
- engenders a feeling of community and belonging
- is practical and smart
- identifies the children with the school
- is not distracting in class (as fashion clothes might be)
- makes students feel equal to their peers in terms of appearance and financial circumstances
- is regarded as suitable and good value for money, by most parents

## Our suppliers have been carefully selected according to:

- their ability to provide items that are good quality, represent good value for money, and can evidence a reliable supply chain
- their customer service
- their approach to the environment and sustainability

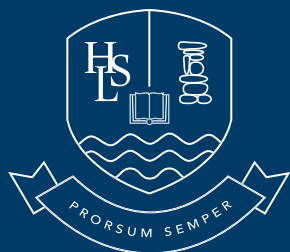
We expect pupils to take pride in wearing the uniform appropriately and that parents support with this. We strongly advise you to look at the full guidance on our website, which clearly shows what is/is not allowed. Please contact the school if you need a paper copy.

## PE Kit

The school takes pride in the kit that the students wear; it provides a clear identity and ensures that there are no health and safety concerns. It is advised that pupils name all their kit. No fashion items should be worn.







The High School  
**Leckhampton**

Farm Lane, Leckhampton  
Cheltenham, GL51 3FS  
01242 383351  
[admin@hsl.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:admin@hsl.gloucs.sch.uk)  
[www.hsl.gloucs.sch.uk](http://www.hsl.gloucs.sch.uk)

