IT'S YOUR
FUTURE.
LET'S
CREATE IT.
H F A
HAMPSTEAD FINE ARTS
COLLEGE

At HFA, college life is lived through an authentic creative lens. It is where academic and artistic talents are channelled in harmony. Where students are free to find their voice and empowered to embark on an enriched future life.

Founded in 1978, we have helped shape the development of students for nearly half a century. While we have evolved and adapted over that time, we have always remained true to our spirit of creativity and a belief in its power to inspire students to great things.

Togetherness. It's not a word used to describe many colleges, but it's one that fits HFA beautifully. Everyone here is known as an individual and counted as an integral part of the whole.

Discover a place designed to uncover true promise.

In a world where schools often follow a template of convention and conformity, HFA is a place where students discover what they're really capable of.

Young people here benefit from a high-quality education where all aspects of learning are enhanced by the spirit of creativity.

We are no less academic in our focus, no less rigorous in the standards we expect, and no less ambitious on behalf of our students.

We are, however, focused on ensuring individuals are freed to discover their voice as well as their potential. Our expert tutors nurture their talent as well as their personal development within a respectful, collegiate environment.

All of which means our students are empowered to embark on their next educational steps as reflective, resilient young adults, assured in themselves and enriched by their experience.

"Pupils are highly independent, self-motivated learners, who respond with enthusiasm to the excellent teaching and the stress on individuality."

Guided by expert tutors, students at HFA are given the space to grow and the support to stretch their capabilities.

OUR CURRICULUM

An education at HFA balances the importance of attainment in core academic subjects with the potential to explore an enhanced range of creative options.

At GCSE, students study a total of nine subjects, including up to three choices from Art, Photography, Drama, Music, Media Studies and Dance. At A-Level, study is focused on four subjects. This pathway allows students to pursue their personal interests while developing the breadth of knowledge and diverse skills essential for future careers.

Spanish
Psychology
Biology
Classics
Business
Film Studies
German
History
English Literature
French
Latin
Economics
Politics
History of Art
Religious Studies
Mathematics
Philosophy
Geography
Sociology
Italian

Intelligence,

Animation
Digital Art
Moving Image
Photography
Drama
Graphic Design
Film
Music
Creative Writing

enthused with creativity.

Dance
Illustration
Fine Art
Sound Design
Media
Fashion
Performance
Music Tech
Typography
Printmaking
Visual Communication

Breadth of interest matched by depth of rigour.

ACADEMIC

At HFA, we are focused on integrating the pathways of academic attainment and creative endeavour into a single, seamless learning experience.

Students are expected to bring discipline and a sense of purpose to all of their studies, whether they are mastering equations in Maths or delving into character development in Drama.

Progress is guided by ongoing assessment – both formal and informal – as well as continual dialogue with teaching staff. Ultimately, we take great care that our students do not feel burdened by the heavy hand of pressure, while ensuring they are clear on the importance of application and aspiration.

In lessons we adopt a discursive teaching methodology. Students are actively engaged through seminar-style classroom settings and an atmosphere characterised by attention, openness and mutual respect.

Allied to our small class sizes, this approach provides the basis for more personalised, in-depth learning. It means tutors can closely monitor progress, supporting additional needs or extending capabilities as appropriate. Crucially, it also allows students to develop powers of independent thought while familiarising themselves with the teaching formats of Further and Higher Education.

There is a refreshing energy in classrooms at HFA, where students are led by tutors but encouraged to develop their skills as independent learners.

What parents say about Hampstead Fine Arts College.

"Every member of staff treats the students like young adults, with respect, which makes them feel seen and able to be themselves. The teaching staff encourage and foster creativity, imagination and experimentation with ideas, their positive feedback reinforces learning, and there is support and encouragement in every lesson."

"I cannot rate this school highly enough. The care and personal attention my son has received from all of his tutors since attending has been outstanding. They truly know and care for their students' needs and passions. He bounces off to school every day and genuinely wants to be there. It is a wonderful community."

"The school is fantastic and moving my daughter here was the best decision I ever made. The nurturing environment helped her focus on the subjects she was good at; she has now left the school with two A* and an A at A Levels. She flourished here and I wholeheartedly recommend this school."

"My daughter became the best version of herself, both creatively and individually, through the support, encouragement, and comfort she received during her time here.

She has made lifelong friendships, and the relationships built with the staff will always be valued and maintained. She has grown tremendously, developed with confidence, and we are incredibly proud of all her accomplishments.

Much of this is a reflection of the opportunities, guidance, and environment provided by Fine Arts College."

When HFA first opened its doors in 1978, creativity was right at the heart of our approach to learning.

UNLOCK CREATIVITY

Since then, we might have extended the breadth of our educational offering, but our ethos remains absolutely the same.

On one level, creativity is reflected in the academic subjects that can be studied here, with tutors in the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences providing deep real-world insight into their specialist subjects.

Moreover, we believe in the power of creativity as a catalyst for personal exploration, experimentation and growth.

By freeing students from fixed ideas and narrow directions, they are empowered to uncover hidden talents and pursue new passions. It brings an infectious energy to their learning.

As they venture into the world, members of the HFA community draw on these creative strengths, bringing fresh perspectives to the challenges they face while retaining a sense of wonder and curiosity.

Edie
Family

–

“After researching the connections that link and strengthen the family unit, and in homage to Lucian Freud’s Large Interior (after Watteau), Edie painted her family as an impressive collective of formidable individuals.”

Romy
Shattered

–

“While travelling through France, I was surrounded by fields of sunflowers beginning to decay. Their once-bright heads drooped, and the sight had an unexpected emotional impact on me. The bowed forms reminded me of refugees fleeing war, figures weighed down by grief, displacement, and the loss of home and identity.

This connection became a catalyst for my work, leading me to explore wider images of decay within society, from overcrowded shanty towns to landscapes shattered by conflict. When the built environment collapses, civilization fractures with it.”

Proud to tread our own path.

FINDING YOUR PLACE

Many aspects of an HFA education mark us out as different when compared with more traditional schools. You won't find anyone in a uniform here, for a start. And there are no teachers; only tutors.

Such differences are not synthetic affectations. They are driven by our authentic identity as a creative college and our clear commitment to provide students with a more sophisticated framework to support their academic growth and personal development.

It is an experience that is undoubtedly unique to HFA, but it is one underpinned by adherence to the highest educational standards. Indeed, as part of the Dukes Education family, we are proud to share in a common promise to give young people the foundations for an extraordinary life through education.

Yanjun Oliver

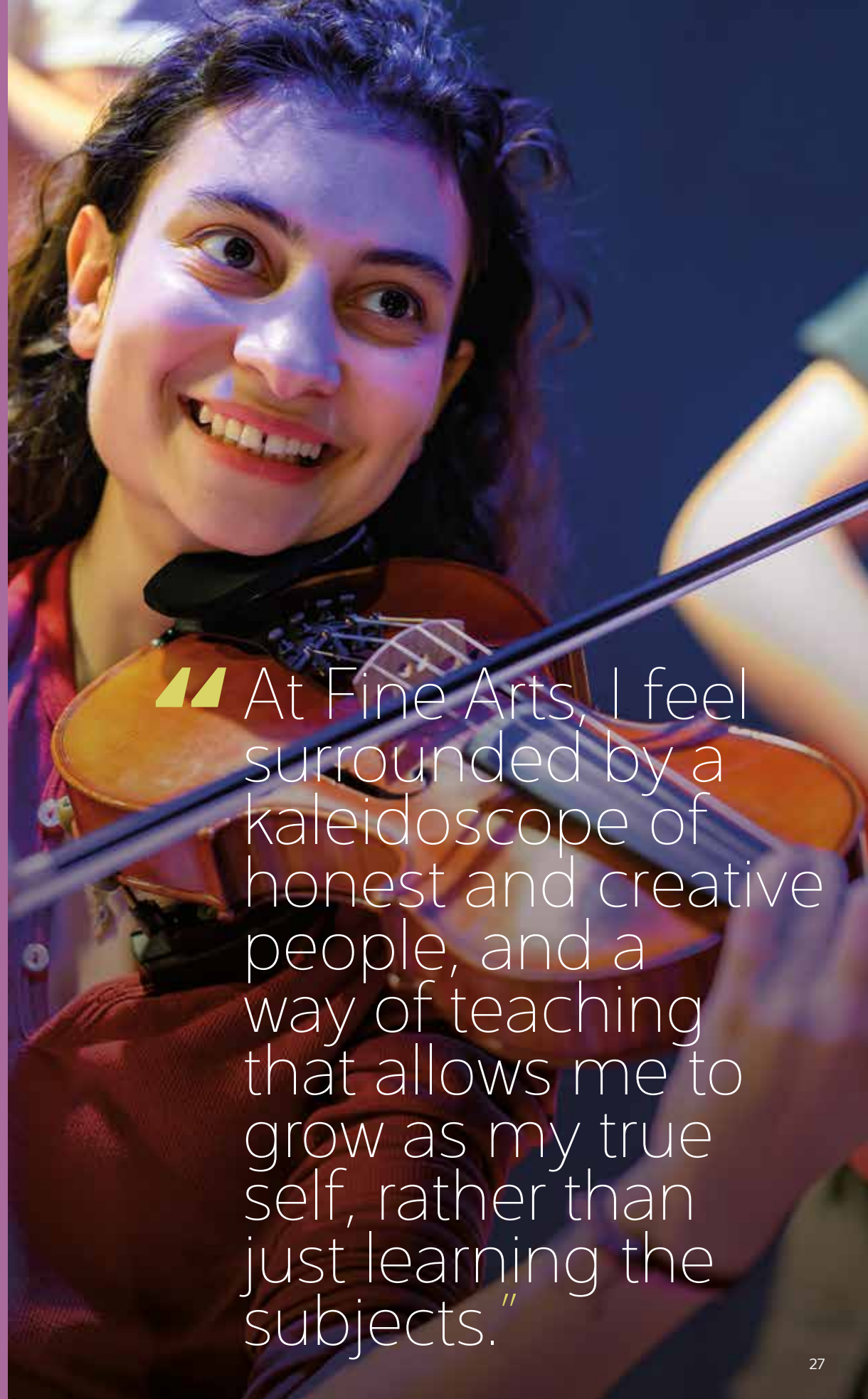
Architecture Unfolding

–

“This photograph is from a book featuring a collection of photos juxtaposing urban landscapes with natural landscapes. Whether through form, shape, composition, or colour, the cities and nature often complement one another, as they existing side by side. Photographs were taken in locations including China and England, and photographic techniques such as darkroom printing and colour cross-processing emphasized the abstract qualities of the familiar world around us, forcing us to look closer.”

STUDENT TESTIMONIAL

MariaPaz



"At Fine Arts, I feel surrounded by a kaleidoscope of honest and creative people, and a way of teaching that allows me to grow as my true self, rather than just learning the subjects."

Skyla

–

“The theme of the project was British Culture, so I looked at an array of typically British traditions finally focusing on Afternoon Tea and the various food and objects that are associated with it. My outfit was made by creating a lino print of cutlery and surface embellishments inspired by biscuits.”

By establishing an authentic connection with students, tutors ensure classrooms become places for meaningful discussion.

TUTORS INSPIRE

At HFA, our tutors bring an additional dimension to the classroom through the fact they are all practising creators, makers and thinkers.

This means that rather than being limited to textbook concepts, they deliver the curriculum through lived experience and inspire students through their personal passion.

In line with our discursive approach to teaching, their role is to actively engage with students, encouraging them to think critically and articulate their ideas respectfully. We empower and encourage rather than simply instruct and command.

The resulting connection between staff and students is one of HFA's defining strengths, and its benefits are felt through the growth of our students at both an academic as well as a social and emotional level.

Teaching that puts theory into real-world context.

Performances are both an opportunity to showcase learning and a chance to celebrate creative talents.

Expanding horizons and opening new doors.

When students begin to embed a fixed sense of their own skills and interests from a young age, they can unwittingly narrow the future pathways available to them.

At HFA, we think it is our responsibility as educators to unburden students from any preconceived notions of what they can achieve and who they can become. We want them to feel free to explore the world around them and to experience the many subjects, talents and passions that still lie undiscovered.

Under the guidance of tutors, our students are shown that an open-minded approach can expand your horizons, exposing you to new ideas and ways of thinking when it comes to education, careers and the world.

This refreshing outlook means students not only leave us with an appreciation of their own identity and capabilities, but also an appetite for seizing new opportunities.

We are immensely proud of our students in terms of their personal growth as well as their academic achievements, with many earning places at top UK and international universities and art schools.

UNIVERSITY DESTINATIONS

Birkbeck, University of London
Bristol UWE
CIS Madrid
City St George's, University of London
Courtauld Institute of Art
Drama Studio London
Falmouth University
Fordham University, New York
King's College London
Kingston University
LMA, London
London Metropolitan University
McGill University, Montreal
Nottingham Trent University
Parsons Paris, The New School
Parsons School of Art, The New School, NY
PointBlank Music School
Ringling University, USA
Royal Academy of Art, The Hague
Royal Academy of Music
Southampton, Solent University
UAL Central St Martins
UAL Chelsea College of Arts
UAL London College of Fashion
UAL Wimbledon College of Arts
UCL Slade School of Fine Art
University College London
University of Brighton
University of Bristol
University of Edinburgh
University of Exeter
University of Hertfordshire
University of Kent
University of Leeds
University of Leicester
University of Manchester
University of Southampton
University of Southern California
University of St Andrews
University of Surrey
University of Sussex
University of Warwick
University of Westminster
University of Winchester
University of York

Students are given a clear view of pathways open to them and fully supported in taking their next steps.

Preparation for a future of potential.

Everything at HFA is geared towards helping our students thrive in their future endeavours, whether that's A-Levels, a foundation course, university or the workplace.

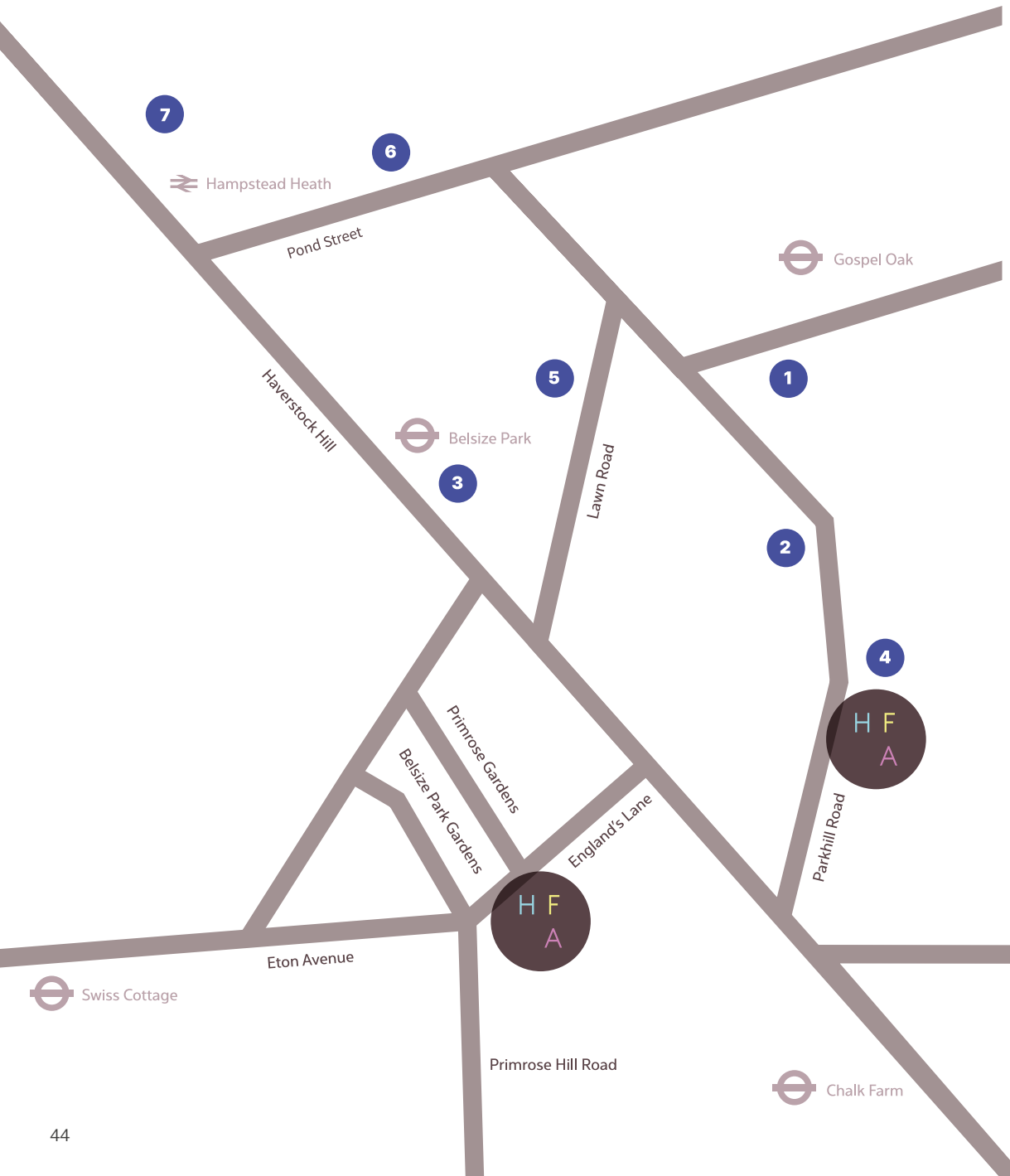
Academic achievement is undoubtedly the dominant factor in this equation, but it is part of a far more complex picture.

Through their time with us, students organically gain a deeper understanding of themselves, the people around them, and how to conduct themselves in the world.

Alongside subject knowledge they develop emotional intelligence, securing the communication and interpersonal skills that will promote self-expression and positive relationships.

They are also left in no doubt of their own sense of agency and responsibility. While the world can be challenging, it is also full of emerging opportunities, and HFA students know that rewards will only follow if they demonstrate effort, application and determination.

Student Production
'After The Dance' by Terence Rattigan



Hampstead: Learning in the shadow of a creative legacy.

HFA, more formally known as Hampstead Fine Arts, is proudly located in an area that is rich in artistic and literary heritage.

Before and during World War II, many of the key figures of European modernism found sanctuary in this leafy part of London. This included the world-renowned sculptors Dame Barbara Hepworth and Henry Moore, who both lived and worked here.

Hepworth shared her creative life with Ben Nicholson in Mall Studios 1 while Moore took up residence at 11a Parkhill Road 2 close to the site that would much later become established as a campus for HFA. Moore's home would provide the creative setting for his famous drawings of Londoners sheltering from the Blitz in the deep tunnels of Belsize Park tube station. 3

Parkhill Road also attracted pioneering Dutch painter Piet Mondrian, one of the progenitors of abstract art, 4 who lived a few doors down from the HFA campus location in the 1940s before moving to New York.

Around the corner is one of the UK's key examples of modernist architecture, the Grade-I listed Isokon. 5 This iconic building, which conjures the image of a majestic ocean liner cruising down quiet Lawn Road, welcomed residents including Walter Gropius, László Moholy-Nagy and Marcel Breuer of the Bauhaus art school and, later, the celebrated writer Dame Agatha Christie.

A little further north is Romantic poet John Keats' house. 6 One of Keats' most famous works, Ode to a Nightingale, was written under a plum tree in the garden.

Just beyond, in Willow Road, stands Modernist architect Ernő Goldfinger's controversial houses. 7 Their construction was strongly opposed by local author Ian Fleming, who named his character James Bond's most notorious enemy after Goldfinger as a form of revenge.

NEXT STEPS

The pages of this prospectus aim to give you a flavour of life here at HFA, and we would welcome the chance to further discuss how we can support your child's education.

Contact us today for more information about our college or if you have any questions about a creative education here at HFA.

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