

# Committed to Excellence



# Welcome to Mount Grace

You are in the process of making a very important decision and I would like to welcome you to Mount Grace School.

I have been Headteacher since April 2003 and I feel privileged to serve in a school with so much scope for success. Every student is offered a varied curriculum and will be developed and challenged to achieve their full potential. As well as its academic focus, there is plenty of opportunity for students to thrive by participating in the many extra-curricular activities on offer. Our committed staff are dedicated to the success and happiness of all students.

Mount Grace is a mixed comprehensive school occupying 17 acres of beautiful grounds set imaginatively into a picturesque park landscape with magnificent trees. It has a genuine partnership with local people and is aiming to be the community school of Potters Bar and the surrounding area, with our facilities used by all.

Choosing the right secondary school is a difficult and crucial decision. You can be confident, as we are, about the future of your child at Mount Grace School. We are looking forward to working with you to develop confident and successful young adults of the future.

Please take the time to look through our brochure and do not hesitate to contact us to make an appointment to tour our school.

We believe Mount Grace is the place for your child.



Peter Baker  
Headteacher



“... we cannot speak highly enough of the school and the education it has given our children.”  
(parent)

## At Mount Grace every child matters:

- We offer a broad, balanced personalised curriculum promoting a healthy lifestyle and maintaining a high level of personal safety
- We promote an enjoyment of learning and have high expectations of all our students, irrespective of academic ability. We provide and develop high quality teaching and learning opportunities
- We promote moral and ethical responsibility to our students, service to the community and protection of our environment
- We encourage students to become self motivated, independent, life long learners and lay the foundations for them to achieve and maintain economic well-being for their future success and fulfilment
- We work continuously to improve every aspect of school life



“This is an effective school. It is effective because it is now being well led and managed and is improving significantly.”

(Ofsted)



# Our Traditions and Expectations

We are certain that young people fulfil their potential in a caring and supportive school community. We aim to be a school which is friendly and understanding but which is also firm, fair and consistent in its values and expectations. Pupils are expected to show consideration and courtesy to others at all times.



## We expect:

- The school to establish strong partnerships with parents and develop trust, tolerance and respect for all
- The school to provide a secure and safe environment where pupils are able to develop self-esteem, self-discipline and self-confidence
- Pupils to be polite and considerate, to dress smartly in school uniform and to be proud of their school
- All pupils to achieve excellence
- All pupils to continue in full time education and training to at least the age of 18
- Many students to proceed to Higher Education or employment based training after leaving the school

“The partnership between school and home is good ... parents are provided with very good information about their children’s progress and good information about the life and work of the school.”

(Ofsted)



# Mount Grace...

... we are constantly impressed by her love and enthusiasm for her school... (parent)

“The leadership & management are good, with examples of very good practice, and is a developing strength of the school. The headteacher has a very clear vision for the school. The leadership and management of the senior staff team, and that of subject leaders and pastoral staff, is good, with some very good practice. Improved monitoring is enabling the school to evaluate teaching and learning effectively and to develop its strategic planning. The governors are very supportive, have a good understanding of the school’s strengths and weaknesses & are effectively developing their role.” (Ofsted)

# Delivering Success In the Classroom



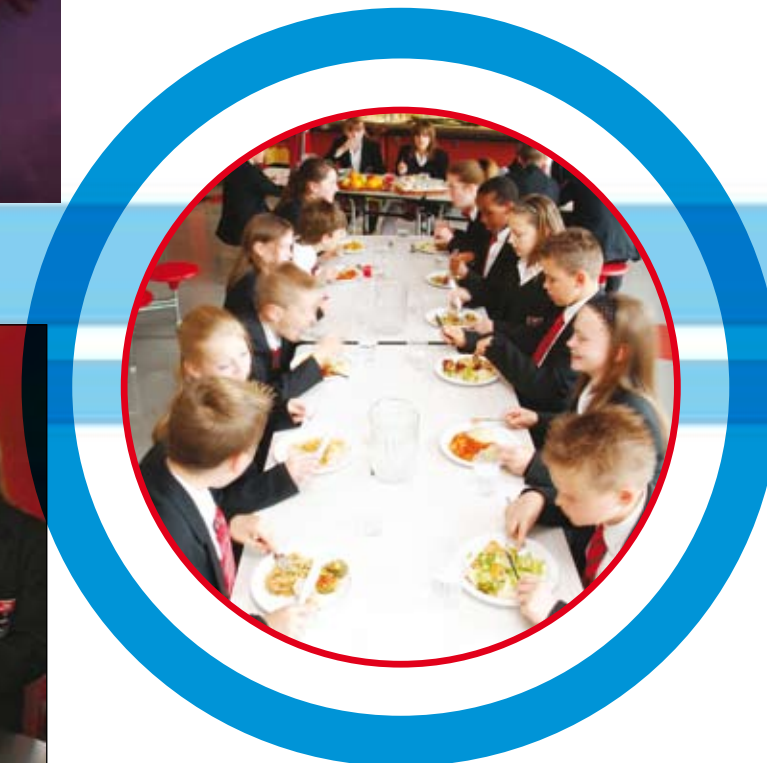
Your son or daughter will be happy and fulfilled at Mount Grace School. They will enjoy their time here and will achieve academic success. Students are supported in their personal and social development by planned curriculum experiences and by the school’s comprehensive and supportive pastoral system. They will settle quickly into the new way of life and will thrive in the safe and secure environment that Mount Grace School provides.

All students study a full range of the usual subjects and, in addition, will be challenged by new subjects such as Performing Arts including Drama and Dance, Graphic Design and Fashion & Textiles in purpose-built facilities. Mount Grace has recently introduced an innovative mentoring programme, supported by a learning to learn philosophy, to enable your child to be successful.

Mount Grace prides itself on its partnership with parents. We work together to maintain a high standard of behaviour, appearance and work, both at school and at home. Throughout the year there are regular opportunities to consult with staff about the academic and social progress of your son or daughter.



“There is effective careers advice and good links with further and higher education institutions. The quality of teaching and learning extra-curricular activities are satisfactory and include good competitive sporting activities and school performances.” (Ofsted)



# Encouraging Success Beyond the Classroom

Mount Grace students thrive on enrichment activities. There are a wide range of sporting and cultural activities to suit each and every taste.

At the beginning of Year 7, all students participate in a team building activity day with students in their form and their form tutor. In Year 8, all students have the opportunity to attend a team building week at a specialist centre in Devon.

There are a wide range of sporting activities and clubs, ranging from traditional sports such as football, netball, rugby, hockey and cricket to the more individual pursuits of tennis, squash, athletics, cross-country and skiing. Other weekend activities include wake-boarding and mountain biking. Students are given the opportunity of skiing in North America and competing at international football and basketball matches at European destinations.

There have been regular trips abroad to extend our students cultural experiences. These include trips to France, Belgium, Switzerland, Spain, Germany and Canada.

There are also opportunities for students to participate in drama, dance and music events throughout the school year. There are major performances every term at the school and at County level.

The school has participated in community schemes such as the Millennium Volunteers and the Duke of Edinburgh Awards and regularly supports local charities and good causes. Year Groups select a charity to support throughout the year. Our Sixth Form work hard organising functions and entertainment for our senior citizens in the local community.



“The quality of pastoral care is very good. Child protection arrangements are very good.” (Ofsted)

“... the reputation of your school is improving dramatically”  
(Headteacher Primary School)

“Strategies to help pupils improve their language and literacy are good.” (Ofsted)

“... our plans to move have altered as our daughter has settled into the school so well that she doesn't want to leave and I think that says a lot !  
...” (parent)

“Teaching is satisfactory and showing continued improvement, with examples of good and very good teaching in a significant proportion of lessons.” (Ofsted)

“Mount Grace was a great time of my life and I hold some of my best memories (Headboy 2005)”

“...Committed  
to  
Excellence”

# Our Visions and Aspirations

Mount Grace is a Foundation School with Business and Enterprise status. In due course we will develop a second specialism. Mount Grace is developing into a centre of vocational excellence where traditional education complements and supports exciting vocational, career-based subject areas.

It is becoming the core of the local community where skills and knowledge fit for the real world are developed and nurtured; where young adults are prepared for the real world; where the concept of life-long learning is a reality.

Traditional career paths are changing and the demands on job-seekers are changing too. Mount Grace will ensure that every student develops the skills and knowledge that will allow them to take their place with confidence in the future workplace of the 21st century.

As a Foundation School and Business and Enterprise College, we work closely with our local community including primary schools, business leaders, community teams, the District and County Councils and the police. We value their support and we believe they value ours.

We also work with many support agencies to ensure that every student's needs are met. We have developed links with other local secondary schools to establish a sixth form consortium to provide the highest quality provision for the 14 - 19 age group.



Our sponsors, the Arcadia Group and Oracle are successful, multi national companies. We have established a close working partnership with both to benefit staff and pupils alike.

Vocational courses such as Business and Finance, Health and Social Care, Sports Studies and Music Technology will be seamlessly integrated with traditional subjects to allow students to achieve a range of qualifications that will take them wherever they want to go. As part of a major redevelopment programme, the school has remodelled its Design and Technology accommodation, updated its Business and Enterprise facilities, upgraded its ICT infrastructure and equipment and installed a purpose designed Video Conference Teaching Suite.

Furthermore, Mount Grace will remain a genuinely comprehensive school, admitting students with the full range of abilities and providing genuinely personalised learning.

**“The curriculum is flexible and includes vocational elements, which prepare pupils of all capabilities for progression onto courses in the sixth form and employment.”**

(Ofsted)



# Your Next Step

How to apply: Although Mount Grace is a Foundation School, it has adopted the admission criteria of the Local Education Authority and has delegated the admission process to it. To apply to Mount Grace complete the County application form or apply online at:-

[http://www.hertsdirect.org/actweb/education/admissions/default\\_main.cfm](http://www.hertsdirect.org/actweb/education/admissions/default_main.cfm).

Please note: following the centrally administered allocation of secondary school places in March, the school administers its own "continuing interest" lists.

Mount Grace has a thriving Sixth Form provision and is currently collaborating with Hertswood School in Borehamwood and other local secondary schools to provide a wide range of academic and vocational courses for Year 12 and 13 students. Students interested in joining the Sixth Form should contact Mount Grace for further information and an application form.





University of  
Hertfordshire  
Resources Centre

“There is a clear vision for developing a 14-19 curriculum. Leadership and management are good with a clear vision for development of a 14-19 continuum.” **(Ofsted)**

“Your school obviously has a great future... We wish you well.” **(the Mayor's Parlour)**

“Teaching and learning are satisfactory and show significant improvement since the last inspection. There are examples of very good and outstanding practice, which encourage pupils' and students' good learning.” **(Ofsted)**

“... thank you for imbuing your pupils with such a sense of citizenship” **(member of public)**

“... I am impressed with the hard work and positive, helpful attitudes that I have come across from the many people I have had contact with from your school...” **(Primary School Teacher)**

“... who needs to send their children out of the area, when all our needs are fulfilled on our doorstep...” **(parent)**



[www.mountgrace.org.uk](http://www.mountgrace.org.uk)

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