

The Folkestone School for Girls 2024 Home School Agreement

The Folkestone School for Girls has a long established and enviable reputation of delivering outstanding academic results. However, the central tenet of our school vision and curriculum is that **exam results are what you get; they do not define who you are and will play only a part in shaping the person you become.**

So, if exam results don't define you then an obvious question is what does? It's hard to argue with R. J Palacio, author of 'Wonder' and her assertion that; "Courage, Kindness, Friendship, Character. These are the qualities that define us as human beings and propel us, on occasion, to greatness."

We would add a few more to that list - teamwork, service, resilience, leadership, wisdom and integrity...

We want our girls, your daughters, to leave us well qualified and well rounded; intellect and character, bold and spectacular, **ten feet tall.**

Our academic curriculum is only a part of what we do.

Parents/Carers -

We need your support. Whilst exam results don't define us, it's an inconvenient truth that shyness can; a lack of confidence can! Those who lack confidence don't join in, don't sign up, don't take part, don't have a go. They settle! Opportunities are missed, options are narrowed, doors are closed. That lack of confidence starts to chart their course for the future and to define the person they become - but working together, parents and school, can tackle that. We want our girls, your daughters, to realise that they are capable of more than they know.

Students -

You are braver than you believe - stronger than you seem and smarter than you think.

Our school has a host of opportunities available to all of you - right from the outset of Year 7 - with FSGBacc activities like Mountain biking, Climbing, Archery, FSGRadio, CoJo's, Cheerleading, our own Escape Room! In Year 8, you'll be a Language Ambassador and teach primary students in French or Spanish! You can join the Combined Cadet Force and in Year 9 your Duke of Edinburgh journey can begin. You'll have an opportunity to perform in music concerts, drama productions, dance performances and/or to combine all 3 in the big summer musical! You could represent the school in sports or debating or start your own business through Young Enterprise - literally something for everyone! There are loads of trips and visits too, from overnight camps here at the school to trips all over the world - and in each and every one of the activities listed above, the chance to create lifelong memories **with friends** and the chance to make **new friends!** So be it climbing to the top of the climbing wall, riding the seesaw on our mountain bikes, teaching a lesson in a foreign language or completing the obstacle course as a cadet....

Students - you just need to push yourself; to feel the fear and do it anyway! Join in, sign up, take part!

Parents/Carers - we need you to encourage your daughters to do just that.

*There is more in us than we know if we could be made to see it;
perhaps, for the rest of our lives we will be unwilling to settle for less.*

Our Curriculum aims to provide:

- 8 to 10 good GCSEs;
- 3 or 4 good A levels in mainstream academic subjects;
- Work experience/internship placements to develop awareness of the world of work and a global dimension curriculum to build critical thinking, reasoning and analytical skills, problem solving skills and social influence/'soft power' skills;
- Art, Drama, Music, Sport, Combined Cadet Force (CCF), Duke of Edinburgh Award (DoE) and a host of other opportunities and activities as part of our character education and personal development programme, The **FSGBacc** - for breadth and balance, to demonstrate and develop character, to build 'soft skills' such as leadership & teamwork and to just have fun!
- An international outlook and a global perspective.
- An appreciation for the traditional British Values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and responsibility, mutual respect and tolerance and to see these as fundamental principles of our own, and any community;
- A happy, friendly, caring community which allows individuals to flourish.

And after 7 years, happy, well-qualified and well-rounded young women; with intellect & character, bold and spectacular, **ten feet tall**, prepared for varied and fulfilling careers and ready to take on the world!

This agreement is written so that there is a mutual understanding between parents, students and the school and to ensure all have a **joint commitment** to the school aims.

Student's Code of Conduct

We have the highest expectations of our girls and expect them to exhibit those high standards for themselves in and around school.

We don't subscribe to too many rules but we expect girls to wear their uniform smartly and with pride. We expect them, too, to take pride in our school and to treat our buildings, facilities, resources, the surrounding areas and **each other** with respect.

We champion the traditional British Values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance and see these as fundamental principles of our own and any community.

We expect girls to be polite and courteous in their interactions with each other, with staff, when online and when out in the wider community. We all like 'Please' and we all like 'Thank you' and we all like the door held for us and being asked 'Can I help?'

Some simple statements to guide you in thought, in word, in action, at school and **always**:

1. **Do your best.**
2. **Be your kindest.**
3. **Look the Part**
4. **Act the part**



Sign Up
Take part
Join in
Stand out

Students and parents/carers should be aware that failure to comply with our school Code of Conduct and to therefore behave reasonably and responsibly in school, is a strong indicator that students may fail to behave reasonably and responsibly on any school trips or adventures.

Therefore, **poor behaviour and/or attendance in school could jeopardise any student being accepted onto school trips and adventures.**

Parents/Carers will:

- ensure that girls attend school each day on time, in the correct uniform, adhering **fully** to our dress code and properly equipped;
- ensure that girls follow our Code of Conduct and the guidelines for uniform and behaviour **and support any sanctions put in place by the school**;
- let the school know about concerns or problems that might affect work or behaviour in school and respond to school communications in a timely manner
- support girls with homework, other opportunities for home learning and with their academic studies and progress;
- positively and actively encourage girls to participate fully in the many co-curricular opportunities offered through our character education and personal development programme, the FSGBacc;
- attend parents' evenings and discussions about progress;
- get to know about their daughter's life at the school;
- **be polite and courteous in their dealings with the school and its staff. Please also be realistic in terms of accepting that responses may not be instantaneous (we aim for a response within 24-48 hours) and that versions of events relayed at home may not be the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth!**
- not book holidays during term time & only request authorised leave in very exceptional circumstances;
- observe parking restrictions and traffic calming measures within and around the school grounds;
- be appreciative that 'extra-curricular' FSGBacc activities such as CCF, DoE, overnight camps, school performances, trips are 'extras' and that failure to have satisfactory levels of behaviour/attendance may result in students being excluded from such activities.
- Inform the school in a timely manner should your daughter no longer require a place on a trip or activity so that this space can be reassigned
- give written permission (by signing below) for their daughter to have a mobile phone in school. We recognise that a mobile phone provides students and parents reassurance for their journey to and from school, but once in school the use of a mobile phone is not permitted. The phone must be switched off during lessons and throughout the school day. **Never used, seen or heard**; phones should be kept out of sight, in bags or pockets for the duration of the day. On rare occasions teachers may ask students to use their phones in class for research or for another educational purpose. It is inappropriate for any student to use a mobile phone to take still or moving images in school or to record conversations or other interactions. The school cannot be held liable for the safety of any phone brought to school (including when in a locker) and in the event of your daughter not complying with these conditions, her mobile phone will be confiscated and will be available for you to collect from reception.

The school will:

- contact parents/carers if there is a problem with attendance, punctuality or equipment and respond to any concerns that the parent/carer may raise in a timely manner.
- let parents/carers know about any concerns/problems that affect their daughter's work or behaviour and equally, share details of successes and achievements at school.
- send home a full report once a year and a data dashboard twice per year (incl tutor comment once a year)
- set, mark and monitor homework and provide support for students to do homework in school as appropriate.
- arrange parents' evenings during which progress will be discussed.
- provide electronic information about your daughter via the SIMs parent app.
- keep parents/carers informed about school activities through the website, regular letters home, newsletter presentations and notices about special events.

Signed: _____ (Parent/Carer) Date: _____

I have read this Agreement and understand what is required of me.

Signed: _____ (Student) Date: _____