



# PROSPECTUS

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THE BLUE MOUNTAINS SCHOOL  
OOTY  
TAMIL NADU

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# A DAY IN BMS



## ORIGIN AND AIM

The Blue Mountains School is a residential, co-educational, non-sectarian English-medium Secondary School situated in the serene and picturesque Nilgiris, also known as the Blue Mountains, in Southern Tamil Nadu, India.

Founded on 9th February 1961, The Blue Mountains School was established under the F.G. Pearce Educational and Charitable Trust. It was the result of Frederick Gordon Pearce's vast experience and progressive ideas in the field of Public Education.

Although F.G. Pearce was initially a prime figure in establishing the 'Public School Movement' in India and played a significant role in planning and organising many public schools across the country, he began to distance himself from the system. To his disappointment, he realised that the public school system was becoming increasingly competitive and reward/punishment based. It was then, with a fresh new approach about holistic education, that he founded The Blue Mountains School.

The school was intentionally established on a modest scale, with the aim of providing a homely environment, resembling that of a large joint family. It was a conscious decision to ensure that its pupils could be given personal attention and guidance by a carefully chosen staff.

At the core, true education goes beyond the acquisition of skills and knowledge. Holistic education is concerned principally with educating the inner being because the state of the inner self determines the quality of functioning and operation of the individual in the field of thought and action. Holistic education does provide for excellence and achievement, but in a natural, complimentary manner.



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## **STAFF**

The Blue Mountains School is based on a fundamental educational truth – one that is too often overlooked today: that the education imparted in a school depends more upon the character of those who impart it rather than only fine buildings, luxurious ambience, or costly infrastructure.

It is in alignment with this belief that the F.G. Pearce Trust places its highest priority on ensuring that its staff – residential and non-residential, teaching and non-teaching – possess a keen sense of responsibility towards children, a natural ability to draw out the best in them.

## **ENVIRONMENT**

Located in Ooty with its invigorating and healthy climate, The Blue Mountains School provides an ideal outdoor environment for children in which to grow up. Housed in a spacious, well-furnished colonial-style bungalow in the heart of Ootacamund, it prides itself in having ample facilities for physical development, intellectual exploration, and creative expression. The School's boarding facility, along with the thoughtfully managed household arrangements and wholesome, nutritious meals, is run under the watchful eyes of caring 'dorm parents' and dedicated staff. It ensures a nurturing, homely environment, with opportunities for each child to develop positively in sensitivity and intelligent goodness, maturing into happy and well-integrated individuals.

## **THE CHILD'S NEEDS**

The basic needs of a growing child include a clean and healthy environment in a bracing climate, nutritious and balanced food, emotional well-being, and a full play for creative expression. The first of these





is well provided for, in a place such as Ooty, with a temperate and healthy climate throughout the year. It is also easily accessible by road and rail.

Special attention is given to ensuring a balanced and nutritious diet. This is possible in a place such as Ooty, where fresh supplies of milk and eggs and a vast variety of fruits and vegetables are available throughout the year. The school follows a vegetarian diet that includes chapattis, rice, whole-meal bread, eggs, fresh milk and curds; buns and cakes, and a variety of wholemeal desserts are available from our in-house bakery.

## **CO-OPERATION BETWEEN HOME AND SCHOOL**

A good boarding school can effectively substitute for a supportive home in many ways, often offering broader opportunities for a child's all-round development than even the best home environment. However, for a child's education to be fully balanced, especially in nurturing the emotional freedom of the child, a healthy partnership is vital between parents and the school. Parents are invited to visit the school regularly, not only to ensure the children's well-being, but also to engage with the staff, fostering a sense of mutual responsibility and confidence in the whole process.

## **CURRICULUM**

The Blue Mountains School is dedicated to nurturing the full development of each child in its care, from the age of three to the completion of the Secondary Stage. The school is affiliated with the Cambridge International Education (CIE). For children in the Lower Secondary Stage, it is more important to provide ample opportunities for creative activities such as



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gardening, handicrafts, art, music, and learning to live and work harmoniously with others, rather than solely focusing on being crammed with information. The desire to obtain information or intellectual curiosity naturally develops in children from about the age of eleven upwards. But this development is liable to be stunted if there is excessive pressure, or a sole focus on academic achievement.

The Blue Mountains School strives to maintain the right balance at each stage of a child's growth, offering a wide range of creative activities and healthy outdoor exercise, while also nurturing intellectual curiosity through a well-stocked library and well-balanced curriculum in Junior School. We have a four-year programme in **First Step** where children are admitted from the age of three up to the age of seven. The following four-year **Primary** course, designed for children up to the age of 10 or 11, leads to a three-year **Lower Secondary** course, which culminates in the two-year **IGCSE** programme. The High School programme is for two years with **AS** and **A Level** examinations. English is the medium of instruction across all the courses, with Hindi or Tamil taught as a second language to all pupils. Pupils in Senior and High School are encouraged to be self-reliant in their studies, and the use of reference books is encouraged. The School takes pride in its library, which supports this approach. A high standard of academic achievement is maintained.



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The uniqueness of The Blue Mountains School is its dedication to a holistic approach to education, which considers the child as a whole person – physically, mentally, emotionally, spiritually, attitudinally, and socially. This approach implies that no aspect of this totality is either specially emphasised or neglected. Consequently, systems based on rewards and

punishments, as well as excessive competition, are not part of The Blue Mountains School's educational philosophy. Similarly, the freedom to do only as one pleases without structure or guidance is also not encouraged or supported within this framework. The idea is to maintain a healthy balance.

The Blue Mountains School is dedicated to fostering holistic qualities of compassion, intelligence and integrity while supporting the natural and wholesome development of the physical, mental, and other aspects of the child. The school focuses on guiding each child to discover what it means to live and grow with clarity, harmony, beauty, and freedom.

## **LOCATION AND PHYSICAL STRUCTURE**

Located in its spacious building on a 4-acre campus on the Western slopes facing the Ooty Valley, an old English style residential building and estate (formerly the private residence of a British Raj Governor of Burma and later the Maharani of Vizianagaram) have been adapted for the requirements of our small educational community without destroying the feel of a private residence. There are grounds for games and sports activities, and an acre of agricultural land which is cultivated by the students of our Gardening Group. Some land is available for further expansion and development, planned for the future.

## **COMMUNITY FEATURES**

The Blue Mountains School is a small, co-educational, pan-Indian, residential community for children aged 3 to 18+ years, with a maximum of one hundred students and a boy-girl ratio of 50:50. With a teacher-student ratio of 1:3, the school fosters closer, informal adult-child relationships that is founded on individual responsibility and natural growth.



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Children join as residents of the school from the age of seven. Everyone at school – staff and students – share responsibilities for essential needs like food, shelter, health, and occupation. We strive to create a non-hierarchical community that is rooted in cooperation, simplicity, and mutual respect.

Students typically transition from being Day Students to Boarders after completing Grade 5.

To foster holistic development, instil discipline, and provide an immersive learning experience, our institution encourages all Day Students to transition to a residential programme after completing Grade 5. This policy ensures that students benefit from the school's living and learning policy and its character-building experiences whilst studying in a nurturing residential environment. Accordingly, all students upon promotion to Grade 6 usually register as Boarders and reside in the School's hostel.

## **ACADEMIC LEARNING AND STRUCTURE**

All academic learning at The Blue Mountains School is individualised, allowing each child to develop at their own pace and depth of understanding. Children take their first external examination at Grade 10, starting with the IGCSE, followed by AS and A levels. Students in Grade 8 and below, follow a specially designed Cambridge syllabus, aimed at real, meaningful, broad-based academic learning through an enquiry-based approach. This curriculum is more oriented towards the acquisition of skills, understanding and attitudes rather than rote memorisation. The foundation lies in nurturing general learning skills and conceptual understanding, which in turn supports later acquisition of more specialised, content-based knowledge and relevant information.



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Creative drama, educational drama, and theatre constitute another special aspect of the curriculum. Sensitivity to the environment and interaction with the natural world are encouraged through hiking, nature walks, and nature camps, and form a significant part of the curriculum. Skills of hand and eye, artistic appreciation and expression are taken care of by the pottery, needlework and arts and craft, robotics and cooking departments. Vocal singing, instrumental music and dance programmes contribute to the child's aesthetic sensibilities. Health, physique, and physical fitness are looked after through various programmes of games, sports and morning fitness.

Social concern is a core value at The Blue Mountains School, where students actively engage in community service to foster a sense of empathy and responsibility. Our students are deeply aware of the needs of the local community and are encouraged to contribute towards the well-being, helping to nurture a spirit of active citizenship.

## **TERM DATES**

The School Academic Year is divided as follows:

**FIRST TERM:** August 1<sup>st</sup> to December 1<sup>st</sup>

**WINTER VACATION:** December 2<sup>nd</sup> to January 31<sup>st</sup>

**SECOND TERM:** February 1<sup>st</sup> to June 1<sup>st</sup>

**MONSOON VACATION:** June 2<sup>nd</sup> to July 31<sup>st</sup>

All High School students, from Grade 8 onwards, are required to arrive at school ten days BEFORE the commencement of each term.



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All High School students, from Grade 8 onwards, are required to leave the school ten days AFTER the conclusion of each term.

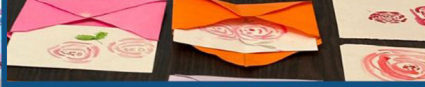
## **FEES**

The Blue Mountains School is managed by a charitable trust and is not a for-profit institution. The school's operations are sustained by the income from the fees received, and the goodwill of the parents and Alumni – all of whom are considered at all times as members of our school family.

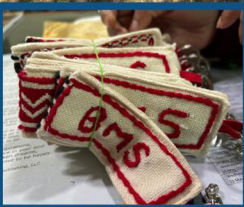
School fees are payable in two instalments, at the beginning of each term – in February and August. These fees cover all the regular expenses of the students, including boarding and dining, tuition, games and all extra-curricular activities except school educational excursions and school uniform.

The fees also include the cost of school books, Cambridge Examination, and other routine student expenditure.





# LIVING & LEARNING



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**For more information about the school, contact:**

✉ [schooladmin@bluemountainsschool.com](mailto:schooladmin@bluemountainsschool.com)

☎ 0423 2444837

📍 Dilkhush Mahal, Ooty, Tamil Nadu - 643 0001

🌐 [www.bluemountainsschool.com](http://www.bluemountainsschool.com)



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