



Information Booklet

Session 2024/2025



**George
Heriot's
School**
Founded 1628



Founded on an ethos of
care that lives on today



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Visiting the school

Open Morning

Open Morning is held on the last Saturday in September each year.

In 2023 our Open Morning will take place on Saturday 30 September where the school will be open to visitors from 9.45 am – 1.00 pm. Further details will be posted on our website by early September. Open Morning in 2024 will be held on Saturday 28 September.

A presentation to our visitors will begin at 10.00 am in the School Hall with our Principal, Mr Warren, our Heads of Senior and Junior School, Mr Fairclough and Mr Morrison respectively and our pupils. Following this, guided tours of the Junior and Senior School will be available with pupils.

If you arrive after the presentation in the School Hall, please feel free to join an escorted group or to tour the School unaccompanied. Pupils and Staff will be pleased to direct you or to answer questions at any time. Refreshments will be available throughout the morning in the Refectory.

At the information point, you will be able to speak with key members of staff including Senior Management from both the Junior and Senior Schools and the Admissions team: Miranda Henderson, Director of External Relations, Gemma Cousins, Admissions Manager, Heather Aitken, Admissions Co-ordinator and Eilidh Gilmour, Admissions Assistant who will be happy to answer any questions on entry to the School. A member of the Finance Team will be pleased to provide information on the Foundation or assistance with fees.

Individual visits

In addition to our Open Morning, we recommend that prospective parents and pupils visit the School on a 'normal' working day to see the School in action. We will arrange for you to have a look around and meet with Mr Warren, Mr Fairclough or Mr Morrison.

If you would like to arrange a visit or would like further information on entry to the School, please contact Mrs Gemma Cousins, Admissions Manager, on **0131 221 6709**, who will be delighted to make the arrangements for you.









Gareth Warren

Principal

After graduating from Liverpool University (Pharmacology) and completing my PGCE at Bristol University I began my teaching career in both State and Independent schools in England and Bermuda respectively. Settling in Scotland, I have been fortunate to work in a variety of schools in Edinburgh and Perthshire, before becoming Principal of Heriot's.

A strong connection with Scottish education runs through my family and this has continued with my youngest daughter becoming the first Herioter of the family. The relationship with the School is, however, long established with friends and other family members both attending and working at the school.



Ethos

The ethos of Heriot's is clear – that everyone should be kind, caring, respectful and achieve their best. Understanding your personal ethos is important and encouraging pupils to explore and understand their own values in the safe environment that Heriot's provides is fundamental in preparing for whatever the future holds.

Memorable moment

As a science teacher I have been party to a few disasters in the labs (exploding yoghurt being one) but the highlights from my career always centre around the actions and achievements of pupils; whether gaining the qualifications they have worked so hard for, volunteering at charitable organisations or seeing the personal growth and fun had on many a school trip, are always memories that will be cherished.

Five years' time

The School continuing to thrive and to be a really enjoyable place to learn and explore interests and ideas. At a more strategic level I would view the School

as playing a leading role in the evolution of education in what is a very important decade. To address the changing demands of society will require a balance between a continuation of strong academic performance with a creative, innovative approach.

Spare time

Keeping fit and healthy is important to me so sports ranging from golf to mountain biking, surfing to cricket are all enjoyable pastimes though with varying degrees of success. When not active, reading and listening to music are other more relaxing hobbies.



Alastair Morrison

Head of Junior School

Having studied Theology and gained my PGCE at Durham University, I cut my teeth as a class teacher at The Edinburgh Academy Junior School. Ten years as Deputy Head of Fettes Prep School followed, before I undertook my first Headship at Feltonfleet, a co-ed boarding prep school in Surrey. After five years there, we were delighted to return to Edinburgh in January 2018, my three girls to join the School and me to assume the Junior School Headship. Our daughters have thrived, both academically and pastorally, benefitting richly from the culture of care and respect that exists amongst the pupils and the incredibly strong teaching and nurture at Heriot's.

Ethos

To inspire young men and women to be the best they can be, whilst treating others as they would wish to be treated. The School's values of 'Work Hard. Be Kind. Be Happy' are an excellent beacon to steer us all, young and old.

Proudest moment

After four and a half years, there is already a vast catalogue of extremely proud moments! The deeply impressive Junior School concerts at the Usher Hall were real highlights, as were the outstanding Junior School musicals, most recently, 'Moana' and 'The Bee Musical'. However, I was perhaps most moved by a simple but extremely meaningful gesture, when a wee P1 girl had fallen over on leaving lunch. Completely unasked, a tall P7 boy immediately stepped over, helped her up, dusted her off and reassured her. This spoke volumes to me about the culture of care and respect that exists amongst the pupils here.

Funniest thing

I can confidently say that I have joined the most wonderfully talented Staff team, with whom there is never a dull moment. They adapted superbly to the virtual world of remote learning and meeting, yet the sight of one of our P3 teachers crawling out of a colleague's classroom, thinking he couldn't be seen, but in full view of all of us on screen, still makes me chuckle!

Five years' time

I feel that we're at an exciting time for George Heriot's. The strategy review we are currently undertaking is challenging us to reflect on that which we most value and wish to preserve, as well as looking forwards into an admittedly uncertain future. In nurturing strong values and soft skills to underpin their academic excellence, we will surely be sending the children purposefully into Senior School and the broader world.

Spare time

I love to spend time with my family; three girls aged 12 to 16 mean rarely a dull moment! A keen sportsman, I enjoy golfing, running and following or coaching rugby, whilst finding time to walk or relax with a good book.





Paul Fairclough

Head of Senior School

Having spent most of my early life in and around Cambridgeshire, I headed north to the University of York, where I read History and Politics, before completing a PGCE. My teaching career has been extraordinarily varied – in terms of geographical locations, role and institutions – I moved from my first post as a History teacher in Southend-on-Sea to become Deputy Headmaster at Sedbergh School, via spells at Leicester

Grammar School and at Wellington College. I was delighted to make the move across the Border to take on the role of Head of Senior School at Heriot's in August 2018. Although both of my daughters have completed their secondary schooling, their younger brother joined Heriot's in P5 and has greatly enjoyed his five years at the School.



Ethos

If I have learnt anything in 32 years of teaching, it is that honest endeavour and mutual respect amongst all of those individuals who study or work within a school community is invariably the key to success. Heriot's championing of such values, as seen in its adoption of UNICEF's 'Rights Respecting' agenda, was one of the things that drew me to the school.

Proudest moment

Managing to play rhythm guitar and sing at the same time during a school charity performance of the Arctic Monkeys, 'Black Treacle'; a feat of coordination that had always eluded me prior to that point!

Funniest moment

Early in my career, having been advised by a senior colleague to try and establish a deeper connection with a particularly challenging pupil, 'as a means of building bridges', I engaged the boy in question in a lengthy conversation about something that I knew was close to his heart - namely, his obsession with keeping and breeding rabbits. I clearly made an impression. The following day, I arrived at the lesson to find five of his rabbits running around the

classroom, much to the amusement of the other pupils.

Five years' time

That irrespective of any external pressures, Heriot's will still be doing what it does best; turning out the kind of confident, articulate, and free-thinking young adults who are able to make a positive contribution, once they have departed the school for pastures new.

Spare time

My family and I enjoy holidaying in the Highlands, something we have done for many years now. I spend some of my free time writing about UK and US politics and playing guitar. Although my family are considerably less enthusiastic about my attempts at the latter, summer 2021 finally saw the release of my childhood band's 'long-awaited' debut album (35 years after we first set foot in the recording studio!).



Entry procedures

We admit children from the ages of 4 –18. Whilst the majority of new pupils to the School have no direct connection with Heriot's, priority is understandably given to Foundationers and siblings. Our Nursery caters for children in their preschool year.

The main entries for session 2024-2025 are Primary One, Primary Six, Primary Seven and Senior One but we are delighted to consider applications for a number of places in other years. The closing date for applications for all year groups is 1 December 2023; late applications will be accepted provided there are vacancies – please contact the Admissions Office prior to submitting an application after this date. The cost of the registration fee is £75 per child. Should you be offered and accept a place for your child at George Heriot's School you will be asked to pay an acceptance fee of £300.

Applicants with specific educational needs will be treated sensitively and the input of our Support for Learning Department will be sought.

Nursery

Nursery places are offered on a first come, first served basis with priority given, where possible, to siblings. We also strive to achieve an even balance of gender. Places for August 2024 will be allocated in September 2023. Places for August 2025 will be allocated in September 2024.

Whilst it is hoped that the Nursery pupils will progress to Primary One, a place in Primary One cannot be guaranteed.

Primary One

Entry to Primary One is by group and individual assessments, which last approximately 30-40 minutes. Every effort is made to ensure that children are relaxed and enjoy the experience. These assessments take place in the January prior to the session of entry.

Primaries Two, Three, Four and Five

Although we do not take new classes at these stages we are generally able to offer a small number of places in each year group. Assessments for Primary Two are carried out individually and take place in January whilst those for Primary Three,

Four and Five take place in November/December. Children looking for entry into Primary Three and Four are assessed in small groups. Children are asked to complete tests which cover literacy, numeracy and reasoning and they spend time working with each other on a fun group activity. Children are given plenty of guidance and encouragement during these assessments.

Primary Six and Seven

We take in new classes at Primary Six and Primary Seven. The assessments take place in November/December. Children are asked to complete tests which cover literacy, numeracy and reasoning and they spend time working with each other on a fun group task. They will also have a short and informal group interview. Children are given plenty of guidance and encouragement during these assessments.

Senior One

The entrance assessment is held in January. Children spend the day with us, sitting an English paper, a Computer Adaptive Test (CAT) covering literacy, numeracy and reasoning, and they are

interviewed. They also take part in some fun group activities. The children have a chance to meet one another, and members of the teaching staff and Senior Management Team, during the day.

Many candidates arrive a little apprehensively, but, by and large, they enjoy the day!

Senior Two – Senior Six

We welcome applications for Senior Three and Senior Five. Applications for Senior Two are welcome, but we cannot guarantee that there will be vacancies. We do not take new pupils in to Senior Four for curricular reasons. All applicants will be tested in English, a Computer Adaptive Test (CAT) covering literacy, numeracy and reasoning, and will meet with members of staff for a short, informal interview and to discuss curricular requirements. Entry to Senior Six is by interview with the Head of the Senior School and the Senior Six Head of House. Assessments and interviews take place in January.



S6 at Heriot's

At Heriot's we believe that the final year of secondary education should act as a bridge to what lies beyond: the vast majority of students go on to university; some to college; some to charitable work abroad; a few directly to the work place. To achieve this goal, we encourage independent learning, allowing our students to adapt to the methods employed in Higher Education. Our curricular offering in S6 is extremely broad, permitting an extensive combination of subjects to be studied. As well as the study facilities in the school itself, our students also gain access to several of the major libraries nearby. Each student is allocated to a tutor group, and help with subject choice, university entrance and future prospects is given by a dedicated Careers Team.

To help our students expand their horizons, staff provide a series of Interest Courses to introduce students to areas not covered by the usual school curriculum. In recent years these have included Driving Skills, Sign Language, Criminology and Cooking Skills.

Great emphasis is placed on Voluntary Service in the Heriot's Sixth Year. Most students are involved in a wide range of voluntary activities in the wider community. For several years pupils have worked with disadvantaged children through the Family Services Unit and Circle Project at Pilton. Pupils also volunteer with the National Trust, Teen Plus and Oaklands Special School. Some students help in the Nursery or Junior School, or in the SFL Department. Heriot's was conceived as a charitable foundation; our young people actively involve themselves in following the Founder's example.

In the closing fortnight of their school career, Sixth Year students take part in the Sixth Year programme, a specially planned programme to give them a memorable finale. This involves talks on a range of topics including financial planning and keeping ourselves safe. They also participate in environmental activities, trips and outings and the annual Leavers' Ball. The success of Heriot's Sixth Year is best marked by the very high proportion of students who stay on at school to

enjoy it; in recent years a number of new students have joined for Sixth Year and have been warmly integrated into the Heriot's community.





Important dates for entry in August 2024

ASSESSMENTS

Junior School

Primary One

From Wednesday 10 January 2024

Primary Two

By individual appointment during January 2024

Primary Three

Thursdays 23 and 30 November 2023

Primary Four

Thursdays 16 and 23 November 2023

Primary Five

Thursdays 16 and 30 November 2023

Primary Six

Wednesdays 15, 22 and 29 November and Wednesday 6 December 2023

Primary Seven

Tuesdays 14, 21 and 28 November and Tuesday 5 December 2023

One additional wash-up date, if required, will be available for P3-5 on Thursday 7 December 2023

Senior School

Senior One

Wednesday 17 January 2024

Senior Two to Five

Monday 22 January 2024

OFFERS OF PLACES

Primary One

Posting date: Monday 5 February 2024

Email date: Tuesday 6 February 2024

Closing date for acceptance of place:

Monday 26 February 2024

Primaries Two to Seven

Posting date: Week commencing Monday 8 January 2024 and by email the day after

Closing date for acceptance of place:

Monday 26 February 2024

Senior One

Posting date: Thursday 8 February 2024

Email date: Friday 9 February 2024

Closing date for acceptance of place:

Thursday 29 February 2024

Senior Two to Five

Posting date: Thursday 8 February 2024

Email date: Friday 9 February 2024

Closing date for acceptance of place:

Thursday 29 February 2024

Senior Six

Posting date: After interview

Closing date for acceptance of place:

Thursday 29 February 2024

Once places have been accepted you will receive information on accessing our Parental Portal and other key joining information. We will invite pupils joining S3, S5 and S6 to meet with Careers Staff to assist with subject choices. Further information, including Induction Days in June for Nur – S1 and our buddy programme for S2-6 new pupils, will be sent to you in the Summer Term. An induction for all new pupils will be held before the start of session in August.



The Foundation

The Foundation sits at the heart of Heriot's and provides full fee remission to the sons and daughters of widows or widowers. We currently have 55 children at the school under this provision.

These means-tested awards are available to pupils entering the school from Primary Six upwards.

The Governors will consider applications for children who have lived in the EH, KY or FK postcode areas for at least five years prior to application, or one of whose parents has a significant and long standing link with the City of Edinburgh. Details of the financial criteria which also apply are set out in the Assistance with Fees section.

All children applying for a place on the Foundation will follow the normal entrance procedures.

Existing pupils at Heriot's are automatically eligible to apply to the Foundation on the death of one of their parents.

Once a child is offered a place, George Heriot's Trust will cover all costs for

the child to attend Heriot's. Uniform is provided as are books in the Senior School (books are provided for all children in the Junior School). Assistance will be given with all curricular trips. We encourage children to join in extracurricular activities and in many instances the Trust may help with costs towards these.

Children joining us under the Foundation are not identified in any particular way to other pupils and families. However, our staff are very experienced at dealing with children who have suffered trauma in their young lives and additional help and support is available if required; a dedicated Foundationers' Coordinator is part of the Pastoral Staff.

Once in the Senior School, Foundationers are invited to an annual event with the Governors and, if they so wish, can attend the Founder's Day Remembrance Service at Greyfriars Kirk. There is also a support network for our Foundation families who wish to participate.



The Foundation



Fees for session 2023/24



Pre-school Nursery

£10,962 per annum
(£3,654/term)

Junior School P1 & P2

£10,962 per annum
(£3,654/term)

Junior School P3 to P7

£13,309 per annum
(£4,436.33/term)

Senior School

£16,440 per annum
(£5,480/term)

Notes

1. Fees are normally reviewed in May for the following session.
2. Fees are payable either by lump sum on or before 5 September or by monthly instalments on the fifth day of each month from September to June inclusive under Direct Debit Mandate.
3. A reduction is made in respect of the fourth and successive pupil of the same family in P1 – S6 in concurrent education.
4. A non-refundable registration fee of £75 is payable for each application.
5. A non-refundable acceptance fee of £300 is payable on acceptance of a place.
6. We require at least one term's notice of the date when a pupil will leave School. If we do not receive this notice we will charge Fees for one additional term.



Assistance with fees

Heriot's offers various routes by which assistance with the payment of fees can be given.

The Foundation

The Foundation provides full fee remission to the sons and daughters of widows or widowers. Places under the Foundation are awarded at the discretion of the Governors to prospective pupils entering the school from Primary Six upwards, who meet both residential and financial criteria and who have fulfilled the entrance requirements. Applications can be made to the Trust at any time and more details and application forms can be obtained from the Admissions Office.

Heriot Bursaries

Financial assistance towards payment of school fees can be given to pupils of families meeting the qualifying financial criteria – and who have fulfilled the School's academic entrance requirements. Heriot Bursaries are primarily given to pupils entering the Senior School but pupils entering Primary Six or Primary Seven may be considered.

Heriot Bursaries are also available for existing pupils whose families meet the qualifying financial criteria. All Heriot Bursaries are awarded annually but families are welcome to re-apply for the following session.

The amount of any Heriot Bursary award is assessed on the basis of individual circumstances although normally a Heriot Bursary award is at least one third of the annual fees. Higher awards, including on an exceptional basis awards of full fees, can be made. All awards are made at the discretion of the Principal and the Governors and are subject to satisfactory behaviour and continuing effort.

Applications for the Foundation or a bursary should be made no later than 1 December each year for the following session, although parents of current pupils may apply outwith this period if their circumstances change. For further information and application forms please contact the Bursar.

In addition, families who are encountering difficulties in payment of fees are

encouraged to contact the Bursar, who may be able to provide short term assistance in certain circumstances.

Qualifying financial criteria

In order to qualify for Financial Assistance awards, total gross household income must not exceed the qualifying limit set by the Governors each year. For Session 2023/24, this limit is:

Foundation applicants:
£45,000 per annum

Heriot Bursary applicants:
£58,000 per annum

These figures are adjusted to take account of additional children in the family (up to age 18 or 23 if in full-time education) and any Heriot's School fees being paid for other children in the family.

In assessing eligibility for Financial Assistance, account is also taken of available capital assets.

Further information is available from the Bursar.

Fee remission for siblings

There is fee remission of 25 % for fourth and subsequent children whilst four children are at the School (P1 – S6) at any one time. No remission is available for children in the Nursery.



Scholarships

Academic Scholarships

A Scholarship award of 50 % fee remission may be made to the top pupil entering Senior One from outside Heriot's and the Dux of the Junior School. Scholarships may also be awarded to other candidates entering Senior One, external and internal; these awards will normally take the form of an appropriate prize and will carry no fee remission.

Expressive Arts Awards

Application may be made for special skills awards in Music, Art & Design and Drama by parents of pupils entering Heriot's from other schools. These are available to pupils from S1 onwards, who meet the relevant criteria in each subject. External awards are valued at 10 % of the fees, and a maximum of one award will be made in each discipline each year. One internal scholarship may also be awarded in each discipline annually in the form of an appropriate prize. Further details of the basis upon which these awards are offered may be obtained from the School.

Sports Scholarships

Up to four Sports Scholarships, in the form of an appropriate prize, will be available each year to pupils already at Heriot's. No application is necessary for these Scholarships. Sports Scholarship Awards do not contain any fee remission.





Frequently Asked Questions regarding fees and costs



What does the School fee cover?

All curricular tuition, exam fees, and the costs of the Personal Accident Insurance cover. In the Junior School all text books and most personal stationery (e.g. jotters, homework diary) are provided. In the Senior School text books for individual subjects and some items of stationery and equipment require to be purchased separately. Pupils in the Senior School may bring their own laptop/Ipad/Tablet to school.

What payment options are there?

School fees are payable either in a lump sum at the start of the session or in 10 monthly instalments collected by Direct Debit. We do not run 'Extras' accounts. All other charges are payable when due. Lunch top ups and payment for most trips and activities can be made via Parentpay (www.parentpay.com).

How much notice do I have to give if my child is leaving?

We require at least one term's notice in writing of the date when a pupil will leave School. If we do not receive this notice we will charge fees for one additional term (one third of the annual fee).



What other costs might I have?

School uniform

You will be required to purchase uniform, sports kit and other items of equipment. Uniform can be purchased either new from Stevensons, who is our nominated supplier, or second hand from the Parents' Association Uniform Thrift Shop at Goldenacre.

Books

Books on the Senior School Book Lists can be purchased from Blackwells, who often have a selection of second hand books, or other booksellers. A Senior School Book Sale is organised in school at the end of the Summer term to allow current pupils to buy and sell used text books.

Catering

School lunches are available for all pupils. Refectory charges, including school lunches, are met through a prepaid lunch account via Parentpay. All pupils are welcome to bring their own lunch to school and pupils from S4 upwards are allowed to go out of school for lunch.

Curricular trips

From P4 to S2 there are year group trips for which there are additional charges. The costs range from approximately £115 to £800. In addition, other trips and activities are offered throughout the School. Where trips and visits and other activities organised by the School incur external costs e.g. activity providers, travel, entrance fees etc., a charge is made to cover these costs. The charge is advised individually and is collected in advance.

Extra-curricular activities

The majority of activities have a minimal or no charge. However, there may be a charge to cover costs and these vary depending on the activity. Parents are advised of this before deciding whether to sign up.

Music tuition

Fees for instrument and Piping and Drumming tuition are charged by George Heriot's Trust on a termly basis.

Wrap Around Care

If you wish to use this service this will incur separate charges.

Further details about all of these items are available from the Admissions Office, and on our website.





The school day

Senior School

Registration	08.35 – 08.40
Senior Assembly (Mon/Fri)	08.40 – 09.00
Class Teacher’s Period (Tue/Wed/Thu)	08.40 – 09.00
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Period 1	09.00 – 09.40
Period 2	09.40 – 10.20
Period 3	10.20 – 11.00
Break	11.00 – 11.20
Period 4	11.20 – 11.55
Period 5	11.55 – 12.35
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Lunch (period 6)	12.35 – 13.18
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Period 7	13.20 – 13.55
Period 8	13.55 – 14.35
Period 9 (close)	14.35 – 15.15
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Period 10 (on Games afternoon only)	15.15 – 15.55

Junior School

Start:	
Nursery	08.15 – 08.45
P1 to P7	08.35
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Assemblies:	
P1 to P7	Tuesday School Hall
P4 to P7	Wednesday Chapel
P3 to P7	Thursday School Hall
P1 to P2	Friday Chapel
P3 to P7	Friday Castle Hall
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Morning Break	10.20 – 10.40
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Lunch:	
P1	11.40 – 12.35
P2	11.45 – 12.35
P3	11.50 – 12.35
P4 to P7	11.55 – 12.35
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Afternoon Break:	
P1 to P2	13.20 – 13.30
P3 to P7	13.45 – 13.55
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Close:	
Nursery	14.00
P1	14.15
P2	14.30
P3 to P7	15.00



Junior School curriculum

At George Heriot's School, we maintain our tradition of high academic achievement while incorporating many of the strengths of 'A Curriculum for Excellence'.

The curriculum in the Junior School is managed by the Deputy Head of Junior School. This ensures continuity and progression in learning from Nursery to P7. Regular meetings between the Deputy Head of Junior School and the Director of Studies in the Senior School facilitate the transition from Junior School to Senior School.

The Junior School consists of three chronological departments – Early Years (Nursery – P2), Middle Primary (P3-P5) and Upper Primary (P6-P7). Each section is led by a Junior School Depute who reports to the Deputy Head on curricular matters. Each Depute is responsible for the delivery and quality assurance of the curriculum within his/her department. This tight structure ensures that the curriculum and its delivery are of the highest quality. Years of experience in curriculum design have resulted in our strong, balanced

programme. However, we are constantly striving to improve all aspects of Junior School education and therefore frequently make changes and introduce new courses.

Learning Enhancement Department

This department consists of a team of fully qualified, experienced Primary teachers who do not have class teacher responsibility. We believe that this department is unique to Heriot's and, since 1999, it has had a huge impact on our children's learning.

The Learning Enhancement staff deliver a wide ranging programme focusing on how to learn rather than what to learn. Programmes are delivered to pupils from Nursery to P7 in Philosophy, Resilience, Team Building, Mindfulness and Diversity. The Learning Enhancement staff also team teach with Junior School class teachers, focusing on a variety of small groups of children at different times. This enables us to truly meet the needs of all pupils. Our Science Coordinator and Able Child Coordinator are based in the Learning Enhancement Department.





Outdoor Learning

The learning experiences of pupils at all ages are greatly enhanced by their experiences outside the classroom. Our dedicated Outdoor Learning Coordinator liaises with the Deputes and Class Teachers to arrange trips and visits that serve the topics being studied in each year. The boys and girls gain richly from these experiences, socially, as much as academically.

Early Years (Nursery, P1 and P2)

Our Nursery operates a key worker system with each key worker being responsible for his/her group of eight children. Staff plan activities and experiences which recognise the importance of emotional, personal and social development, the acquisition of literacy and numeracy, the contribution of creative and physical skills and an ever-increasing knowledge of the immediate environment and wider world. Physical Education and Music are taught by specialist teachers.

While most Nursery pupils proceed to Primary 1, entry to the school is not automatic. All Nursery children sit the

School's Primary 1 Entrance Assessment in January.

Pupils in P1 and P2 are cared for by their class teacher and benefit from specialist teaching in Physical Education and Music. Pupils also have input from our Support for Learning Department, Early Years Practitioners, Science Coordinator, Able Pupil Coordinator, S6 pupils and Learning Enhancement staff.

In P1 and P2, we introduce the children to school life in a happy and yet well-disciplined environment. Each child is treated as an individual and encounters a rich and varied curriculum encompassing academic, emotional, cultural, social and physical experiences.

We place importance on developing each child's self-confidence, respect, growth mindset, cooperation and communication skills.

Middle Primary (P3, P4 and P5)

The Middle Primary curriculum builds on the experiences the children have had in earlier years. Investigative skills and pupil leadership play an increasingly important

role. Pupils study History and Geography through a topic based approach. This cross-curricular approach, involving, for example, Drama or Computing Science, leads to increased understanding and confidence. Science is taught as a discrete subject with input from our Science Coordinator. Our Primary 4 pupils enjoy the challenge of participating in the Young Engineers Competition. Our English Language programme provides a balance between the technical aspects of language and literacy and the wider, vitally important, skills of comprehension and communication.

From Primary 4, Mathematics is taught in sets and there is a focus not only on knowledge and understanding but also on the relevance of Mathematics in the wider world. Specialist teaching is increased in Middle Primary to include Art, Drama and Cultural Awareness (a precursor to Modern Foreign Language courses).

Residential experiences are introduced in P4 and are an important part of the children's education. In P5, pupils participate in Games at Goldenacre on Mondays and Saturdays.

Upper Primary (P6 and P7)

In Upper Primary, the children are encouraged to become increasingly independent and this prepares them thoroughly for the transition to Senior School. Pupils take more responsibility for the organisation of their homework and independent work. Mathematics continues to be taught in sets and the pace of learning is increased. Our English Language programme includes novel studies, a variety of writing for different purposes, comprehension, debates and presentation skills – all of which encompass skills vital to lifelong learning. Specialist input expands to include Modern Languages and Computing. History, Geography and Science are taught as discrete subjects to allow more in-depth concentration on skills, knowledge and understanding.

Primary 6 and 7 pupils participate in Games at Goldenacre on Mondays, and on Saturdays (optional).

All of this serves to engender a positive attitude to learning which stands pupils in good stead as they progress through Senior School and beyond.



Senior School curriculum



Senior School curriculum

Curriculum for pupils starting in S1 – August 2023

The curriculum in S1 will consist of 13 core curricular subjects taught every week as well as a small number of subjects delivered in blocks. In addition, pupils will also receive lessons in PE, and Citizenship every week as well as Games. The table below indicates the core and blocked subjects, with the number of periods devoted to each in brackets. Please note however, that blockings and combinations of subjects may change, depending on timetabling arrangements for the session.

S1 Core Subjects

- English (5)
- Mathematics (5)
- Modern Language (4)
- Games (2)
- Philosophy and Religion (2)
- Physical Education (2)
- Citizenship (1)
- Latin (1)
- Design & Technology (2)
- Geography (2)
- History (2)
- Computing (2)
- Art & Design (2)
- Biology (2)
- Chemistry (2)
- Physics (2)

S1 Blocked Subjects

- Drama (3)
- Music (3)



Curriculum for pupils starting in S2 – August 2023

The core and blocked subjects are detailed below, with the number of periods devoted to each subject in brackets.

S2 Core Subjects

- English (5)
- Mathematics (5)
- Modern Language (3)
- Computing (2)
- Games (2)
- Philosophy and Religion (2)
- Physical Education (2)
- Citizenship (1)
- Latin (1)
- Biology (2)
- Chemistry (2)
- Physics (2)
- Design & Technology (2)
- Geography (2)
- History (2)
- Modern Studies (2)

S2 Blocked Subjects

- Art and Design (2)
- Business Education (2)
- Drama (2)
- Music (2)

Curriculum for pupils starting S3 and S4 – August 2023

Pupils will study a subject from each of the following eight columns.

S3	S4		
Periods per week	Periods per week	Column number	
5	4	1	English
5	4	2	Mathematics
5	4	3	French Mandarin Latin German Spanish (Please note that pupils should choose the language they are continuing from S2 in this column)
4	5	4	Accounting Biology Physics Art & Design Chemistry
4	5	5	Chemistry Economics History Physics Design and Manufacture Geography Modern Studies Physical Education
4	5	6	Accounting Biology Computing Science Music Spanish Art & Design Business Management Drama Graphic Communication Religious, Moral & Philosophical Studies
4	5	7	Design & Manufacture Geography Italian Philosophy Economics History Music
4	5	8	Art & Design Drama Latin Mandarin Business Management Computing Science Graphic Communication Modern Studies



Senior School curriculum

Curriculum for pupils starting S5 – August 2023

Pupils will study a subject from each of the following five columns.

S5				
Periods per week	Column number			
7	1	English Business Management	Physics	
7	2	Art & Design Geography History	Economics Psychology Mathematics	
7	3	Accounting Biology French Human Biology Physics	Art & Design Design & Manufacture History Philosophy Spanish	
7	4	Biology Chemistry Economics German Latin Modern Studies Physical Education Psychology	Business Management Computing Science French Human Biology Mandarin Music Schools College Partnership	
7	5	Business Management Computing Science Geography Italian Physics	Chemistry Drama Graphic Communication Modern Studies Religious, Moral & Philosophical Studies	

Curriculum for pupils starting S6 – August 2023

S6				
Periods per week	Column number	National 5 - (N5) Higher - (H) Advanced Higher - (AH)		
8	1	English (H/AH) Biology (AH) Chemistry (AH)	Mathematics (AH) Modern Studies (AH) Photography (H)	Physics (H) Sociology (H) Statistics (AH)
8	2	Art & Design (H/AH) Chemistry (AH) English (AH) Economics (H/AH)	French (H) Geography (H/AH) History (H/AH)	Mathematics (N5/H) Physics (AH) Psychology (H)
8	3	Accounting (H/AH) Art & Design (H) Biology (H/AH) Chemistry (AH) Classical Studies (H/AH) Design & Manufacture (H) English (AH)	Film Studies (H) French (H) German (AH) History (H/AH) Human Biology (H) Mathematics (AH) Maths of Mechanics (AH)	Music (AH) Philosophy (H) Physics (H) Practical Skills Development Psychology (H) Sociology (H) Spanish (H/AH)
8	4	Biology (H) Business Management (H/AH) Chemistry (H/AH) Computing Science (H/AH) Drama (AH) Economics (H)	French (AH) German (H) Human Biology (H) Latin (H/AH) Mandarin (H/AH) Modern Studies (H)	Music (H) Psychology (H) Physics (AH) Physical Education (H) Politics (H) Schools College Partnership
8	5	Biology (AH) Business Management (H/AH) Chemistry (H) Computing Science (H) Drama (H)	Economics (AH) Geography (H/AH) Graphic Communication (H/AH) Italian (H/AH)	Mathematics (AH) Modern Studies (H) Physics (H) RMPS (H/AH)



SQA examination results 2023

The summary of Heriot’s results from 2023 is as follows:

	Presentations	A	B	C	Total (A-C)
S4 National 5	1410	84.1 %	11.0 %	3.5 %	98.6 %
S5 Higher	913	72.3 %	18.2 %	6.6 %	97.0 %
S6 Higher	106	48.1 %	23.6 %	17.9 %	89.6 %
S6 Advanced Higher	438	66.7 %	21.5 %	6.2 %	94.3 %

Session 2022–2023 saw the curriculum in Scotland as well as the examinations procedure move another step closer to pre Covid norms. While many courses are still not quite back to their full pre-pandemic status – with most still having amended content and/or assessment, the undisrupted full formal exam diet was thankfully much more on a par with the past. Our S4-6 pupils rose to all challenges in their path this session, and the evidence below suggests they have once again dealt with these extremely well. They have demonstrated excellent attainment - once again producing an outstanding set of results.

Our pass rates continue to consistently exceed 98 % at National 5, 97 % at Higher and 94 % at Advanced Higher.

73 S5 pupils – 40 % of the year-group - had a clean sweep of 5, 6 or 7 A passes at Higher (17 of whom attained only band 1s). The average presentation per pupil was for 4.91 Highers, and our pupils obtained on average, 4.76 of these.

Our S6 students also produced an outstanding performance with 66.7 % of all awards being at A. S6 pupils completed on average 2.34 Advanced

Highers, and were awarded on average, 2.21 of them.

Further information, if necessary, is available from the School.

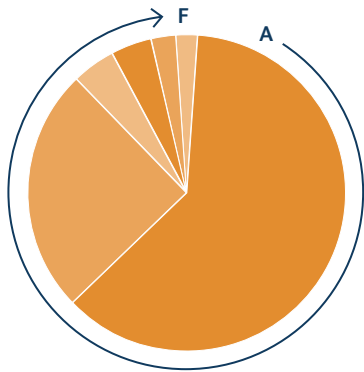
Overall the 2023 results represent an excellent performance throughout the course of the year by Heriot’s pupils, and we are very proud of them. It is important that each pupil does their best and achieves the highest grades of which they are capable. Whether amongst the high fliers with multiple A Grades or amongst those who have achieved personal bests with B or C

Grades, each and every one deserves to be congratulated. Heriot’s expects its pupils to work hard, with effort, commitment and enthusiasm. Once again, this year they have rewarded not just the professionalism and dedication of their teachers, but also the support and encouragement which they have received from both school and home.



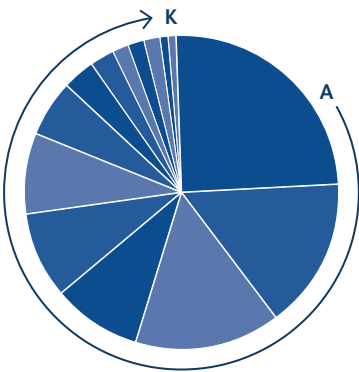
Destination of leavers 2022

School leaver destinations



A	Scottish universities	121
B	Rest of UK universities	49
C	Gap Year	9
D	College	8
E	International universities	5
F	Drama schools	4

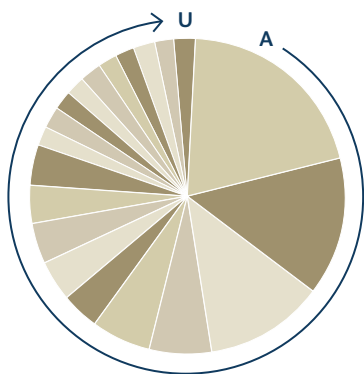
Scottish universities



A	University of Glasgow	30
B	University of Edinburgh	19
C	University of St Andrews	18
D	Edinburgh Napier University	11
E	University of Dundee	11
F	University of Strathclyde	10
G	University of Aberdeen	7
H	Glasgow Caledonian University	4
I	Heriot-Watt University	3
J	Queen Margaret University	2

K	Glasgow School of Art	2
L	University of Stirling	2
M	University of Highlands and Islands (UHI)	1
N	Abertay University	1

Rest of UK



A	Bristol	10
B	Durham	7
C	Newcastle University	6
D	Imperial College	3
E	Manchester	3
F	King’s College London	2
G	LSE	2
H	UCL	2
I	Bath	2
J	Oxford	2

K	Cambridge	1
L	Exeter	1
M	Liverpool	1
N	Warwick	1
O	York	1
P	Manchester Metropolitan	1
Q	Lancaster	1
R	Queen Mary, London	1
S	Queen’s University Belfast	1
T	Staffordshire University	1



Pastoral care

Heriot's takes its commitment to pupil wellbeing seriously. In the Nursery and Junior School pastoral care is a vitally important part of the role of the Class Teacher, in liaison with the Junior School Management Team.

In the Senior School, all staff recognise that they have a part to play in pastoral care, and they are supported by Pastoral Care staff, who are likely to be the first point of contact for pupils and their parents if there are pastoral concerns. Pastoral Care staff also have a role in curricular guidance and, indeed, in discipline; in essence, they have a complete overview of each child's progress and development, social, emotional and academic. Pupils have a dedicated Pastoral Care Team for their House and an individual Pastoral Care Teacher to support them throughout their time in Senior School from S1-S6. The team are led by the Head of Pastoral Care. The whole school also benefits from the presence of our own Educational Psychologist and two school counsellors.

The pupil/teacher/parent partnership is central to our philosophy. Curricular and careers pastoral care are shared concerns of the Pastoral Care staff and the Careers Team, with the emphasis on individual interviews, at which parents are welcome to be present. Careers Education in classes is part of the extensive Citizenship programme taught throughout the School. The Careers Team includes a professional Careers Advisor.

The holistic development of each child is central to the ethos of the School and our staff recognise that pastoral, vocational and curricular care makes a vital contribution to the intellectual and social development of each pupil.

Hugo, the school's pets-as-therapy dog, keeps pupils relaxed.



Pastoral care



Curricular games and extra-curricular activities

A huge range of extra-curricular activities are open to our pupils at various stages throughout the School. Some of the activities take place after school and some during the school day.

The activities we offer may vary slightly each year depending on staff availability and expertise, but we hope that whatever your child's interest they will be inspired to try out some of the opportunities listed opposite.

PE, Games, and Extra-Curricular Activities

Athletics
Badminton
Basketball
Circuits
Cricket
Cross Country Running
Curling
Dance – all varieties
Fitness
Football
Golf
Gymnastics
Hockey
Judo
Lacrosse

Netball
Pilates
Rock Climbing
Rugby
Sailing
Skiing
Softball
Strength and Conditioning
Surfing
Swimming
Table Tennis
Tennis
Touch Rugby
Uni Hoc
Volleyball
Yoga

Junior Extra-Curricular Activities

Art & Craft Club
Art Club
Basketball
Bikeability Cycle Training
Board Games Club
Breakfast Club
Ceilidh Club
Chanter/Drumming Club
Chess Club
Choirs
Classics Lunch Club
Climbing Club
Code Cadets
Construction Club





Cooking Club
 Cricket
 Cross Country
 Current Affairs
 Debating Society
 Diversity
 Drawing Club
 Early Year Singing Club
 Eco Club
 Film and Photography Club
 Football (Boys & Girls)
 French Club
 Gardening
 Golf
 Hama Beading Club
 Heriot Hares (Running Club)
 Highland Dancing
 Hockey
 Inklets
 iPad Animation Club
 Jewellery and Craft Club
 Judo
 Junior Concert Band
 Junior Pipe Band
 Junior School Music Theory
 Junior School Musical
 Junior School Pupil Council
 Junior School Wind Ensemble
 Junior Strings
 KIC (Kids Investigating Christianity)
 Lego Club
 Mandarin Club

Melodic Mondays
 Mindfulness Club
 Netball
 Newton's Apples
 Oot & Aboot
 Politics Club
 Pop/Rockstar Club
 Pupil Voice Podcast Club
 Record Club
 Rights Respecting School
 Rugby
 Science & Technology Club
 Sign Language
 Ski Club
 Ski Race Training Club
 Stop Motion Animation Club
 Story Massage Club
 Story Telling Club
 Surf Club
 Swimming Team
 Tennis Club
 Touch Rugby
 Writing Club
 Yoga
 Yogi Bears
 Zumba

Senior Extra-Curricular Activities

Art Club
 Art Skills workshops
 Athletics
 Badminton

Basketball
 Boxing Fitness
 Brass Ensemble
 British Sign Language
 CCF
 Chamber Choir
 Chess
 Choir (S1 - S3 and S4 - S6)
 Christian Union
 Classics Club
 Classics on Film Club
 Colour me calm
 Computer game development
 Cricket
 Crochet, Knitting and Natter
 Cross Country Running
 Curling
 Dance
 Debating Society
 Diversity Club
 Drama
 Duke of Edinburgh's Award
 E.A.R.T.H.
 Feminist Society
 Film Making
 Flute Ensemble
 Football (Boys & Girls)
 Geography Club
 GSA
 Hockey
 INK
 Inklings

Junior Concert Band
 Life Drawing
 Medical Society
 Minecraft Mondays
 Model United Nations
 Music Club
 Netball
 Outdoor Activities
 Pipe Band
 Quiz Teams
 Read a Massive Book Club
 Rights Respecting Group
 Robotics Club
 Rowing
 Rugby
 Rugby and Hockey Strength & Conditioning
 Saxophone Ensemble
 Saxophone Ensemble
 Senior Concert Band
 Showstoppers Musical Club
 Ski Race Training
 STEM Club
 String Ensemble
 String Quartet
 String Sinfonia
 Swimming
 Swing Band
 Symphony Orchestra
 Table Tennis
 Tennis
 Thrive
 Veterinary Society
 Young Carers



Physical Education and Sport

Junior School

Junior School pupils enjoy a wide variety of games, and start using our Goldenacre sports ground in Primary 5. Regular fixtures are played on Saturdays by pupils from Primary 5 upwards and our emphasis is as much about taking part and enjoyment.

Games options change according to the season, with rugby, hockey and cross-country running offered in winter/spring, and athletics, cricket and tennis in summer. We want our pupils to try a variety of sports to discover what they enjoy most. Many more options become available in the Senior School.

All Junior School pupils have two 40-minute periods of Physical Education each week delivered by specialist teachers. Classes take place on campus in our Centre for Sport and Exercise.

Senior School

Games and sport pick up the pace in the Senior School, where there are many more options and opportunities to shine. Enthusiasts compete at regional, national

and international levels, yet our aim is for pupils to discover sports and activities they genuinely enjoy.

Games options change according to the season. Senior School pupils can continue with rugby, rowing, hockey or cross-country in winter/spring, and athletics, cricket or tennis in summer. Or they can try something completely new. There are 13 Games options to inspire our young people, ranging from curling and sailing to pilates and dance. Games is compulsory until the end of Senior 5.

Most Games options take place at our Goldenacre sports ground; we also have a boathouse on the Union Canal for our rowers. Pupils can focus their efforts on a particular sport all the way through the Senior School, or they can try various team and individual sports to see what suits them best. We want our young people to enjoy taking part and being active.

Physical Education classes take place on campus in our Centre for Sport and Exercise, which has a games hall, fitness

suite and dance studio. Senior 1 to 3 pupils have two periods of PE per week. Senior 4 and 5 pupils have PE for a single 40-minute period, in addition to their weekly Games session.





Wrap Around Care

The Wrap Around Care facility is available to all children in the Junior School at George Heriot's (Nursery to Primary 7) providing safe, stimulating and enjoyable activities for all ages.

Ensuring the children make the most of the facility is a team of 16 well qualified childcare staff, led by WAC Manager, Deirdre McGhie.

WAC operates from the Refectory within the school campus throughout the year (with the exception of the Christmas Holidays, Easter Weekend and three In-Service days at the start of the Summer Holiday) from the end of the school day during term time and all day during the school holidays.

It offers a range of sessions to accommodate the various finishing times within the Junior School and to allow children to attend extra-curricular activities before making their way to WAC. WAC is open after school until 6.00 pm and during school holidays between 8.30 am and 5.30 pm.

Please note that the Refectory opens at 7.30 am every morning during term time and pupils are supervised by Junior School Support Staff then accompanied to class. There is no 'play' available in the mornings but there is food and a quiet space. There is no charge for the morning service.

After school the children enjoy a wide range of activities - art and craft; baking and cooking; imaginative play; books and stories; games and puzzles; active games and outdoor play. During school holidays the children are also able to take part in outings and workshops, which are very popular.

Children in Primary 3 to Primary 7 have access to a homework room where they can complete their written homework in a quiet, supervised classroom.

Annual registration for WAC runs from 1 July until 30 June each year. Children joining George Heriot's Junior School at any stage, from Nursery to Primary 7, can make use of the Summer Holiday facility prior to starting school in August.

This allows children to get to know new classmates and WAC users, as well as the WAC team and the school campus before the term begins. This facility is very popular with parents of children joining the Junior School.

Contact details and further information about WAC is available from the Admissions Office.



Wrap Around Care



How to find us

Heriot's is in Lauriston Place, opposite the new Quartermile development.

Parents are responsible for their children's travel arrangements to and from school. We encourage our pupils to travel to the School by public transport, cycle, or walk where appropriate:

- We are served by frequent buses to Lauriston Place and Forrest Road.
- It is a pleasant walk or cycle across the Meadows to Marchmont and beyond.
- We are a five-minute walk from the major bus routes passing Surgeons' Hall to the East and Tollcross to the West.
- We are a comfortable walk from Princes Street and Waverley stations.
- Cycle racks are provided for children cycling to the School.

- For children arriving by train, it is approximately 10 minutes' walk to the School from Waverley station.
- Access by car onto the school campus is strictly controlled and drop off/ collection by car on site is limited to Early Years children (a permit system applies). Details of our car access arrangements are available on the school website and from the Admissions Office.





Lothian buses and trains



The following buses pass by the School Entrance or stop at Greyfriars: 23, 27, 35, 41, 42, 45

The following buses stop at Tollcross/Lothian Road and pupils walk up Lauriston Place: 1, 10, 11, 15/15A, 16, 24, 34

The following bus stops in the Grassmarket and children walk up the Vennel Steps: 2

The following buses stop on the Bridges and the children walk to School via Chambers Street: 3/3A, 5, 7, 8, 14, 29/X29, 30, 31/X31, 33, 37, 47/X47, 49

In addition, there are numerous buses that stop on or around Princes Street and the children walk up the Mound or via King's Stables Road and the Vennel Steps to School. However, we recommend that

you check the Lothian Buses website for the most up-to-date information – www.lothianbuses.com

The city of Edinburgh has regular train services from both Haymarket and Waverley stations from surrounding areas – many pupils travel to and from school via train. Full details of train routes can be found at www.scotrail.co.uk



Meet the Admissions team



Miranda Henderson
DIRECTOR OF EXTERNAL RELATIONS

Gemma Cousins
ADMISSIONS MANAGER

Heather Aitken
ADMISSIONS CO-ORDINATOR

Eilidh Gilmour
ADMISSIONS ASSISTANT

We hope that you have enjoyed this snapshot of the School.

We handle admissions into the School from Nursery to Senior Six and are very happy to discuss any queries you may have regarding entry to the School.

If you would like further information or would like to arrange a visit to the School please give us a call. The Admissions Office is open 8.00am to 5.00pm during term time and 9.00am to 4.00pm during the school holidays.

Our contact details are as follows:

School Switchboard: **0131 229 7263**
Admissions Office Direct Line: **0131 221 6709**
Email: admissions@george-heriots.com

We look forward to hearing from you.

George Heriot's School
Lauriston Place,
Edinburgh
EH3 9EQ

Telephone: **0131 229 7263**
Email: enquiries@george-heriots.com

George Heriot's School is governed
by George Heriot's Trust.

Scottish Charity number SC011463
www.george-heriots.com





George Heriot's School

Founded 1628