

GODOLPHIN  
SCHOOL  
1726–2026



VISION AND  
COMMITMENTS



## Mission

Godolphin School exists to educate young women in an environment of excellence in academic endeavour, sport, the arts and personal development, celebrating diversity of community and thought, and respect for all. Godolphin encourages each girl to find her unique talents and abilities, develop her own perspective, and realise her full potential so that she will meet the opportunities and challenges ahead.

## Vision

Godolphin will be the school of choice for girls in the south of England from 3–18 through the provision of exceptional education in a supportive and intellectually stimulating environment, unsurpassed in our commitment to educate the whole person. Determined to remain a modern and dynamic institution, Godolphin will honour the traditions of our founder, Elizabeth Godolphin, and build upon our founding ideals to secure the future of our School and our students for generations to come.

## Values

Godolphin is a value-driven school with a Christian ethos, committed to our founder Elizabeth Godolphin's belief in the power of education to transform young women's lives and enable them to succeed in the future. As a school we foster and embody the values of excellence, integrity, open communication, respect for one's self and others, and service to our community.





## Dear Friends,

Godolphin is a special place.

What strikes me most is the exceptional community that thrives around this remarkable school, beginning with our students and staff and extending to our parents, governors and alumnae. Whether in our Prep or Senior School, whether occupied with learning, laughing or growing, it is obvious how engaged our girls are in their education. That engagement, curiosity and excitement about the future is at the very core of what we do, supported by all of you who make up the wider Godolphin community.

These values, so important to our present and future, are also rooted in our past. Our commitment to

encouraging our students' aspirations in a supportive environment is a legacy of our founder, Elizabeth Godolphin, as is our commitment to ensuring Godolphin girls leave our school with a strong sense of their community as well as themselves. Achievement is important here, but never at the expense of well-being. Our girls excel in a nurturing environment that fosters encouragement and curiosity about learning rather than stress and anxiety about achievement, and we see again and again that this approach shapes exceptional scholars, and exceptional community members.

Elizabeth Godolphin's belief that women should have access to unrivalled education was groundbreaking in its time. Today, her legacy of excellence in women's education remains the very foundation of our school, and continues to enable the futures of bright young women each year. It is also at the heart of our goals for Godolphin's future as we approach our 300th anniversary in 2026.

As we embark on an ambitious programme of development to carry our school through to this important milestone, it is clear what a strong foundation we have on which to establish our future. Our development plan, encompassing short-, medium-, and long-term goals,

is committed to improving the whole of our school for the enhancement of all of our students. It will focus on bringing out the very best in each individual girl by providing her with a challenging academic and co-curricular environment in which to explore her unique talents and realise her potential, while providing outstanding pastoral care set within our strong community.

Cementing our school's future through this next phase of development will ensure that the vital preparation for life offered by a Godolphin education remains available for young women today and tomorrow. I feel immensely privileged to lead the school through this exciting time, and welcome the involvement of our wonderful community in this process.

Emma Hattersley  
Head

## Elizabeth Godolphin 1663–1726

The Godolphin School's tradition of excellence in women's education dates back to our eponymous founder, Elizabeth Godolphin (1663–1726). Informed by her own experience of loss and commitment to opportunity, Elizabeth Godolphin championed her vision for orphaned girls' education



for many years. A strong voice against the establishment's view that women's education was a wasted endeavour, Elizabeth Godolphin triumphed over prevailing opinion and considerable bureaucracy, establishing the foundation of our school in 1726, the year she died.

Her commitment to enabling the futures of young women through education well beyond her own lifetime is at the very core of our school today. From her promise to educate our school's eight founding students, Godolphin School has grown to a school of over 400 girls, enabling the bright futures and unique potential of each one of our students. Always, we remain keenly aware of our founder's visionary commitment to excellence in young women's education.

As we embark on a period of intense growth at Godolphin, we return for a moment to the original aims of our school: to teach girls to ‘work, read, write, cast accounts, dance and become proficient at housewifery’. While education at Godolphin has grown to encompass so much more than this, Elizabeth Godolphin’s vision of education for women at that time, empowering them to reach their full potential and give back to their community through their education, continues to inspire us. On the Godolphin tombstone in Westminster Abbey are the following words: ‘...nor was she less eminent for her ingenuity witt sincere love of her friends and constancy in religious worship. But as charity and benevolence were the distinguishing parts of their characters so were they most conspicuously displayed by the last act of their lives...’

Today, Elizabeth Godolphin’s commitment to learning and giving back still prevails here, and we are guided by her belief in fostering both independence and community. Godolphin is a selective environment, yet we recognise that there is no single path to excellence, and that all of our girls are individuals. We value each girl’s unique gifts and talents, as well as her compassion and commitment to her community, just as highly as

her academic achievements. Our commitment to educating the whole person begins with a promise: to understand each girl as an individual, and encourage her to reach her potential as part of a supportive community. This commitment is as strong today as it was when Elizabeth Godolphin boldly founded our school, and will always be at the very core of our ethos.

Our founder’s commitment to the educating of young women is the cornerstone of this ‘Enabling our Future’ campaign. This campaign establishes our commitments to Godolphin leading up to our 300th anniversary in several key areas: academic and co-curricular, pastoral and community and infrastructure. Inspired by our past, proud of our present, and committed to our future, we look forward to continuing to lead and inspire our students, our community and the field of women’s education in the tradition of our founder, Elizabeth Godolphin, as articulated in the vision and commitments that follow.





## Academic and co-curricular

### Vision

- ◆ Uphold our long-term commitment to educational excellence and enhanced academic reputation.
- ◆ Keep the Elizabeth Godolphin Award, in both the Prep and Sixth Form, current and globally relevant.
- ◆ Reconcile and facilitate the value of traditional teaching with the digital world, making full use of technology to support teaching and learning through the school.
- ◆ Build a bursary endowment fund designed to broaden access to a Godolphin education.

### Commitments

2015 –16	Synchronise timetables between Godolphin Prep and Godolphin Senior
	Introduce the Elizabeth Godolphin Award (EGA) at Godolphin Prep and review all co-curricular activities at prep and senior level
	Review Prep, GCSE and A-level curricula in light of new government specifications
	Introduce a new tracking and reporting system in both Godolphin Prep and Godolphin Senior school to support student progress
	Foster stronger departmental links between Godolphin Prep and Godolphin Senior
	Continue investment in ICT hardware, software, training and technical assistance
	Review the entry procedure between Godolphin Prep and Godolphin Senior, facilitating a seamless transition
	Ensure appropriate differentiation is embedded in teaching and learning, across the school
2017 –20	Review the staff appraisal system and reinforce continuous professional development
	Share good practice and peer observation across the school (3–18)
	Create greater global awareness through links and exchanges with other schools and businesses locally, nationally and internationally
	Raise the focus on STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, mathematics) through increased access to the technology curriculum
2021 –26	Broaden the range of EPQ (Extended Project Qualification) options
	Develop an inclusive bursary programme
	Maintain a vibrant and varied co-curricular and EGA which builds on and enhances the classroom experience
	Continue to offer a broad curriculum which offers opportunities for all to develop knowledge and skills relevant to the digital age



## Pastoral and community

### Vision

- ◆ Further develop our programme of pastoral support, celebrating and encouraging the gifts and talents of each individual girl, and supporting her personal, spiritual and emotional well-being as key to her education.
- ◆ Increase commitment, awareness and sense of responsibility to the school community as well as the wider local, national and global community.
- ◆ Provide clear, coherent communications with all members of the Godolphin community.

### Commitments

2015 –16	Improve our well-established tutor system to create a yet more personalised approach
	Train key staff in mental health first aid, and all staff to have a basic awareness
	Introduce a Prep school parent portal and monitor the Senior school portal
	Increase our involvement with local and national charities
	Launch an alumnae mentoring programme for Sixth Form girls and develop a professional network using alumnae, parents and local businesses
	Foster PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education) awareness of significant and age-appropriate influences girls encounter, particularly through electronic media
	Foster stronger links with the Salisbury diocese and look creatively at ways of further engaging students with spirituality through a variety of services at different venues
2017 –20	Review the current boarding structure to accommodate growth and further integration between boarders and Sarums
	Further develop the links between academic and house staff ensuring there is consistent academic and pastoral support beyond the classroom
	Increase the diversity of opportunities available to the girls to experience other countries and cultures through an expanded trips and exchange programme
	Encourage Prep and Senior parents' associations to work together to host regular friend-raising and fundraising events
2021 –26	Provide additional stepped leadership opportunities to pupils throughout the school and introduce peer mentoring to raise the profile of the student voice at Godolphin
	Foster and expand the school community to 500 girls, with a Sixth Form of 120
2021 –26	Strengthen Prep boarding and review provisions to include an outdoor play area for younger girls



## Infrastructure

### Vision

- ◆ Improve and upgrade our facilities to meet our key educational priorities and to support the aspirations of our girls through a phased building campaign
- ◆ Secure the financial stability of the school through our ongoing commitment to making efficiencies and through prudent budgeting and fundraising

### Commitments

2015 –16	Create a vibrant social facility within the heart of the school incorporating additional changing, shower and storage facilities for our senior girls (13–16)
	Review our estates master plan which includes refurbishment and investment into the infrastructure and incorporates a rolling maintenance programme
	Enhance, enrich and extend the IT architecture of the school including the distribution of mobile devices to staff and girls
	Open a school shop which will stock uniform, stationery and Godolphin memorabilia
2017 –20	Launch a Capital Campaign to support the building programme and other specific projects, including a bursary fund
	Deliver a phased building programme, in step with the Capital Campaign, which will include state of the art science and technology facilities, new library and teaching spaces, and an additional performing arts studio
	Enhance boarding facilities through reorganisation and extension to accommodate additional demand at age specific stages
2021 –26	Re-evaluate the on-site sports facilities to support a whole school wellness and fitness culture
	Complete the current building programme and investigate future projects

## Thank you

Thank you all for being a part of the exceptional Godolphin community. As we embark on this exciting phase of growth and development, we welcome dialogue and input from each one of you.



Mrs Emma Hattersley

Please feel free to contact the School at the addresses below if you would like to learn more about our goals for Godolphin now and in the future.

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‘Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow.  
The important thing is not to stop questioning.’

Albert Einstein

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June 2015

Although correct at time of going to press, the information in this booklet may be superseded as part of our commitment to continuing improvement.