HERSCHEL GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Prospectus

Year 7 Entry

September 2027

Responsibility
Success
Care

Welcome to Herschel Grammar School

Headteacher's Welcome

Herschel Grammar School is a selective, co-educational secondary school serving Slough and surrounding areas. In our last inspection in May 2024, Ofsted deemed the school outstanding in all categories.

Herschel has a warm, vibrant atmosphere built on an ethos of mutual trust, high academic standards, and a commitment to nurturing and developing every pupil. We provide the very best opportunities to ensure every child achieves their potential.

The school's success is built on genuine collaboration and partnership between governors, staff, pupils and parents; a partnership that has great aspirations for every child. Teachers have high expectations and work very hard to provide challenge and support.

> ***'Pupils thrive in the vibrant community of this school. They are ambitious for themselves and what they can achieve, modelled by the high aspirations that staff have for them'*** (Ofsted 2024)

The strength of any school lies in its people. We are fortunate to have a highly experienced and dedicated staff team, many of whom have served the school for a considerable number of years. Their loyalty, expertise and commitment provide pupils with a stable and supportive learning environment. We are particularly proud that several members of staff were educated here themselves and have returned to the school to pursue their teaching careers. Their decision to come back and give to the community that helped shape them is a powerful endorsement of the values and opportunities the school provides.

Pupils themselves have positive attitudes to learning and work well together. They take responsibility for their own behaviour and have strong emotional intelligence and empathy. As a result, our young people leave us as responsible, active citizens ready to contribute confidently to university, the workplace and their communities.

As a result, our pupils don't just achieve very good examination results. Their progress between Year 7 and Year 11 places the school in the top 5% of schools nationally.

Furthermore, there is a wealth of information on our website that I hope will help you to increase your understanding of the school and to serve as the first point of information.

Jo Rockall
Headteacher

> ***'Pupils achieve exceptionally well in this school. At GCSE and A Level, outcomes are high and often sit in the highest percentages nationally. But it is not just in examination outcomes that pupils thrive. They are happy and proud to be associated with their school'*** (Ofsted 2024)

Welcome to Herschel Grammar School.

Responsibility • Success • Care

Herschel Grammar School is committed to:

- Being a caring, inclusive and respectful community in which everyone contributes, is valued, and has pride in the school.
- A curriculum that is characterised by a depth of knowledge and understanding, to equip young people with enjoyment and fascination in learning and the skills to progress independently.
- Being a centre of excellence where learners achieve their full potential in academic, personal, social, physical, moral and spiritual development.
- Being a working partnership of learners, parents, staff, governors and the community.
- Preparing learners for the demands and opportunities in a rapidly changing world.

The social and emotional skills, knowledge and behaviours that young people will learn in school will help them build resilience and set the pattern for how they will manage their emotional wellbeing throughout their lives.

Learners will leave Herschel as self-confident, tolerant and fulfilled individuals, equipped to make a valuable contribution to the diverse communities in which they will live.

Our Ethos

A happy and calm school is the best environment in which to support pupils to succeed. We work hard to create a positive and supportive ethos, placing great emphasis on the successful transition between primary and secondary school. Our dedicated Head of Year for Year 7 plays a key role in ensuring that our new Year 7 students develop into the self-confident and happy pupils we see further up the school.

'A buzz of excitement pervades the school. Pupils move with purpose to lessons that engage them, keen to get learning.' (Ofsted 2024)

Herschel is a true community, and we are proud of that community spirit. Our ethos is founded on mutual respect and understanding, in which the contribution of each individual is valued. The PSHCE, Careers, and student voice programmes are essential vehicles for creating and reinforcing this ethos.



Our Vision for Every Herschel Pupil

At Herschel Grammar School, we are committed to nurturing a community where every pupil is empowered to grow, contribute, and thrive. We believe in the transformative power of education and the importance of character, and we hold ourselves to the highest standards in preparing young people for the future.

We aspire to be:

- **A caring, inclusive and respectful community**, where every individual is ***valued***, takes pride in their school, and contributes meaningfully.
  *Here, your child will be **safe**, **supported**, and encouraged to take creative risks, explore ideas, and **flourish** in a culture of curiosity and respect.*
- **A centre of excellence**, where pupils achieve their full potential—academically, personally, socially, physically, morally, and spiritually.
  Your child will become knowledgeable, skilful, and confident in applying their learning to real-world challenges.
- **A school that fosters ambition**, not only for oneself but for peers and the wider community.
  Your child will be inspired to aim high, support others, celebrate success and pursue excellence in all they do.
- **A launchpad for the future**, preparing learners for the demands and opportunities of a rapidly changing world.
  Your child will develop adaptability, resilience, and a positive mindset—ready to embrace change and lead with purpose.
- **A place where global citizens are formed**, equipped to make a meaningful impact in diverse communities.
  Your child will leave Herschel as a self-confident, tolerant, and fulfilled individual—able to articulate ideas, offer solutions, and contribute to society with integrity.

We are a genuinely caring school; it's in our DNA, with care being one of our three core values.

We are consistently told this by our pupils, staff, parents, and the wider community.

This results in very positive working relationships across the whole school community and a real sense of community spirit, best observed in some of the much-loved school traditions, such as the annual talent show, race for life and sports day.

Another value, **success**, is evident in our pupils' love of being in school and the academic rigour which results in great outcomes at GCSE and A Level.



The Curriculum

The word cloud below is a collection of each department's vision compressed into one.
At Herschel, we run a faculty system (7 faculties) that supports small or single-person departments in sharing excellent practice and fostering positive working relationships.

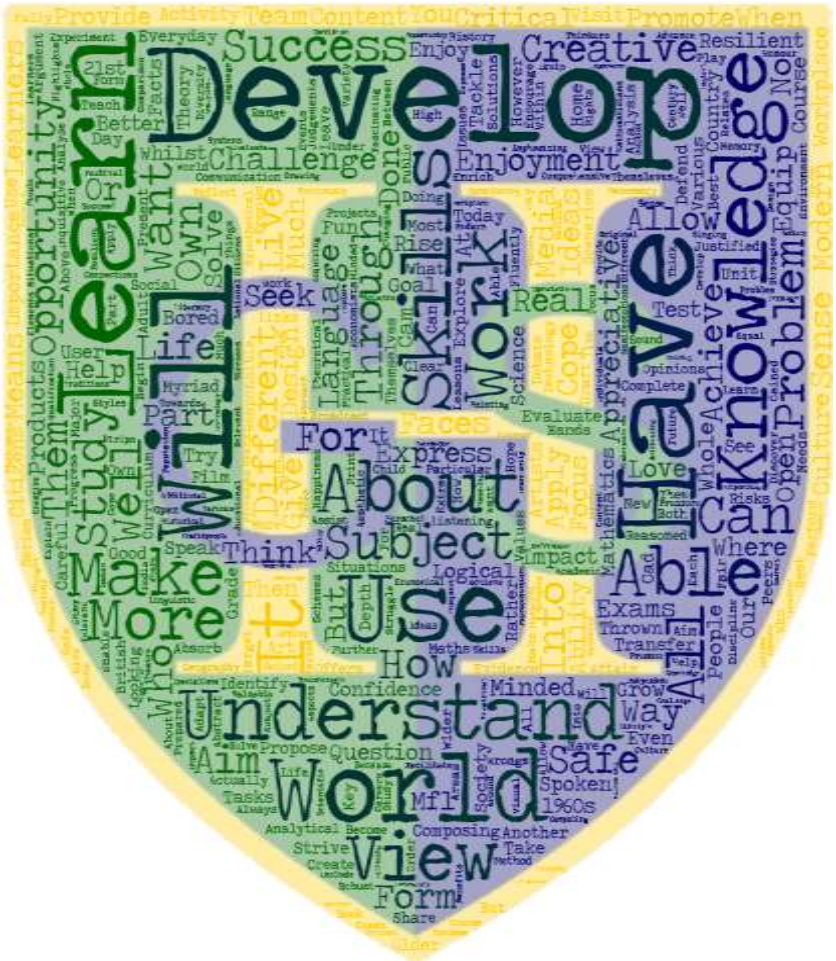
Strong foundations are crucial to success; as such, we operate a **three**-year key stage 3. In fact, many core subjects are developing a seamless five-year or seven-year curriculum.







As a selective intake school (Years 7 -11), a **sharp academic focus** is vital in meeting the needs of our learners.



Our curriculum is ambitious and academic; lessons have a pace, and learners are challenged.

We expect most of our learners to study A levels and go on to university (many to high-tariff universities) or to higher-level apprenticeships. See page 14.

Whilst we recognise the crucial role of GCSE and A-level grades, our focus is on so much more than just examinations.

Our extensive extra-curricular and broader curricular programme demonstrates our commitment to developing a range of skills and experiencing a range of activities.

Key Stage 3 – Years 7-9

When your child arrives at Herschel, we build on their previous experience of the National Curriculum.

The subjects studied are: English, Mathematics, Science, Computing, History, Geography, Art, Music, Drama, Design Technology, Physical Education, Religious Studies, French or Spanish and PSHCE (Personal, Social, Health & Citizenship Education)

'a highly ambitious curriculum which supports all pupils, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), to do exceptionally well.'

Progress is monitored throughout the Key Stage in the form of teacher assessments and examinations.
Currently, 'setting' is introduced from Year 8 in English, Mathematics and Science.

Key Stage 4 – Years 10-11

At Key Stage 4, students follow a broad and academically rigorous curriculum leading to ten GCSE qualifications. All students study English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry and Physics, providing a strong foundation across the core subjects.
Beyond this core programme, students have the opportunity to shape their own curriculum by choosing four additional GCSE subjects. Options include courses in the creative, technical, business, humanities, language and computing fields, allowing students to pursue their individual interests, strengths and future aspirations.

Recent changes to national accountability measures have enabled us to provide greater flexibility in our curriculum. As a result, students have more freedom than ever before to select the subjects they genuinely enjoy and wish to study further, rather than following a prescribed pathway.

We believe that studying ten GCSEs strikes the right balance between academic challenge and personal wellbeing. Ten GCSEs provide ample breadth and depth for progression to A Levels and beyond, while allowing students sufficient time to engage fully with their studies, participate in enrichment activities and maintain a healthy balance between school and home life.

Key Stage 5 – Years 12-13

We currently have a Sixth Form of over 300 students. We offer a wide range of A Level subjects and enrichment activities.

Joining our Sixth Form means becoming part of a successful and supportive community where students are challenged to achieve their full potential.
You will benefit from excellent teaching, personalised academic and pastoral support, opportunities for leadership and enrichment, and expert guidance on future pathways. In return, we ask students to demonstrate commitment, resilience and ambition; to take ownership of their learning, contribute positively to the wider school community, and help create an environment where everyone can thrive.
Together, we foster a culture of respect, achievement and personal growth that prepares students for success beyond school.

Behaviour

It is important for all members of the school community to work together in a climate of mutual respect and understanding.

Respect underpins our expectations of behaviour:

Self-respect
To take responsibility for our actions, think for ourselves and take pride in all we do.
Respect for others
To show understanding, tolerance and courtesy towards other people.
Respect for learning
To be prepared to learn and help create a positive learning environment.
Respect for the environment
To respect other people's possessions, use equipment and resources with care, and learn to nurture and protect the environment.

ClassCharts is our online behaviour and communication system, giving parents and carers a clear view of their child's behaviour, rewards and any concerns raised in school. It helps us celebrate positive choices and ensures that home and school can work together to support each child's progress.





Teaching and Learning

Herschel Grammar School is a dynamic learning community where students are challenged, inspired, and prepared for a changing world. They explore diverse topics—from science and history to art and literature.

They encounter a fascinating variety in their learning, with topics ranging from the workings of photosynthesis to strategies for attacking a medieval castle, and from the brushstrokes of Vincent Van Gogh to the mindset of Macbeth.

'Behaviour is exceptionally settled and calm, both in lessons and at social times.' (Ofsted 2024)

We prioritise excellent teaching, creativity, and independent thinking, helping students grow into curious, resilient learners who take responsibility for their progress in a supportive environment.



Our House System

Herschel Grammar School is named after Sir William Herschel and his sister Caroline Herschel.



They were both German-born British astronomers and composers who are widely credited as the founders of sidereal astronomy for observing the heavenly bodies.

William found the planet Uranus and its two moons and formulated a theory of stellar evolution. Knighted in 1816, William was also the first astronomer to suggest that nebulae are composed of stars.



His sister Caroline is credited with the discovery of several comets. She was also the first woman to be paid for her contribution to science.

There are 5 houses across the school, all are linked to stars and constellations.

Throughout the school year, there are a range of student and staff competitions held so that everyone can get involved in trying to achieve house points.
The house that has the most points at the end of each term has its colour ribbons attached to the house trophy. This is displayed in the school foyer along with our many other trophies and awards.



HYDRAE ELECTRA REGULUS SIRIUS CAPELLA

"Teachers are enthusiastic and have excellent relationships with their students."
(Ofsted)

Home Learning

At Herschel, there is no homework; however, we do expect learning to be completed at home -but we call this ‘Home Learning’.
Completing work outside of lessons is essential to pupils’ achievement.
Home Learning allows for opportunities to consolidate and enhance what has been covered in lessons. There will be many occasions where home learning prepares pupils for their next lesson, so completion is vital.
Home learning will challenge and provide opportunities to broaden learning and provide enrichment. It will encourage independence and develop study habits that will be beneficial for future working or study patterns.
The time expected will range from approximately 7 hours a week in Year 7 to 15 hours in Year 11.





Extra-Curricular and Enrichment

Herschel believes that education is not confined to the classroom and that young people learn a great deal from taking part in other activities within and beyond the school. This fosters teamwork, leadership and the development of individual responsibility.

The fantastic outside sporting facilities include a brand-new floodlit AstroTurf, tennis/netball courts and school field, whilst inside the sports centre we have six badminton courts, indoor cricket nets and a dance studio. These allow for an impressive range of extracurricular clubs and sports teams, and pupils of all ages and sporting abilities are encouraged to become involved in regular inter-form competitions and in the school’s sports day.

"Pupils regularly engage in high-level, challenging philosophical and theoretical discussions."
(Ofsted)

Pupils can also participate in drama productions, choir, orchestra and instrumental tuition. There are opportunities for public speaking, participation in STEM challenges, mock trial and a wide range of other national competitions and lunchtime and after-school clubs.
There are a range of leadership opportunities, including an extensive Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.
There are a range of residential visits both in the UK and abroad, including the annual Year 7 Bushcraft residential, Ski Trip to Andorra, Creative Arts Trip to Cornwall and the prestigious World Challenge. In addition, there are reward trips, theatre visits, field trips, art exhibitions, competitions and much, much more.





Additional Educational Needs

Herschel Grammar School believes:

- All pupils, irrespective of ability, are of equal worth and are valued for the contribution that they can make. We encourage all pupils to develop their abilities to the fullest extent and recognise the achievements of others.
- All pupils are entitled to a balanced and differentiated curriculum.
- We aim to develop the caring attitudes of pupils and staff concerning personal and social responsibility and promote sensitivity to the needs and feelings of others, believing that ignorance breeds fear and prejudice.
- Parents play an integral part; their co-operation is essential, and they have the right to know when their child is experiencing difficulty and be informed at all stages of support.

Pupils with specific learning difficulties are supported by the Trust SENCO and School ANCO (additional needs coordinator) together with appropriate staff from within and outside the school.

Pupils who are identified as high-performing have appropriate curriculum extension activities and are tracked and challenged by our High-Performing Pupil coordinator.

General Information

Uniform
Uniform is intended to help pupils present a smart "office" image and we believe it is one of the aspects which helps promote positive attitudes, high standards, corporate pride and a positive self-image in the community.
Uniform must be worn correctly at all times.
Pupils wear a black blazer and a school tie, with grey trousers, grey shorts or a grey skirt.

Timing of the School Day
The school has **five** teaching periods a day. Pupils are expected to be on-site by at least 8:20 am, with registration at 8.30 am. Lessons finish at 2.55 pm.
Private study facilities are available after school. The library is open until 4:15 pm daily, and the computer rooms are open for printing.

School Transport
NCP run several school transport routes servicing pupils in and around the following areas: Reading, Southall, Hayes, Langley and Norwood. For information on current routes please see our school transport information on our website. Places are popular and sometimes limited, so these must be booked well in advance of starting at Herschel.

"Your support and encouragement towards your students is second to none and is greatly appreciated!"
Parent

British Values

We recognise not only the importance of allowing pupils to thrive academically but we also embrace our wider role in preparing them for adult life. Part of our role in that preparation is ensuring that we promote and reinforce British Values to our pupils.
As a culturally diverse school, we recognise the multi-cultural, multi-faith and ever-changing nature of the United Kingdom. We follow equal opportunities guidance which guarantees that there will be no discrimination against any individual or group, regardless of faith, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, political or financial status, or similar. We also understand and recognise our vital role in ensuring that groups or individuals within the school are not subjected to intimidation or radicalisation by those wishing to unduly or illegally influence them.
Our curriculum prepares children for life in British Society. The Government emphasises that schools are required to ensure that British Values are taught in all UK schools. The five British values are Democracy, the rule of law, Individual liberty, Mutual respect and Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

School Results 2026

We are once again delighted to celebrate another year of exceptional academic achievement, with students attaining outstanding GCSE and A Level results. These achievements are a testament to the hard work, dedication and resilience of our students, supported by the unwavering commitment of staff, parents and carers.
Year-on-year comparisons remain complex due to the unique grading approaches during the pandemic. It is also important to recognise that the pandemic and subsequent cost-of-living crisis have created additional pressures for young people and their families. Against this backdrop, this year's results are even more impressive.

GCSE RESULTS 2026

Herschel Grammar School is delighted to celebrate another year of outstanding GCSE results, with students achieving excellent outcomes across a wide range of subjects and continuing the school's tradition of academic excellence. The Class of 2026 demonstrated exceptional commitment, resilience and ambition, achieving results that compare favourably with previous years.
Key highlights include:

School GCSE Results over time		
	2019	**2026**
5+ 9-4 grades inc. English & Maths	**99%**	**98%**
Grades 9 - 5 in English & Maths	**94%**	**97%**
AVG Points Per Pupil	**70**	**71.78**
Avg. Points Per Entry	**7.15**	**7.32**
Grades 9 - 8	**47%**	**50%**
Grades 9 – 7	**69%**	**73%**
Grades 9 – 5	**95%**	**97%**
Attainment (average grade)	**7.4**	**7.6**
English Baccalaureate strong pass	**39%**	**81%**

In particular, the proportion of the highest grades continues to be impressive, with half of all GCSE grades awarded at Grades 9-8 and nearly three-quarters awarded at Grades 9-7.

A Level Result 2026

This year's A Level results are among the best in the school's long history and are truly remarkable. Our Sixth Form students have achieved an impressive set of A Level results, enabling them to progress to a wide variety of destinations, including leading universities, degree apprenticeships and other exciting opportunities.

The average grade at A Level and EPQ is a **Grade B+,** which is very credible and represents excellent attainment.

A Level Attainment

A Level (inc EPQ) Grades Summary	
	All
Grades A* %	14%
Grades A*-A %	48%
Grades A* - B %	76%
Grades A* - C %	90%
Grades A*- E %	99.5%
Average Points	
Per Pupil (includes EPQ)	136
Per Entry (includes EPQ)	42.4

These exceptional outcomes reinforce Herschel Grammar School's reputation for academic excellence and reflect the school's commitment to fostering ambition and opportunity for every student.

Looking Ahead

We are immensely proud of the dedication, resilience, and ambition shown by all our students. These results are not only a testament to their hard work, but also to the brilliant support of our staff, families, and wider school community.
Many of our A-level students will now progress to some of the country's most prestigious universities, while a record number of our Year 11s will continue their journey with us in the Herschel Sixth Form.
So wherever next, our students do so with confidence, a record of outstanding achievement and the skills to thrive in the future. We wish every one of them the very best as they take their exciting next steps.



Further information and breakdowns can be found on the government performance tables website https://www.compare-school-performance.service.gov.uk/

"I have formed great friendships at Herschel, but most of all, I am proud to say I have developed into a mature young woman who I am proud to be, and I have to thank Herschel for giving me countless opportunities, continuous support and for shaping me."
Year 13 Pupil

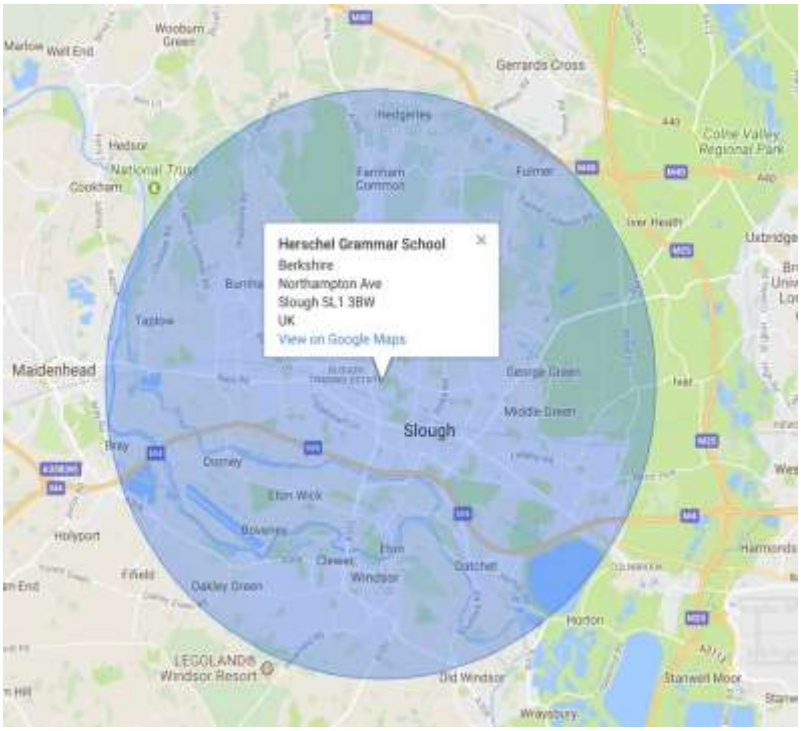
Admissions Information

The admissions process for Herschel Grammar School follows a set timeline. The key stages are outlined below to help you understand what happens and when.

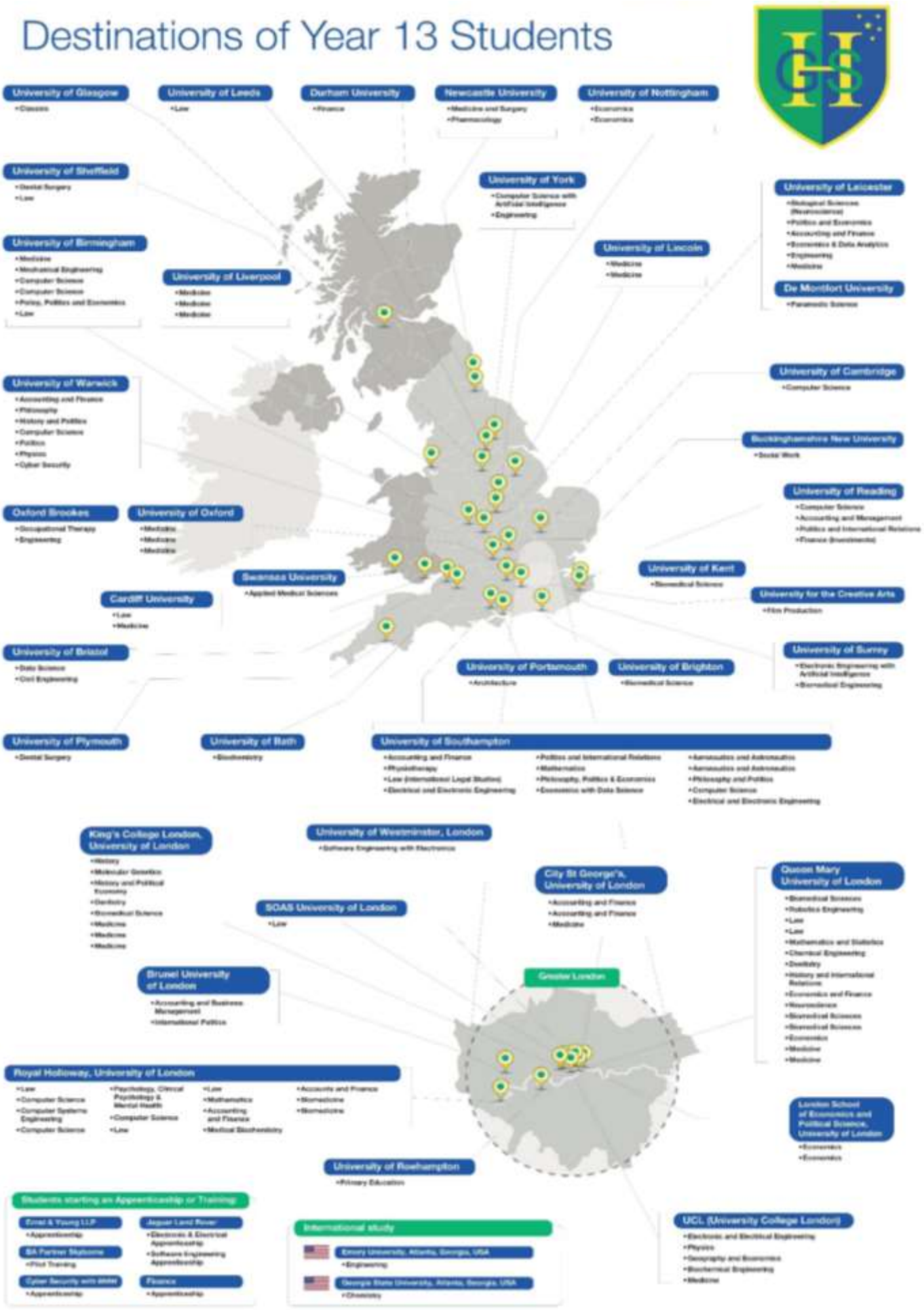


As specified in section 5(ii) of our Determined Admissions Arrangements for September 2027 entry, priority will be given to pupils living within the school catchment area, which is defined as a home address within 4 miles of the school.
Distance will be measured in a straight line from the front door of the child's home address (including flats) to the main entrance gate of the school, using Slough's Geographical Information System (GIS), with those closer to the school receiving the higher priority.

The map below gives an indication of a 4-mile radius of Herschel Grammar School.



Post 16 destinations



Notes:

Contact Herschel



Herschel Grammar School

Northampton Avenue
Slough Berkshire SL1 3BW

01753 520950
mail@herschel.slough.sch.uk
www.herschel.slough.sch.uk
Instagram: HGS.1952

Headteacher: Jo Rockall

Chair of Governors: Wendy Barnett

Herschel Grammar School is an Academy and part of the Schelwood Trust charitable company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales. Registered number 07899845.

School results

Ofsted report

School website