



BE YOUR BEST



GOODWIN
ACADEMY



Welcome from the Headteacher

Dear Parents, Carers, and Students,

Welcome to Goodwin Academy. I am delighted that you are considering Goodwin Academy for your child's education. Choosing a secondary school is one of the most significant decisions parents and guardians make, and we are proud to offer an environment where every student can thrive.

Goodwin Academy is proud to be part of the Thinking Schools Academy Trust (TSAT) family of schools. Our cognitive approach to education equips students with the tools to develop their learning as they grow, supporting their educational 'Thinking' journey into sixth form, university, and beyond to their chosen career paths.

As a Trust, we set ambitious targets for learning and progress. We are committed to transforming the life chances of our students, ensuring that all are supported to have high aspirations and achieve their personal best. We deliver this through the **BEST Agenda** — Be Your Best, with BEST standing for:

- B = Brilliance**
- E = Enrichment**
- S = Society**
- T = Thinking**

We pride ourselves on our caring and compassionate ethos, which allows students to grow in a supportive atmosphere conducive to their development. Where students need additional support, we meet their needs through our highly effective pastoral system. Our design for pastoral and academic mentoring ensures we know all members of our community well, allowing us to provide the appropriate support and curriculum for each student to realise their potential.

In January 2025, Goodwin Academy received its first-ever **"Good-in-all-areas" rating from Ofsted**, marking a significant milestone in our journey of improvement. The inspection highlighted that "pupils know that their school is a better place in which to learn and thrive. Consequently, they are now achieving well." This achievement reflects the dedication of our staff, the enthusiasm of our students, and the support of our families.

We are a vibrant and engaging school where students experience challenge in all its forms and learn to challenge intelligently. From the moment our pupils join, they encounter a culture that encourages curiosity, critical thinking, and personal growth.

High expectations underpin all that we do, including how students behave, speak, and present themselves, both within the Academy and the local community. These expectations are guided by our core values: **Being Ready, Being Respectful, and Being Safe**.

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

At Goodwin Academy, we aim to nurture confident, resilient, and intellectually curious students who are ready to achieve their personal best and make a positive impact in the world.

I hope our prospectus gives you a real insight into life at Goodwin Academy; we look forward to welcoming you to our community.



Mr Phil Jones
Headteacher

Proud to be Deal, Proud to be Goodwin

Goodwin Academy is proud to be part of Deal, a town with fascinating history and a unique connection to the Goodwin Sands. Deal has played a significant role in the nation's maritime history and continues to be a town of historical and cultural importance.

One of the most intriguing aspects of Deal's history is its relationship with the Goodwin Sands, a series of shifting sandbanks located approximately six miles off the coast. The Goodwin Sands have been both a peril and a protector for Deal and its surrounding areas. The Goodwin Sands have long been known as a notorious shipping hazard, causing numerous shipwrecks over the centuries. Despite this danger, the sands have also served as a natural barrier, protecting Deal from potential invasions and providing a sheltered anchorage known as "The Downs." This anchorage was one of the safest on the east coast of England and was used extensively by naval and merchant ships, especially during times of war.

Deal's maritime heritage is evident in its architecture, with historic buildings such as Deal Castle, built by Henry VIII, standing as testaments to its defensive and naval importance.

At Goodwin Academy, we are deeply connected to the history and heritage of Deal. Our school is named in honour of the Goodwin Sands, reflecting our appreciation for the town's maritime legacy. We are committed to fostering a deep sense of pride and belonging among our students, ensuring they appreciate and contribute to the ongoing story of this remarkable coastal town. We are proud to be Deal and proud to be Goodwin.





Thinking Schools Academy Trust

At Goodwin Academy we believe that students need to feel part of a successful Trust.

Goodwin Academy is part of the Thinking Schools Academy Trust (TSAT) which is a highly successful and respected Trust comprising both Primary and Secondary Schools. We believe 'we are one' and our primary aim is to improve the life chances of all our children and young people.

Our Trust comprises a number of secondary and primary schools from Kent, Medway, Portsmouth, and the South West, all committed to an ethos of excellence

and a whole-school integrated approach to cognitive education.

We are passionate about the difference this makes in nurturing adaptable and resilient thinkers. Indeed, through this approach to the teaching of thinking, we believe it "makes learning irresistible".



Brilliance

At Goodwin Academy, students are supported to achieve brilliance in everything they do.

Our ethos encourages students to be their best selves, striving for excellence in all areas of learning. Students at Goodwin understand that achievement requires overcoming challenges and building resilience, which are essential parts of any successful journey. Brilliance is the reward of developing the right habits of mind, which our students cultivate through our 'Goodwin Gateways'.

In January 2025, we were thrilled to receive a Good-in-all-areas from Ofsted. The report praised:

"Goodwin Academy has raised its expectations for academic success for all pupils, who "know that their school is a better place in which to learn and thrive. Consequently, they are now achieving well." with the report highlighting that "pupils work with focus and purpose."





Extra-Curricular Enrichment

At Goodwin Academy, educational opportunities extend beyond the classroom. We encourage students to view each experience as a learning opportunity, embracing the world around them.

Cultural Capital is integral to a well-rounded education, pushing students out of their comfort zones and opening up a world of opportunities. By engaging in diverse experiences, students gain transferable knowledge, enhancing their ability to contextualize learning and become more adept learners with a broader understanding.

"Pupils benefit from a wide range of opportunities which broaden their horizons. They benefit from the wide range of interesting clubs, including anime, kick boxing and drama. Sixth-form students play an active role in school life. They enjoy leadership responsibilities, such as supporting younger pupils with their reading."

- Ofsted 2025





Society

At Goodwin Academy, students are encouraged to develop into responsible, active, and informed global citizens who demonstrate mutual respect, empathy, and community spirit.

Living in a global community, it's important for us to understand the roles and responsibilities of democratic society. Goodwin students actively engage with both the local community of Deal and national and international agencies to support those less fortunate.

We believe that to become effective individuals in society, our students must aspire to be the best citizens and embrace the fundamental values essential in contemporary British society.



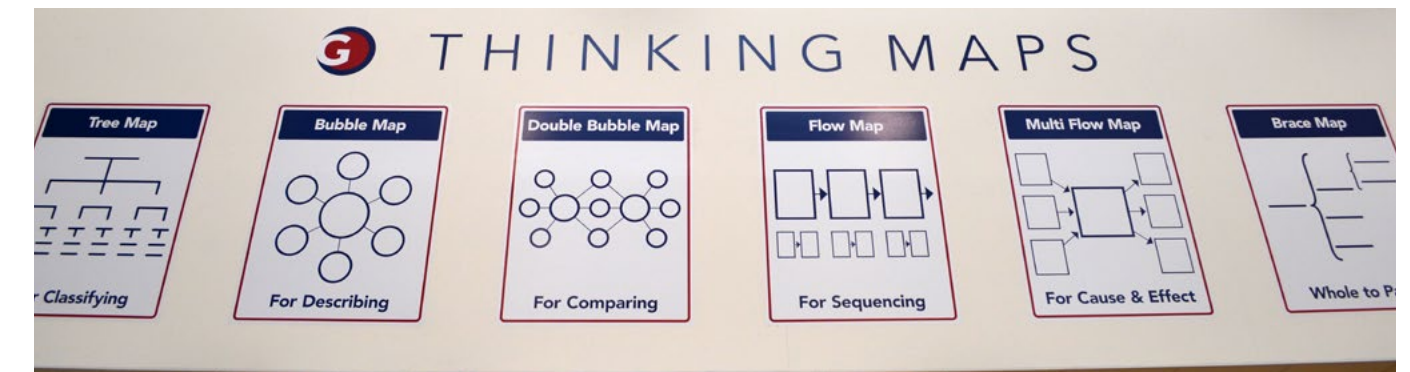


Thinking

At Goodwin Academy, you will join a global community of thinkers. As a 'Thinking School,' we are committed to thoughtful engagement in all activities.

This involves both students and staff learning to think reflectively, critically, and creatively. These skills are employed in the co-construction of a meaningful curriculum and associated activities.

Students learn to think independently through the development of thinking tools that help monitor their progress. This approach prepares learners for the ever-changing world by developing their confidence to independently map out ideas and reflect on their processes.





A Foundation of Thinking

To be a student at Goodwin Academy is to be part of something special.

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.

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."





Art & Design



Primary Transition

The transition from primary school to secondary school is one of the biggest changes our children will have ever experienced, but it is also one of the most exciting.

Children's primary education is the essential foundation needed to support their ability to embark on a new and exciting journey into secondary education. We believe in a 'through-education model' with a core understanding of children's early learning in Reception classrooms right through to shaping them into young adults ready for the world of work, further study and University. At Goodwin, we value children's primary school learning and aim to build on their success throughout Key Stage 3 and beyond.

Moving to secondary school offers children exciting exposure to opportunities to learn and immerse themselves in new experiences, as well as the chance

to develop important social skills by making new friends and taking part in different activities. Our students are encouraged and supported to step out of their comfort zones and embrace new and different situations.

During the transition process, we work with our local primary schools to prepare our children for their move to secondary education. We will provide them with resources, visits and a transition day, to ensure that their journey to Goodwin is as smooth as possible.





Curriculum

Through our curriculum, we aim to deliver the following ambitious outcomes:

Promote Academic Excellence

Our curriculum is designed and sequenced to deliver a broad, balanced and ambitious learning experience that stimulates academic enquiry and challenges students while ensuring accessibility for all. Thinking tools support students in acquiring a broad base of knowledge, whilst developing the skills they need to think deeply and become more resilient, independent learners.

Build Cultural Literacy

Our curriculum enables students to experience the wider world, building contextual knowledge and understanding. It assists them in successfully engaging with a wide variety of social contexts, enabling them to become outward-looking students who embrace all aspects of modern life, develop positive aspirations, and are prepared for future employment and lifelong learning.

Recognise and Respect Diversity

Our curriculum develops students' understanding of the uniqueness and differences of individuals, supporting students to recognise their equal worth. It gives students the opportunity to understand and respect different perspectives within the community and wider world, equipping them to be both local and global citizens.





Enrichment

At Goodwin Academy we believe providing enrichment activities for pupils outside of the classroom, is an integral part of a student's journey to becoming a well-rounded citizen, confident and an ambitious individual.

We pride ourselves on offering a wide range of clubs that students can enjoy during lunchtimes and after school. We provide regular trips throughout the academic year, exploring the local community and venturing much further afield to provide cultural capital experiences. We believe students deserve the opportunity to develop key leadership skills and encourage pupils to apply for a variety of different roles within the school to support our growth as an academy and a community.

Clubs

We currently have 20 different clubs that run throughout the week which explore all aspects of our diverse curriculum within Goodwin Academy. Below is a small selection of the clubs we currently offer during lunchtimes and afterschool.

- Rock band
- Swimming
- Kick Boxing
- Anime Mental Health
- Maths Clinic
- History Club

Trips

In the current academic year, we ran over 40 different trips, providing every pupil in the school the opportunity to attend a culturally captivating experience outside of their local community. We believe every child deserves the right to expand their cultural capital and experience life outside of their local community and we make every effort to remove any barriers and support parents and carers to facilitate these experiences.

Below is a small selection of the trips we ran this academic year.

- Dover Castle for all of Year 7
- London Science Museum for all of Year 9
- London Greenwich Observatory for Year 8
- Belgium Residential to visit Ypres for Year 9 and 10
- Cinema Reward Trip for all Year Groups
- Canterbury Christ Church Taster Day for History pupils in Year 12 and 13

Student Leadership

Student Leadership is incredibly important within a school and these opportunities help students to develop key skills for their future career pathway and with consistent student leaders, we are able to drive improvements within the school with student voice at the heart of what we do. We provide a variety of different opportunities for students to take on roles within the school and provide students with a real sense of autonomy to make key decisions and interact with the Senior Leaders at Goodwin Academy. Below is a small selection of the current roles available within the school.

- Student Council
- Student President and Vice President
- Form Group Representatives
- Anti-Bullying Ambassadors
- Eco Warriors
- Food Ambassadors



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.

Our Culture Vulture Programme sees the academy have a monthly theme that allows students to learn more about the world around them and their place in it. Events and activities linked to this theme are a regular feature within the weekly Be Your Best Assembly.

To offer a full and enriching experience which builds cultural capital, Goodwin has committed to our Artsmark journey, ensuring the cultural and creative education we provide is broad, diverse and engaging.



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/learn-with-us/specialist-resource-based-provision/





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. We believe that our students studying in the Sixth Form at Goodwin Academy receive high-quality education and care in a safe, inclusive environment and this allows them to reach their full potential.

We have high aspirations for what our students can achieve, and our dedicated staff will support them every step of the way. Students benefit from teachers who are specialists in their subject area, provide varied teaching resources with personalised support and the opportunity to participate in a wide range of enrichment and extra-curricular opportunities. Our ambitious, student-centred Sixth Form provides pathways and extensive support to enable our students to reach their chosen destinations.

Our curriculum offers a broad range of A Level and BTEC qualifications tailored to suit the needs of our learners and our Sixth form team work closely with all students to ensure that they are enrolled on the right courses to maximise their potential. 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.





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**THINKING
SCHOOLS**
ACADEMY TRUST