

BE YOUR BEST





**GOODWIN**  
**ACADEMY**



# Welcome

Welcome to Goodwin Academy. At Goodwin we are committed to transforming the life chances of our students, ensuring that all are supported and encouraged to achieve their personal best. We deliver this through the BEST Agenda - 'Be Your Best', with **BEST** being the acronym for **B** = Brilliance, **E** = Enrichment, **S** = Society and **T** = Thinking.

We are a vibrant and engaging school where our students experience challenge in all its forms and understand what it is like to be challenged. In turn, they themselves challenge intelligently, with a spirit that is quickly realised from the moment our pupils first enter the school.

After a three-year journey, in 2022, we were thrilled to have been awarded Thinking School Accreditation by the University of Exeter, being recognised for having "a clear focus on cognitive development through a whole school approach to learning which has improved children's attitudes, improved their enjoyment, developed their independence, contributed to high quality teaching and led to better student progress."

We are constantly striving to create the best possible learning environment for our students, and we were thrilled to receive the Bronze Unicef Rights Respecting Schools Award in 2021 and are actively working towards our Silver Award. With this award, we are joining a community of other schools in the UK who have reported that the award has many positive impacts, including improved relationships, wellbeing and self-esteem of students that in turn has led to better attendance and improved learning.

At Goodwin, we pride ourselves on our caring and compassionate ethos, which enables our students to

## BE YOUR BEST

grow in a supportive atmosphere conducive to their development. Where students need additional support, we will look to meet their needs through our highly effective pastoral system. Due to this, we were honoured to receive the KCC Resilience and Emotional Wellbeing award for our approach in providing students with an environment that nurtures but also encourages resilience.

The school offers a thriving extra-curricular programme with many opportunities for students to grow their talents. We have a wide variety of very successful sports teams and hold regular student productions, dance shows and exhibitions.

Goodwin is part of the Thinking Schools Academy Trust, a growing family of schools across the South of England, including the Rochester Grammar School, The Victory Academy, New Horizons Children's Academy and other schools in Strood, Chatham, Portsmouth and the south-West. We are a successful and rapidly growing Trust, ranked the best multi-academy trust (MAT) in the country for performance of its secondary schools by the Department for Education. As a Trust, we have high expectations for our students, set ambitious targets for learning and progress and work together to "transform life chances" for our young people.

Ultimately, we aspire to develop our students, so that they become successful, well-rounded and confident individuals who are equipped with the academic and life skills necessary to become the best versions of themselves and thrive in the modern world.

I look forward to welcoming you to our amazing School.



Simon Smith  
Principal



# Brilliance

**At Goodwin Academy, you will be supported to be brilliant in everything you do.**

Our ethos is to encourage our students to be their best self, striving for brilliance in all areas of their learning. Students at Goodwin develop an understanding that in order to achieve there has to be challenge. Overcoming these difficult times and building resilience is part of the journey towards any form of success, small or large. Brilliance is the reward of having the right habits of mind, which our students will develop through the Gateways to Success.

We live in a society which bombards our young people with images of superficial ideals. Rather than promoting the idea of quick wins we aim to instil the habit of resilience.

Winston Churchill said *"Success is not final; failure is not fatal. It is the courage to continue that counts."*

Examples of Brilliant activities include:

- Commitment to academic studies
- 100% attendance and punctuality
- Representing the school
- Raising personal aspirations







# Enrichment

At Goodwin Academy, you will encounter a variety of educational opportunities outside of the classroom.

Learning doesn't just take place inside the classroom, instead we encourage our students to see each experience as a learning opportunity. At Goodwin, we want our students to engage and embrace the world around them. Cultural Capital is an important part of a well-rounded education, encouraging students to take themselves out of their comfort zone and see a world of opportunities.

Transferable knowledge is key to being able to contextualise our learning; the wider our experiences, the more able learner we become due to our broader understanding. All of us have preferred interests and ideas, but unless we are provided with the opportunity to explore new experiences we will be unable to develop our knowledge limiting our pathways to success.

Examples of Enrichment activities include:

- Trips and visits
- Sporting activities and Duke of Edinburgh
- Performances and productions
- Work experience







# Society

At Goodwin Academy, you will be encouraged to develop as a responsible, active and informed world citizen, demonstrating mutual respect, empathy and community spirit.

We live in a global community; therefore, it is essential that our students understand their role and responsibilities that come with living in a democratic society. Students at Goodwin are active not only in the immediate community of Deal, but also working with national and international agencies to support those who are less fortunate than ourselves. Society can be likened to a watch mechanism, made up of different cogs and leavers that enable the watch to tell the time effectively.

Each of us has an important part to play in society. We ensure that we know and understand our roles so we may become effective citizens within the community. At Goodwin, we believe that to become effective individuals in society, it is essential that each of our students aspire to be the best citizen and develop the fundamental values that are key in British society today.

Examples of Society activities include:

- Charity events
- Student leadership
- Community outreach
- Political engagement





# Thinking

**At Goodwin Academy, you will join a global community of thinkers.**

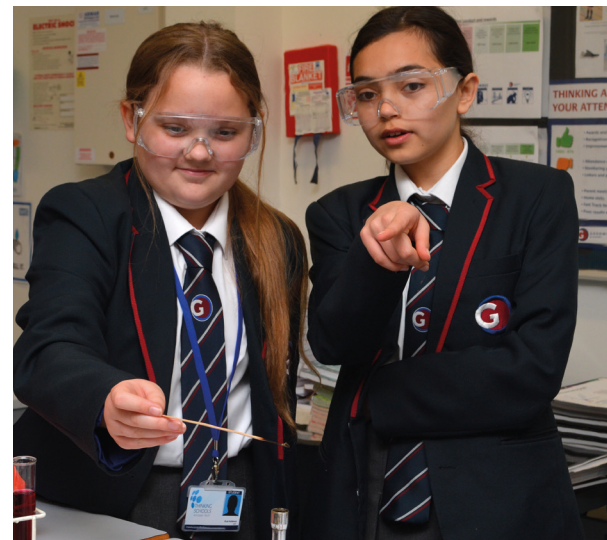
A “Thinking School” is an educational community in which all members share a common commitment to providing careful thought to everything that takes place. This involves both students and staff learning how to think reflectively, critically and creatively, and employing these skills and techniques in the co-construction of a meaningful curriculum and associated activities.

Students are supported to think for themselves through the development of a thorough understanding of thinking tools that are used to aid and monitor their own progress. Research from the University of Exeter highlights that students who attend a “Thinking School” on average achieve one GCSE grade higher in comparison to pupils starting at the same point at a non “Thinking School”.

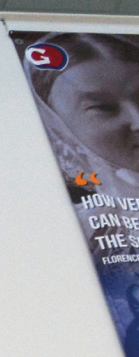
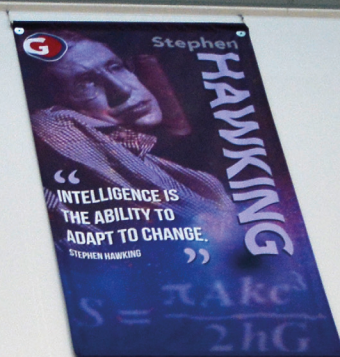
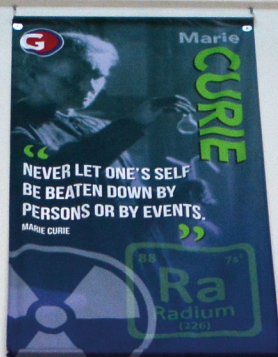
Examples of Thinking activities include:

- Thinking Maps - to visualise thinking
- CORT Tools - to focus thinking
- De Bono's Thinking Hats - to organise thinking
- Thinking Keys - to engage and motivate thinking
- Questioning - to encourage thinking
- Goodwin Gateways - to develop thinking dispositions

The “Thinking School” approach arms learners with skills that better prepare them for the ever-changing world we live in. Students achieve this through developing their confidence to map out their ideas independently and reflect upon these processes. As students become more confident, their motivation improves, enabling vibrant and collaborative learning environments. With the fear of failure removed, students develop their confidence through improved communication and the ability to utilise learned coping strategies.

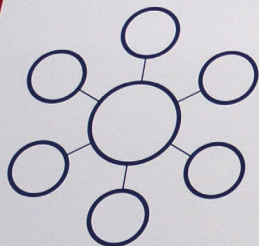






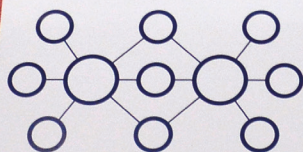
# THINKING MAPS

## Bubble Map



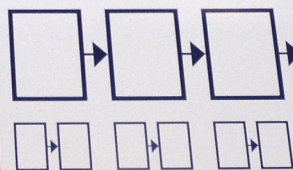
For Describing

## Double Bubble Map



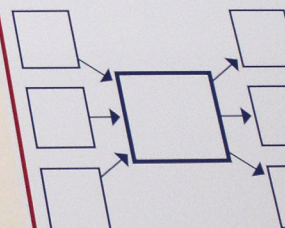
For Comparing

## Flow Map



For Sequencing

## Multi Flow Map



For Cause & Effect



# Thinking

The Thinking Schools Academy Trust is a family of schools that work together to “transform the life chances” of all our children and young people. We share a common mission to nurture successful young people who are confident and can think and act independently.

As part of the Thinking Schools Academy Trust, Goodwin Academy takes pride in the unique approach we take to education: we provide our students with the skills and tools they need to think in a variety of ways and become lifelong learners. We believe that the best way to transform the life chances of our young people and help them achieve their aspirations is by shaping their minds, attitudes and habits through a framework of cognitive education that enables them to become the masters of their own destiny.

Our students are equipped with a bank of Thinking Tools designed to prepare them for a range of scenarios, dilemmas and circumstances that they may face in life as part of modern society. The use of these “Tools” in our curriculum is supported by scientific and metacognitive research, and students are encouraged to apply their tools independently and use them to unlock new ideas. Our Thinking Tools include: Thinking Maps, De Bono’s Thinking Hats and Art Costa’s Habits of Mind. These tools are used consistently across all areas of our curriculum and support our students tremendously in their learning and personal growth.

The concept of ‘Being your Best Self’ is also at the heart of our approach to learning at Goodwin Academy as part of our Thinking School ethos. Children are encouraged to strive to be and achieve their best, and are given multiple opportunities to reflect on their learning and work on their personal development.

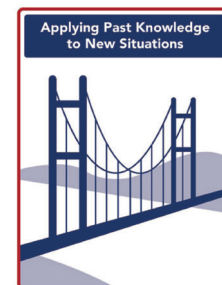
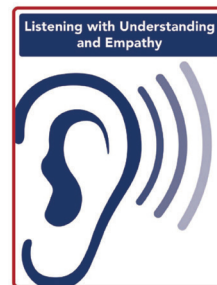
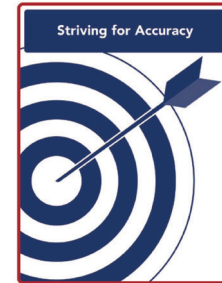
In 2022, Goodwin Academy was accredited as a Thinking School by the University of Exeter’s School of Education, which leads the way on Metacognition, Thinking Skills and Creativity and provides a framework for schools to follow to become recognised Thinking Schools.

In a glowing report on our school, the University commented that:

*“There is no doubt that Goodwin Academy has made a full commitment to developing and embedding cognitive education throughout the school. From the initial introduction of cognitive tools and practices, the school has expanded their repertoire of cognitive pedagogy and demonstrate a wide range of practice geared towards the development of thinking.”*



## Goodwin Gateways





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# Goodwin Gateways

The Goodwin Gateways aim to instil positive habits of mind to enable students to become independent and creative learners, providing them with transferable tools that can support them on the journey to achieving their goals. Each of the Gateways has been chosen specifically to fit the needs of Goodwin Academy students, so that they become confident, well-rounded and contented individuals.

**Persistence** is a hard habit to develop but at Goodwin the teaching and support mechanisms allow students to grow in confidence. Therefore, when faced with a challenge or experience with a sense of falling short, young people must be able to pick themselves up and carry on the journey to success.

**Striving for Accuracy** allows our students to gain an understanding of the importance of doing a job well, when entering a world full of competition our young people need to stand out by hitting the mark.

**Listening with understanding and empathy** is probably one of the most important habits of mind, the world is shrinking and our young people will encounter others who are not from the same background or who hold the same values as them.

One mind can conceive amazing inventions, but just think what many minds working together can innovate, this is what **thinking interdependently** is about. Sometimes sharing thoughts and ideas can be daunting but as with any walk of life team work enables individual success as well as team achievement.

Those who **communicate** well and who can convey their thoughts clearly can achieve beyond their capability. We take it for granted that people know how to communicate or to comprehend what is being said, this is not always the case and we need to allow our students to be confident communicators in whatever situation they may find themselves.

**Transferable knowledge** allows us to use what we already know to help us learn something new. At Goodwin Academy, we aim to lay foundations of learning across subjects upon which students can build strong knowledge bases.

Are we always truly clear about our thought processes and about the ideas that form our opinions? We will understand others better and therefore empathise more successfully if we understand what shapes us and **thinking about our thinking** is key.

Our children will leave school and enter into jobs that do not currently exist. Therefore, it is important that they are encouraged to **create, imagine, innovate** and stretch traditional ideas so that they are the engineers, inventors and employers of the future.

LOADING COOL STUFF...

The people who are crazy enough  
to think they can change the  
world are the ones who do

Steve Jobs





# Curriculum

At Goodwin Academy our vision for the curriculum is based around 'Be Your Best', so that all students achieve the highest standards of which they are capable.

Through our curriculum, we aim to deliver the following ambitious outcomes. Our students will:

- Aspire to brilliance in all areas of the curriculum by being imaginative, creative and reflective in their learning.
- Develop awareness of their own strengths and areas they would like to develop to enable them to be ready for the next step in their life journey.
- Use the Goodwin Gateways to develop lifelong habits to be successful within the Academy and beyond.
- Develop long term knowledge, skills and understanding which can be effectively transferred to new opportunities.
- Develop the cultural capital to successfully engage with a wide variety of social contexts in the wider world around them.

- Become confident and successful individuals who are able to live safe, healthy and fulfilling lives regardless of their individual circumstances.
- Become responsible citizens who make a positive contribution to society, upholding the fundamental British values of democracy and individual liberty.







# Academic Pathways

A Goodwin Student will follow one of three clear pathways of learning, ensuring the curriculum caters for all students across all ability ranges. This is due to the higher ability of students who are entering the Academy and to support students with high levels of SEN.

## The Accelerate Pathway –

Also known as our Grammar Pathway is designed for our more able students, offering the traditional EBacc pathway with additional stretch towards Triple Science. The pathway allows learners to pursue a wider range of academic subjects beyond KS4.

## The Aspire Pathway –

Offered to students with the core EBacc subjects as a spine, however languages are not compulsory at GCSE. Students, who excel, have the opportunity of transferring to the Accelerate Pathway, allowing access to the additional stretch and challenge required. Pupils are able to choose GCSE subjects that best suit their future study plans.

## The Achieve pathway –

A bespoke pathway offered to students who require additional learning support, such as literacy and/or numeracy. At GCSE, the emphasis is placed upon selecting subjects in which students are likely to succeed and support future career aspirations.









# Student Wellbeing and Support

At Goodwin Academy, student wellbeing is at the core of what we do, ensuring that our students feel supported every step of the way. In 2022, this was recognised by us receiving the Kent School Award for Resilience and Emotional Wellbeing.

Pastoral support starts with the tutor, as this is a daily point of contact and an opportunity for a strong relationship to be established. The aim is that the tutor team follows the year group throughout their time at the Academy, ensuring that both Head of Year and Tutor know every student personally.

In addition, our Resilience Centre provides any student with extra support alongside delivering structured interventions. The Resilience Team is run by our Resilience Manager who works in conjunction with the Safeguarding Lead and Heads of Year to provide an extra layer of pastoral support. Interventions are led by Resilience Mentors and our School Counsellor, all of whom are trained to provide support across a range of needs.

By building strong, lasting relationships with both students and parents, we ensure that students always have someone they can turn to for support. We believe this promotes engagement, trust, confidence and self-belief, in turn allowing our students to become their best.









# Special Educational Needs

At Goodwin, we never assume that “one size fits all” and will always aim to ensure a bespoke provision where needs warrant. Some students will need extra support and targeted intervention in order for them to reach their full potential. When this has been identified through our Assess, Plan, Do, Review (APDR) graduated response, the SENCo will work with teachers, specialists, parents/carers to consider a range of evidence-based and effective teaching approaches, appropriate equipment, strategies and interventions in order to support students’ progress.

We deliver quality first teaching, monitored by middle and senior leaders as part of the regular review and observation cycle. The SENCo is also responsible for ensuring that interventions impact positively in terms of outcomes for the student and represent best possible practice and value for money. Heads of Key Stage, Heads of Year, Wellbeing staff or and the SENCo are available to meet parents/carers by appointment.

At Key Stage 3, from Year 7 through to Year 9, we have an Achieve teaching group that has a smaller number of students in with a higher ratio of adult support across all of their timetabled lessons. Students with SEND are identified for placement in this group at transition meetings held between the SENCo, Head of Year and Year 6 primary school teachers and their SENCo and will access all of their timetabled lessons as one identified teaching group. Dependent upon need and levels of progress, students may access different teaching groups within their year group if, and when, they are ready to do so.





# Specialist Based Provision

The Helen Keller Centre provides support in individual, small group and whole class settings, for our students with speech, language and communication needs (SLCN), enabling them to access the curriculum; to achieve their academic goals; to enjoy being part of a community and to engage fully with all that Goodwin Academy has to offer.

Students supported by the Helen Keller Centre have an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP) and have been diagnosed either with Developmental Language Disorder (DLD) or with SLCN co-occurring with another condition, e.g. high functioning Autism Spectrum Disorder or hearing impairment.

For more information about our work with Special Educational Needs, please scan the QR code here. Alternatively, visit our website at [www.goodwinacademy.org.uk/curriculum/sen/](http://www.goodwinacademy.org.uk/curriculum/sen/)











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# Sixth Form

Goodwin Academy Sixth Form is a dynamic and innovative place to learn that will enable young people to be their BEST and achieve during their time here.

Students studying in the Sixth Form at Goodwin Academy receive high-quality education and care in a safe, inclusive environment.

Students benefit from teachers who are specialists in their subject area, varied teaching resources, personalised support and the opportunity to participate in a wide range of enrichment and extra-curricular opportunities.

Our curriculum offers a broad range of qualifications tailored to suit the needs of our learners. Alongside the academic curriculum, students in the Sixth Form follow a structured PSHE curriculum designed to promote social, moral, spiritual and cultural development. In addition, students will study various topics designed to prepare them for life outside of school, including sessions such as safer driving and managing finances.

Students can expect to leave us equipped with the tools for future success in higher education, training or the world of work, building essential life skills to complement their academic success.

We invite you to visit and discover what our Sixth Form is like. Goodwin Academy Sixth Form is not just about academic qualifications; it's about equipping young people with the tools to thrive, starting their career path and securing their future.

We look forward to hearing from you.



Miss Wilkin  
Head of Sixth Form and Aspirations

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# Sixth Form - Our Ethos



We strive to enable young people to maximise their potential during their time with us at Goodwin's Sixth Form. Our school aims to enable our young people to be their BEST; this is supported by the Goodwin Gateways. We aim to instil positive habits of mind to enable our students to become independent and creative learners, providing them with transferable tools that can support them on the journey to achieving their goals. This aim is the basis of our Sixth Form ethos, which is to be 'Future Ready'.

We place a strong emphasis on quality teaching and learning to support our students in achieving positive outcomes. Beyond the classroom, we provide learners with the opportunity to develop themselves in terms of practical and soft skills to prepare them for the world of work.

## Student Support

We offer excellent pastoral care and guidance. There are many challenges that young people face, and our dedicated and experienced Sixth Form team support our young people through this crucial period in their lives so that they feel safe, nurtured and able to reach their full potential.

Every student has their own tutor who they meet on a daily basis. Tutors act as the first port of call for any issues or concerns. They also deliver our compressive personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) programme and act as academic mentors. Alongside our tutors, we have a Student Support Officer who will be able to assist students with any issues or signpost to other colleagues or services where they deem this to be appropriate.

## Sixth Form Bursary

The 16-19 bursary is available to provide students with financial support in the Sixth Form. Bursaries are available to support a range of needs, such as food, transport, school clothing, educational resources and trips. Details of eligibility and how to apply for the bursary are available in the Sixth Form area of our website.

## Leadership Opportunities

Sixth Form students are the leaders of the school, running our Junior Leadership Team as Prefects. They are role models for younger students, influencing aspects of school life such as teaching and learning, the environment and diversity. They support learning across the school at all Key Stages. Students will have the opportunity to apply to become a Prefect, Student

Mentor or Wellbeing Ambassador, which will enable them to build valuable leadership skills.

### Future Ready

Students are provided with career information, advice and educational guidance (CIAEG) within PSHE. They will have the opportunity to research their post-18 options and apply for university courses, apprenticeships and other alternative pathways. It is important for learners to have the opportunity to develop their wider skill set on their journey to adulthood, so they become future ready.







# Artsmark

As part of Goodwin Academy's mission to "transform life chances", we believe we have a responsibility to build our young people's cultural capital as much as possible: this means offering opportunities for our students to explore culture in its various forms, immerse themselves in the Arts and learn about the world beyond their personal location and circumstances. We believe that in expanding our students' cultural knowledge and encouraging them to engage in new experiences, we can support their personal growth and extend their knowledge beyond the taught curriculum.

Every student at Goodwin has a Cultural Passport which encourages them to record and reflect on their cultural experiences. The Passport offers a range of activities and ideas for broadening students' horizons and developing their skills, from managing a budget and learning a survival skill to visiting an art gallery and trying foods from different countries. Our school offers as many opportunities as possible to equip our young people with a diverse set of experiences, skills and knowledge.

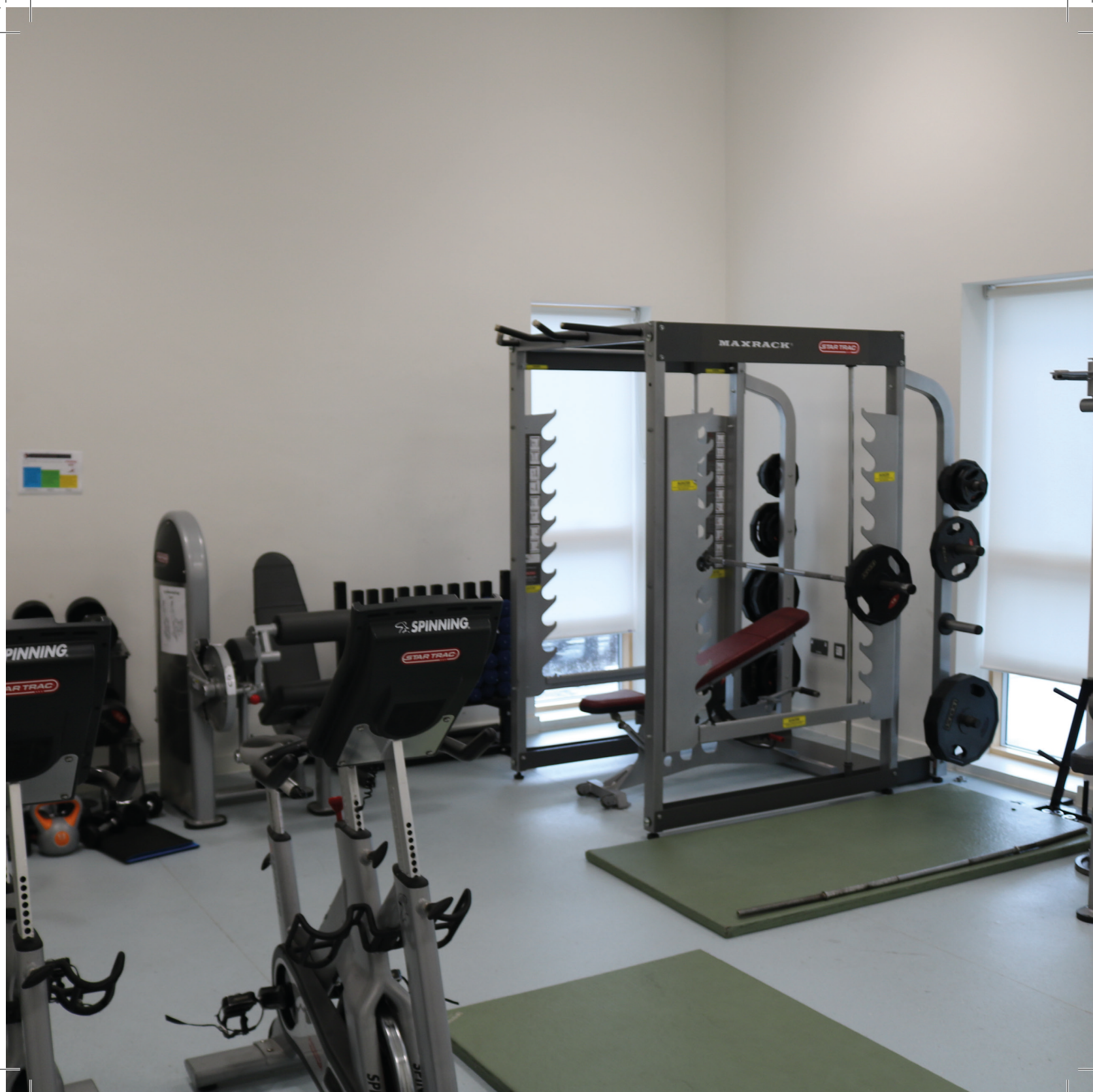
In order to offer a full and enriching experience which builds cultural capital, Goodwin Academy has committed to our Artsmark journey, ensuring the cultural and creative education we provide is broad, diverse and engaging. In 2019, our school achieved its Silver Artsmark Award, recognising the success of our mission to incorporate creativity and cultural education across our curriculum and school ethos.

Arts Council England praised the opportunities available to all Goodwin Academy students to engage in the arts and cultural experiences, provided both through the curriculum and a range of clubs and activities "that go beyond formal teaching".

We are currently working towards our Platinum Artsmark Award, making us one of a small number of schools in the UK to hold this award.







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# Facilities

As a result of £25 million investment, Goodwin Academy has benefitted from a new three storey building and four court Sports Hall, built by Kier Group Plc. Based on Hamilton Road, the Academy building can accommodate up to 1300 students.

The multi-functional building consists of a large Dining Hall and Theatre, plus ICT, Technology, Performing Arts and Modern Foreign Language classrooms on the Ground Floor. On the First Floor, the English, Humanities and Art departments are located, along with some additional ICT classrooms. Maths and Science are based on the Second Floor alongside the Sixth Form Study Centre, and Common Room. In addition to the Sports Hall, there is a Fitness Studio, Dance Studio and 4G Astro turf Pitch.



Thinking Lettings, a service of the Thinking Schools Academy Trust, hire out a number of our facilities to the general public. All profits made through these bookings are recycled back into the Trust to fund the upkeep of our facilities and further support our ethos of transforming life chances of our children.

Interested in hiring one of our facilities?  
Visit [thinking-lettings.com](http://thinking-lettings.com) for more information.















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