

NEWS



► The developer, maybe as a nod to the building's culinary legacy, has included top-end appliances and granite workshops in the kitchens. Below, residents will move in on completion this summer

£920k chance to live in Mary's old classroom

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YOU may never be able to bake a banana bread or a fruit cake like Mary Berry CBE – but at least you can now cook in the rooms the TV star learned to hone her culinary skills.

Developer Galliard Homes is turning the former *Great British Bake Off* judge's old school, Bath High School, into a block of seven luxury apartments equipped, of course, with designer kitchens.

But if the £920,000 price tag for a two-bedroom flat at Hope House is not enough to put you off, expect stiff competition with development director David Galman reporting strong interest from the UK and overseas.

"Hope House has a very rich history, with the Grade II-listed mansion once home to Charles Hamilton, son of the 6th Earl of Abercon and later where beloved cook, food writer and TV presenter Mary Berry CBE learned to cook," said Mr Galman.

"It is hugely appealing, especially to international buyer."

The historic apartment block is located on the prestigious Lansdown Road in the city and is part of a development which also includes a terrace of townhouses called Park Row.

Built back in 1773, the Grade-II listed Georgian mansion was originally the home of Charles Hamilton, son of the 6th Earl of Abercon, and



then William Brodrick, the 7th Viscount Midleton and Rector of Bath Abbey.

It opened as Bath High School in 1926 and featured Baroness Elspeth Howe, wife of politician Geoffrey Howe and, Dawn Austwick, chief executive of the Big Lottery Fund among its alumni.

But it was Berry who is arguably the school's most famous student having attended domestic science classes in the 1950s. Her cookery teacher, Miss Date, even taught her to how make her first treacle sponge pudding. It led the cook on the road to stardom.

As for the building, it was released

for redevelopment 20 years ago after the merge of Bath High School with the Royal School, becoming the Royal High School.

When kitting out the apartments in the former school building, the developer with maybe as a nod to its culinary legacy has included top-end appliances and granite workshops in the kitchens.

Not that they are struggling to gain interest.

Mr Galman added: "In addition to appealing to local first-time buyers and downsizer purchasers, this development has also sold to second home and relocation purchasers from London and lock-up and leave buyers from North America, attracted by the history of the development and Bath."

The overall development is Georgian in style to complement Bath housing stock, with new buildings made from honey-coloured stone with slate dormer roofs.

Acorn Property Group is also heading the project.

Regional managing director Robin Squire said: "Bath's Georgian architecture is dominated by crescents and terraces of townhouses, so the grand detached mansion and six acres of parkland at Hope House is truly distinctive and exceptional."

"This is one of the most exciting and prestigious new homes developments to come to the city of Bath in decades and stands apart due to its quality and parkland setting."

Residents will move into the development on completion this summer.

