

Autumn 2011

The GDST is the UK's leading network of independent girls' schools, with nearly 4,000 staff, and 20,000 students between the ages of three and 18.

As a charity that owns and runs a network of 24 schools and two academies in England and Wales, we reinvest all our income in our schools.

Founded in 1872, the GDST has a long history of pioneering innovation in the education of girls, and we are the largest single educator of girls in the UK (and the UK's largest educational charity).

www.gdst.net



Did you know?

Nearly 50,000 former students and staff are members of the GDST Alumnae Network – providing a range of resources and social and professional contacts. Find out more at

www.gdstalumnae.net

Jargon buster – ages and stages

Don't know your EYFS from your KS5? The education world is full of jargon – let us be your guide out of lingo limbo...[More](#)

GDST: the movie

There's a short film about the GDST available on The Daily Telegraph's website – [click here](#) to watch it.

GDST in the news

Links to some recent coverage of the GDST... [More](#)

Welcome to our first parents' newsletter

Dear Parents

Welcome to the first edition of our new termly newsletter for GDST parents and their families – we hope you enjoy this insight into who we are and what we do.

The last few months have been busy times for the GDST and our schools and academies – there's so much going on it's difficult to choose what to mention. Recent highlights for me included our students again enjoying fantastic results at A Level and GCSE – well done all! Meeting all the participants at our Young Leaders' Conference was inspirational. And I am in awe of the achievements of all the nominees for the GDST's Alumna of the Year Award.

Finally, a quick 'heads up': 2012 will mark the 140th anniversary of the GDST's foundation, and we are looking forward to celebrating our history of leading girls' education.

My best

Helen Fraser
Chief Executive, GDST



This term's news and features



GDST exam results

We're very proud that once again GDST students outperformed their peers from both independent and maintained schools ... [More](#)

GDST Young Leaders' Conference

Nearly 150 Head Girls and student leadership teams developed their leadership and teamwork skills at our Young Leaders' Conference in Bath in September... [More](#)

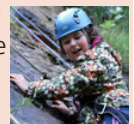


The 'English Baccalaureate': GDST view

Kevin Stannard, GDST Director of Innovation & Learning, on the 'English Baccalaureate' and why, although the GDST supports the principle of a broad and balanced education, we have reservations about some aspects ... [More](#)

No more 'cotton wool kids' – taking a risk on outdoor play

The GDST's Health and Safety Manager, Clare Cunningham, on the importance of designing in managed risk in outdoor spaces and equipment... [More](#)

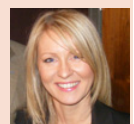


GDST Alumna of the Year Award

This year we launched an exciting new annual award to celebrate GDST alumnae who have achieved something outstanding or extraordinary... [More](#)

The balance in education: weighing subjects, skills and knowledge

A report from the GDST's annual conference... [More](#)



Smoothly does it

The benefits of an all-through school for easing the transition from Junior to Senior years ... [More](#)