



THE MOUNTBATTEN SCHOOL

PROSPECTUS



21ST CENTURY TEACHING BLENDED WITH TRADITIONAL VALUES



Heather McIlroy
Executive Headteacher

Welcome to The Mountbatten School – an impressive community school with high expectations situated against the beautiful backdrop of the Broadlands estate near Romsey, at the southern tip of the Test Valley.

Ours is a 21st century school built on traditional values, delivering a contemporary and dynamic curriculum.

Mountbatten became an academy school in 2011. As an international school, our students' learning is rich in cultural diversity and global context.

The strong sports ethos focuses on personal health, fitness and well-being, in addition to encouraging sports competition and promoting team spirit.

And our music academy adds a further dimension to the cultural life of our school with a high proportion of students taking part in extra-curricular music activities.

Mountbatten is a high-performing school – as close as you can get in the state sector to an independent school. Set in 40 stunning acres, it is a beautiful learning environment and a school to be proud of.

Our impressive academic results, allied to the numbers of students who eventually go on to Oxbridge and Russell Group universities, is testimony to that success – former students who become professionals in all walks of life.

Excellent GCSE results may demonstrate outstanding teaching. However, at the heart exists a culture where students are encouraged to flourish and develop through hard work and self-discipline.

Our motto is – we care, we respect, we achieve, a philosophy woven into everyday life at The Mountbatten School.

Every student matters. We want them to become confident, independent, adaptable and resilient learners, so they are well-placed to adapt to life and, eventually, the world of work.

We achieve this through strong community partnerships working with a number of Hampshire employers, and provide an abundance of activities outside the classroom, including foreign visits, field trips and specialist interest groups.

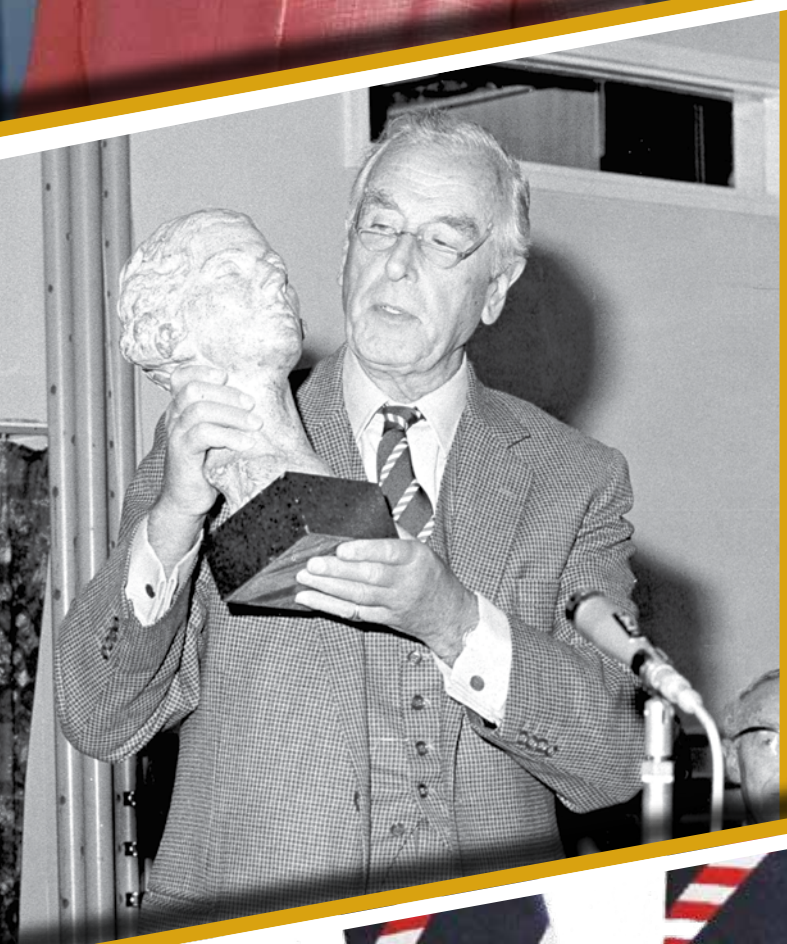
We hope this prospectus will give you an insight into life at the school, so that you can make an informed decision for your son or daughter.

We look forward to seeing you.

Students are encouraged to develop a positive attitude to hard work, to maintain high standards in work, behaviour and appearance, and to show respect and concern for others, the school and the wider environment.



Christopher Cox
Associate Headteacher



Hon Alexandra Knatchbull



THE LEGACY OF LORD MOUNTBATTEN LIVES ON

The name of The Mountbatten School will always be linked with one name, and one family.

Lord Louis Mountbatten was a distinguished statesman and naval officer, a second cousin to the Queen who was once described by Prince Charles as “the grandfather I never had”.

He was also instrumental in founding the school in 1969.

Lord Mountbatten could have founded a private school or donated land on the Broadlands estate to any number of charitable purposes. But instead, the last Viceroy of India, who distinguished himself in the Second World War, chose to establish a state secondary school for Romsey which would serve as his legacy.

In essence, Lord Mountbatten entrusted The Mountbatten School with his name, his land, his stake and his reputation in perpetuity.

Dotted around the school are images of the man; a reminder of the high standards he set, along with the principles on which the school was founded.

During his lifetime, Lord Mountbatten took an active interest in The Mountbatten School. He was a frequent visitor during speech days and for special events – he was also prone to turning up unannounced to sample some of the culinary delights served up in cookery classes.

On the morning of August 27th, 1979, 79-year-old Lord Mountbatten was killed when a bomb was detonated on the boat he was fishing from off the coast of County Sligo in Ireland. It was a violent end to a remarkable life for a man who was the supreme Allied Commander in South East Asia, First Sea Lord and a leading member of the Royal Family.

“The academy makes a strong contribution to the personal, spiritual, moral, social and cultural developments of students. The influence of Earl Mountbatten is clear and leads to students understanding fundamental British values.”
(Ofsted, 2015)

He was afforded a state funeral at Westminster Abbey, but is buried at Romsey Abbey, with the tombstone positioned in the direction of his wife, Lady Edwina, who had been buried at sea off Portsmouth in 1960.

The Mountbatten legacy lives on. The current patron is Lord Mountbatten’s great granddaughter, the Hon Alexandra Knatchbull, and each June Romsey Abbey is filled with students, teachers and members of the community for Founder’s Day, which marks the school’s long association with the Mountbatten family.

The five school house are named after Royal Navy ships with a close affinity to the school’s founder – HMS Daring, Illustrious, Kelly, Lion and Wishart.

A daily reminder to the family connection can be found on the students’ blazers which contain the school’s cypher, which is Lord Mountbatten’s personal crest and whose use was granted with permission by Queen Elizabeth II.

The crest contains the Order of the Garter motto “Honi soit qui mal y pense”, a Middle French expression which means “shame on him who thinks evil of it”.





ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE - A GRAMMAR SCHOOL EXPERIENCE FOR STUDENTS

The Mountbatten School's long-standing reputation as one of the finest schools is no accident.

A living legacy of our grammar school curriculum traditions is a desire to provide a learning environment where our students thrive and excel, working with a talented team of committed teachers.

The vast proportion of our students in Years 7 to 9 follow a curriculum of English, mathematics, science, French or Spanish, history, geography, religious studies, technology, computing, art, music and drama.

A few students will follow a carefully-tailored programme of literacy and/or numeracy support to ensure they are ready for the challenges of GCSE exams. All students have 100 minutes a week of high-quality physical education.

During the crucial GCSE study period in Years 10 and 11, there is an impressive range of academic opportunities.

A large number will follow the three separate sciences of biology, chemistry and physics at GCSE, while able mathematicians will follow GCSE Further Mathematics as important preparation for A Level and university study.

The school embraces the philosophy of the English Baccalaureate; students are strongly encouraged to study at least one foreign language to GCSE, and either history or geography.

As you would expect from a large school, we can offer a wide range of GCSEs and other accredited courses within the senior school.

In addition to the compulsory GCSEs of English language, English literature, mathematics and either the three separate sciences or double science, students will select four further examination courses.

Currently art, computing, dance, drama, economics, food and nutrition, geography, graphics, history, Italian, music, physical education, photography, religious studies, resistant materials, Spanish, statistics and textiles are offered.

In our curriculum, we aim to be as flexible as possible and respond to the needs of every student. For example, while all Year 10 and Year 11 students will have 100 minutes of high-quality core physical education, there is an opportunity for our gifted and talented sportsmen and women who engage in sport outside normal lessons to take GCSE physical education, instead of core PE.

It all adds up to a stimulating and demanding curriculum, fit for the 21st century, which combines the highest academic standards with bespoke, student-centred personalised learning.

Beyond Mountbatten School, we work closely with Sixth Form colleges in Hampshire, with whom we share an impressive record preparing students for successful university applications, including to Oxford and Cambridge.

“Teaching provides good support for the most able students by challenging them to explore ideas more deeply”
(Ofsted, 2015)





EMBRACING TODAY'S TECHNOLOGY FOR TOMORROW'S WORLD

It's not just parents who have difficulty keeping up with modern technologies; the challenge remains for schools to keep ahead of the curve and to innovate.

For the students, it makes learning exciting giving the subjects real context and application.

No more boring chalk boards, instead we're living in an age of electronic text books and a virtual learning environment which Mountbatten fully embraces.

We combine the best traditional teaching methods with the very latest e-learning approach. Lessons are characterised by variety, dynamism, healthy competition and an international outlook.

Digital technology, which is extremely popular, is available in all classrooms and e-learning provides a perfect environment to develop learning and engagement.

Students use Chrome books and specially-adapted Google classrooms which allow teachers to upload resources that can be easily accessed by the class using laptops or mobiles. iPads are also used as students are encouraged to discover their learning environment through technology.

STEM is a new education watchword – a curriculum based on the idea of educating students in four specific disciplines; science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

This has been prompted by a belief that schools need to do more to prepare our children to navigate a future which is dominated by technology.

In particular, we encourage more girls to take up physics and for students to see beyond their school to appreciate the value of science.

It is a move welcomed at Mountbatten.

STEM is so relevant to the curriculum today and to our students' future tomorrow – so much so, that we work closely on this programme with six linked primary schools, the local Sixth Form Colleges and Southampton University.

Mountbatten's experienced team of teachers work closely in partnership with industry through the likes of Ericsson, Bouygues, Associated British Ports, the Winchester Science Centre, together with Southampton and Portsmouth universities, and the British Science Association.

Our students take part in a number of scientific and environmental competitions such as the We Can STEM Challenge and a Year 7 Science Fair.

Science and digital technology are relevant today for tomorrow's world, mixed with traditional approaches to learning.

“Teachers and pupils have excellent relationships which make a good working environment in the classroom with pupils enjoying their learning.”
(Ofsted, 2015)





WE HELP STUDENTS MAKE A SMOOTH TRANSITION TO SECONDARY SCHOOL

It's a tough time being a teenager in a world of choice and in a world of extremes.

Choice of careers, university and a perpetual desire to improve yourself are set against a backdrop of relationships, drugs and alcohol, radicalisation, plus the broader pressures of 21st century living.

Teenagers live in a pressure cooker at times, so at Mountbatten we are there to signpost, to provide support, guidance and pastoral care to help our students reach the right decisions.

We attach the highest importance to pastoral care since we believe that students thrive when they feel safe, understood and valued as individuals. And that starts from the moment your son or daughter is accepted at Mountbatten School.

We accept students from a wide range of primary schools across Romsey, its rural environs and Southampton. Working closely with those feeder schools, baseline assessments are made of the fresh intake.

Those requiring extra help ahead of secondary school can take advantage of a number of nurture programmes, including a summer school and accelerated reader initiative.

These early interventions through our team of teaching assistants and learning support staff, working with children who come to Mountbatten from a variety of backgrounds and home situations, means they are best placed to achieve.

Mountbatten is a happy and tolerant community where the promotion of students' well-being is paramount. We strongly believe in helping youngsters to flourish so they can become fulfilled, responsible and resilient adults.

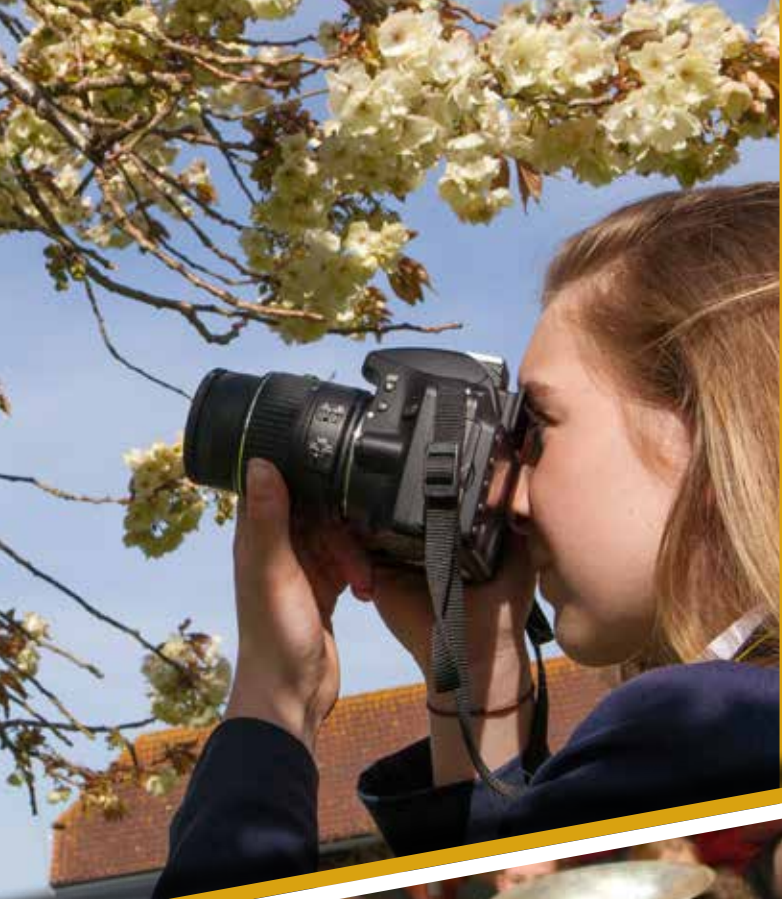
Students benefit from the support of a very strong pastoral team. Five Heads of Year oversee 10 tutor groups which stay together for both registration and tutorials, in most cases for five years. Tutors monitor attendance and behaviour, along with academic progress.

We also provide pastoral support and a range of external agencies for those who require additional support.

What do we want from our students? We want them to be happy, we want them to be curious, resilient, confident and tolerant. We want them to love learning, develop as young people of integrity and to become better citizens in society.

“The academy’s innovative programme in year 7, known as STAR, has an extremely positive impact on a small group of students and helps them make rapid progress”
(Ofsted 2015)





A CREATIVE TRADITION - AN ENVIABLE REPUTATION IN MUSIC, ART & DRAMA

Music is central to the life of the school.

Our Music Academy has gained an envied reputation for providing opportunities for all with Dominic Peckham as Honorary President and Pete Waterman, its Patron. We aim to make music accessible, so if your child wants to take up an instrument, if they want to explore their love of music, then we can make it happen.

It's very likely your son or daughter may have already experienced the magic of Mountbatten's music, since our teachers regularly work in a number of feeder primary schools in the area developing children's basic skills.

Once at Mountbatten, all Year 7 students have a dedicated choral lesson where they learn to develop a life-long love and appreciation of music.

And if they want to take up an instrument, we have a growing pool of instruments students can use, and we also offer subsidised tuition.

The school is blessed with some excellent facilities, including the Lantern Theatre, performance and recording studios, Mac-equipped classrooms, and peripatetic practice rooms which provide good facilities for musical performances.

Our choirs, bands, quartets and orchestras regularly perform nationwide, as well as at the renowned Montreux Jazz Festival in Switzerland.

One of Mountbatten's most popular musical contributions is the 190-strong community choir, featuring teachers, governors, parents and those connected to the school.

It's all about making music accessible and inclusive, and for students it offers an opportunity to forge friendships across the different school year groups. That's the joy of music – it is about social development and well-being, giving children the opportunity to fulfil their potential.

Our students can embrace an exceptional range of opportunities in creative and expressive arts.

Besides music, our drama department encourages those with a passion for theatre – whether it's on stage, directing or involved in technical support – through a range of productions ranging from small plays to large-scale musical productions.

In art, the school enjoys four well-equipped classrooms, a kiln room, a dark room and a dedicated Mac suite to challenge our young artists to produce outstanding creative work using a variety of techniques and media.

“Students study a full and imaginative curriculum. It has particular strengths in science, music and performing arts.”
(Ofsted 2015)





Photo: Michael Loveder



Sport lies at the heart of every good school – and Mountbatten is no different.

Just look at our roll of honour of past students to find Olympic gymnasts, Commonwealth Games' athletes, Hampshire cricketers and Southampton footballers, all of whom cut their sporting teeth on the playing fields of Mountbatten.

Of course, students might not achieve those sporting heights, but our philosophy is to promote a healthy, challenging and competitive sporting environment with the opportunity to strive for excellence.

Our facilities are top-notch, including a first-class 3G sports pitch which is playable in all weathers. Mountbatten also enjoys a well-appointed fitness suite, a large multi-purpose sports hall, a gymnasium, three separate hardcourt areas, and acres of sports pitches for football, rugby, cricket and athletics.

Whatever your sport, there is ample opportunity to participate thanks to our highly-qualified specialist coaches. And through close links forged with local sports clubs, this ensures every sporting talent thrives as Mountbatten students enjoy a healthy and active lifestyle.

The variety and choice of sports, alongside the large number of competitive teams, gives all students ample opportunity to represent their school.

Sport is not necessarily for everyone, but it teaches important life skills, such as discipline, structure, perseverance, positive attitude, team work and leadership. These are all core skills which help our students to mature and become better young people.

In Years 8 and 9, we ensure our students find the right sporting pathway with one of four different routes to tap into their talents and develop them as young people.

Mountbatten is a hub site for the School Sports Partnership which links 53 primary schools in the county, seven secondary schools and one independent school.

All students are given every opportunity to take part in at least five hours of sport a week.

“The personal development of pupils is outstanding. Their behaviour in lessons and around the school is exemplary and their mature attitudes make a significant contribution to the school’s calm and safe atmosphere, very positive ethos, and sense of high self-esteem.”
(Ofsted, 2015)”





BROADENING HORIZONS BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

We live in a fast-paced, technologically-rich world, one which our children have to be prepared for and fully embrace by the time they leave school.

Mountbatten School seeks to bring the world into the classroom and take our students beyond it – both intellectually, as well as physically. This remains a core part of the Mountbatten philosophy.

Lord Louis Mountbatten was a great diplomat and internationalist, respected and honoured across the globe because of his keen eye and understanding of world affairs. That legacy lives on at the school, work which has been recognised by the British Council.

This international flavour sits at the heart of the curriculum with teachers encouraged to explore global contexts to the subjects being studied.

We want our students to feel comfortable anywhere in the world when they meet people from different cultures, enjoying the rich opportunities which business provides on a global scale.

That's why the school enjoys strong and tangible links with partner schools in India, Egypt, Gambia, Zambia and Malaysia, tapping into some of the specialisms they can offer such as art, drama, sports, geography and business.

Students are able to take part in a number of foreign visits with cultural, historical or even sporting themes. For example, historical tours of Rome and the First World War battlefields in Belgium, sports trips to Spain, the French Alps and South Africa, cultural visits to Gambia, China, Iceland and the United States and a chance to attend a summer business school in Malaysia.

We are also developing strong links with institutions in the Far East so that our future captains of industry can enjoy life-enriching and employment-enhancing exchange visits.

Languages form an important part of the curriculum with French, Spanish and Italian all taught at Mountbatten.

Our children are about to enter a truly international and highly competitive employment market, possibly seeking careers which have yet to be created. This vital window on the world prepares our students with a global outlook for a future which knows no boundaries.

“Students are able to explore their creativity through an exemplary programme of curricular and extra-curricular music.”
(Ofsted 2015)





LIVING IN THE COMMUNITY WE SERVE

We live in the community we serve, so our school and our students are important ambassadors for the area. That's why we take those community roots and business partnerships so seriously.

Personal, social, health and economic education (PSHE) has been a part of the national curriculum since the turn of the century, providing an important and necessary part of all students' education.

Our comprehensive Personal Development programme is delivered each week by tutors, supported by different specialists and professionals. Careers information, advice and guidance is tailored to the needs of students which reflects the changing demands of life beyond education.

Employability is at the forefront of our thinking, so in Year 10 all students benefit from one week's work experience with local, national and international companies including IBM, Ordnance Survey, Barclays Bank, Southampton General Hospital, the University of Southampton and the Rugby Football Union.

The success of Mountbatten's Business Patrons' Club also provides a rich source of partnership with Hampshire companies, who lend their expertise in the classroom and provide a pathway towards the world of work.

Promoting the core values of respect for others, integrity and social responsibility are central to the daily interaction of students and teachers. School assemblies, personal development learning, tutor time, along with extensive charity and community work form a central plank of school life.

Each year, students raise tens of thousands of pounds for a host of charities, both county-wide and nationally. Our children are involved in so many aspects of community life.

Mountbatten is a school whose facilities are used year-round by the community.

Our commercial arm, Personal Best Education, is now a multi-million pound business with plans to expand further. Through it, we offer after-school clubs, adult evening classes, a football development centre, a Bikeability scheme to promote safe cycling and National Citizen Service programme as well as Youth Sports Trust programmes.

It all adds up to a school which truly sits at the heart of the community it serves.

“Pastoral care is extremely impressive so that the vast majority of students thrive. Those facing intense personal challenges are supported effectively to reduce the impact on their studies.”
(Ofsted 2015)





ONTBATTEN SCHOOL



We Care, We Respect, We Achieve

We are an international centre for learning where students are challenged daily to surpass expectations.

Our quest is to ensure:

- Students are happy and healthy, tolerant and respectful, and have the courage to act on their local and global issues;
- The school's centred community recognises and identifies every student's needs, enabling and celebrating success, and building self-esteem;
- Students work at the frontiers of their knowledge using technologies to explore and learn together;
- All students become accomplished, articulate, creative and independent long-learners who are resilient and become world-class citizens.



WE CARE, WE RESPECT, WE ACHIEVE

Walk around The Mountbatten School, and you can't fail to notice the core values which are inscribed around the building and enshrined in our philosophy.

Education is not just about exam results or sticking dutifully to a curriculum, it's also helping our students make sense of a complicated world and to emerge from education as wiser and mature citizens, with a strong sense of values.

Mountbatten is a happy school, with teachers passionate about their subjects and passionate for their students to succeed.

It's our aim for youngsters to leave us and embark on the next phase of their lives as open-minded and tolerant young people, with a clear moral compass, teenagers able to distinguish between right and wrong.

A few years ago, staff and students agreed on this mission statement:

All students are happy and healthy, tolerant and respectful and have the moral courage to act on their local and global responsibilities.

The learning-centred community recognises and identifies every student's learning needs, enabling and celebrating success, and promoting self-esteem.

Teachers and students work at the frontiers of their knowledge using new technologies to explore and learn together.

All students become accomplished, articulate, creative and independent life-long learners, who are resilient and adaptable, and therefore world-class citizens.

In order to achieve these lofty goals, we create a culture of learning and development, a spirit of intellectual enquiry, as well as promoting tolerance and an international outlook.

Practically this means offering a diverse range of academic, extra-curricular and enrichment opportunities. There are so many clubs and activities at Mountbatten. There is something for everyone, regardless of ability.

Our students come from a variety of backgrounds, yet our job is to nurture their talents, developing self-esteem and confidence.

The Mountbatten School will always strive to be among the leading schools in Hampshire in terms of academic achievement and exam results. Our proud and impressive record shows that.

Working with parents, our aim is for every child to achieve more than they thought possible because, at the end of the Mountbatten journey, so many students surprise themselves once they discover their potential and what they can do.

We care, we respect, we achieve – young people behaving honestly, with integrity and with dignity.

That is the Mountbatten way.

“The academy's work to keep students safe and secure is strong.”
(Ofsted 2015)









‘The values of Earl Mountbatten permeate the school so that students develop a strong sense of what it means to be British in the twenty-first century.’

THE MOUNTBATTEN SCHOOL

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