**CONTEXT STATEMENT**

Gillingham School is a large comprehensive in North Dorset, with approximately 1700 students on roll including 350 in the Sixth Form.  The school serves a large diverse, rural community, with some areas falling into the POLAR4 quintile 1 and the majority falling into POLAR4 quintile 2.  Approximately 18% of students are eligible for Free School Meals and a similar percentage of sixth form students receive financial support from the 16-19 Bursary Fund.

Gillingham Sixth Form offers a broad range of A Level subjects, together with some BTEC Level 3 qualifications. On average, students study 3 A Levels and approximately 60% of each year group are placed at university. Predicted grades are generated through careful analysis of each student’s individual progress and their achievement in end of year mock examinations and ongoing assessments.