



Old Palace *of*
John Whitgift School
Independent Girls' School

Our world. Welcome to our family





Welcome to Old Palace of John Whitgift

‘Pupils demonstrate a clear respect for diversity, different faiths and cultures which was evident throughout the school’

ISI Report
2016

First and foremost Old Palace is a place of learning. For every girl who comes here, Old Palace will be a key contributor in her development as a compassionate individual, prepared to address the challenges presented to her as she makes her own contribution to society.

Every student enjoys a first class academic education. We also promote a broader values-based education embracing four dimensions: service, courage, emotional intelligence and skills and knowledge. With this approach, students learn about who they are and what they stand for.

We identify, encourage and nurture the special qualities of each and every individual entrusted to us. Our

surroundings stimulate girls to develop and flourish in ways beyond the reach of a conventional education. For example, not every girls' school in the country can boast of having the opportunity to sing cathedral repertoire every week in Croydon Minster.

Old Palace Nursery, Preparatory and Seniors are blessed with magnificent buildings, enthusiastic, highly motivated staff and a sound ethos of social awareness. For all who embrace the many opportunities presented, Old Palace will reward them with a happy, memorable and empowering education.

The Four Pillars.

The values underpinning student development at Old Palace

Distinguished figures have passed through this ancient site of Palace and Minster since 896.

Through two World Wars, a 1930's depression and an invasion by William the Conqueror, this ancient site holds unchanged values. It is these values which give each individual a moral compass, perhaps the finest passport to leading a fulfilled life.

An Old Palace education means more than excellent academic results. We want students to experience fulfilment, courage, emotional intelligence and a broader education. The following explains our school's values, which create the foundation for your daughter's education at Old Palace.

- Service, which lies at the heart of our school: 'pro ecclesia dei':

- Courage provides the context for individual action;
- Emotional Intelligence is fundamental to working with others to achieve shared outcomes;
- Skills and Knowledge is core to our daily activity as a learning institution.

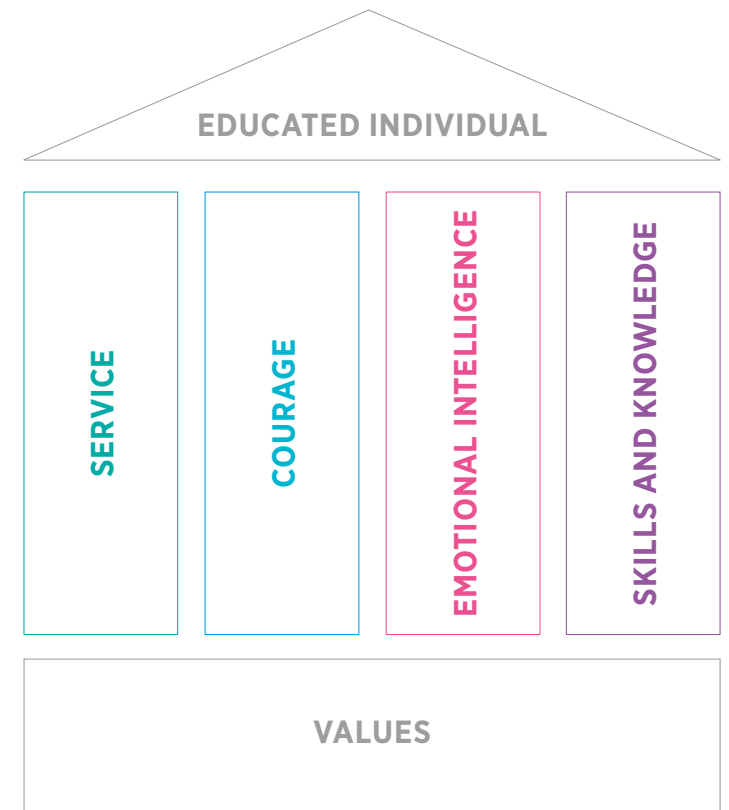
Students today need more than knowledge and skills

Parents know that there is a requirement for their daughters to take greater responsibility for their own learning both in school and beyond. This will prepare them for today's world of work where they will need to shape their own career. The ability to take initiative and shoulder responsibility is key to their future success as members of society and creates a foundation for personal fulfilment.

Students need a broad range of skills to be effective in tomorrow's World of Work

We know that our unique single sex setting is able to promote self confidence, uninhibited enquiry, intellectual rigour and genuine challenge so that girls are best-placed to take advantage of life in the 21st century world. Old Palace believes in encouraging students to take risk in a managed way, free from judgement.

We believe in encouraging cooperation as distinct from competition for its own sake. We promote leadership skills that foster responsibility and service rather than status and power. We know that these skills mirror the requirements of abstract reasoning, problem solving, communication and collaboration demanded by today's employers.



The Four Guiding Principles of our framework are:

Service

Putting others before oneself

Service demands respect, courtesy and a responsible outlook. Be prepared also to invest in spiritual/emotional values above the material; put others before oneself; have a sense of duty to the planet and robust global and community awareness.

Emotional Intelligence

Recognising the importance of relationships with others

Key attributes of Emotional Intelligence are to recognise the importance of building relationships; being happy with who we are; developing good interpersonal skills and relating to others with empathy.

Courage

Being passionate about re-enforcing a moral code

Courage requires the ability to create one's own values and uphold them; to reinforce a moral code with passion; work at self esteem and persevere in the face of difficulty. There is also the right moment to take responsibility willingly; to appreciate diversity in society and to be able to give and to receive.

Skills and Knowledge

Upholding the value of all things scholarly

Skills and Knowledge seek values including love of learning; independent learning and thinking; respect for learning. Just as important is the individual's readiness to learn; being prepared and equipped to learn and demonstrating belief in the importance of all things scholarly.

The Old Palace Family: from Nursery to Sixth Form

Nursery and Pre School

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GIRLS AND BOYS JOIN THE NURSERY
AND PRE SCHOOL FROM 1+.



Preparatory

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KEY ENTRY POINTS FOR GIRLS
ARE RECEPTION (4+) AND
YEAR 3 (7+) WITH OCCASIONAL
VACANCIES IN YEARS 1, 2, 4 & 5.



Seniors

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YEAR 6 JOINS YEARS 7-13 AT OUR SENIOR SCHOOL SITE IN CENTRAL CROYDON.



Sixth Form

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OUR SIXTH FORM IS LOCATED IN THE SHAH BUILDING AT THE SENIOR SCHOOL WE WELCOME EXTERNAL APPLICATIONS FOR YEAR 12 (16+).



Old Palace: Our Community. At home and abroad

‘The notion of respect, a theme that will follow us throughout the rest of our lives, is one that constantly shifts, but one thing that remains consistent is that we are all worthy of respect, a concept that Old Palace holds dear.’

Sixth Form student

£5k+

The amount we've raised for a new girls toilet at Gendi primary school, Tanzania





There are three schools in The Whitgift Foundation: Old Palace, Trinity and Whitgift. Old Palace is uniquely placed to benefit from the support of The Foundation when it comes to fee assistance in the form of generous scholarships and means-tested bursaries. Girls from all backgrounds and faiths benefit from an outstanding education and a truly diverse community.

We provide our students with the opportunity to give something back to the local community and further afield. Whether it's fundraising for children less fortunate than themselves or giving up their free time to help those in need, we want our pupils to develop a distinguished sense of social responsibility.



Old Palace: Our Family.

The Old Palace family goes back to 1889, when the School was founded by the Sisters of the Church.

The community comes together every September when it celebrates Founders' Day at Croydon Minster. Here we remember Mother Emily Ayckbowm and her intrepid team of sisters. Without their endeavour our students would not have the beautiful place of learning which is Old Palace today.



Sister Emily, the school's founder



‘Once inside, the Grade I listed Old Palace offers wonderful spaces such as a beautiful chapel and a Great Hall with one of the finest arched-brace ceilings in southern England’

The Good Schools Guide
2018

Old Palace: Our Home. Surroundings to inspire and stimulate

The four
Old Palace
Houses are:

**Anselm
Hatton
Laud
Stafford**



The Nursery, Pre School and Preparatory School are blessed with gloriously spacious grounds in Melville Avenue, South Croydon; just a short walk from Lloyd Park tram stop. Extensive facilities include a full-size running track/field, purpose-built gym, DT suite, science laboratory, art studio, cookery room and bright, modern classrooms.

The Senior School is based in Central Croydon in buildings that date from 1463. The Old Palace was once the summer home of the Archbishops

of Canterbury and by the 16th Century had become a firm favourite of Queen Elizabeth I (she stayed no less than 13 times!).

In the late 19th Century, the Old Palace buildings were rescued by the Duke of Newcastle, who gave them to the Sisters of the Church. In 1889, they founded the school we know as Old Palace of John Whitgift, which still prospers here today.





Pro Ecclesia Dei

(Our school motto)
For the people of God

Old Palace: Our Life. Consistently Creative

150+

The number of pupils who take part in our annual Festival of Dance



‘Pupils of all ages display confidence in and out of the classroom, supported by the personal, social, health, economic and educational (PSHE) programme in the Preparatory School and Learning for Life in the Senior School.’

ISI Report
2016

Regular joint productions with Whitgift throughout the year.

Our families value the fact that their daughters can explore the world through a wealth of cultural and creative opportunities. Overseas trips, visits to concerts, the theatre and exhibitions all play an integral part in a student's learning. They stage their own plays and take part in joint productions with Whitgift School. The youngest pupils delight in staging annual Christmas spectaculars and end of term plays. Choirs from both Preparatory and Seniors join together in termly concerts and Evensong at Croydon Minster.

Dance has an outstanding following (we offer AS and the Arts Award), and many students take part in the annual Festival of Dance, where students choreograph and perform their own pieces.







‘The choir regularly performs Evensong at Croydon Minster as well as at some of the country’s finest cathedrals’

The Good Schools Guide
2018

Old Palace has a distinguished reputation for music and offers scholarships and exhibitions in Years 3, 7 and 12 along with a number of music awards.

There are strong links between Croydon Minster Choir and Old Palace. We currently offer Choral Scholarships to musical girls in Year 3 who are able to fulfil the commitments required. Performing opportunities at school abound with regular recitals and concerts.

Music at Old Palace is inclusive and provides wonderful opportunities for all who participate. We also celebrate individual achievements; pupils perform at Glyndebourne as well as at The English National Opera.

Sport For All: Inclusive and Rewarding





60+

The number of Senior School extra curricular clubs on offer each term



As with music, sport at Old Palace is inclusive and forms a key part of the curriculum. Being active is so important for students of all ages; it helps with their physical and mental well-being and opens doors for making new friends. The number of Senior and Preparatory extra-curricular opportunities including lunchtime and after school clubs, as well as regular fixtures, is huge. We field a large number of competitive netball, hockey and rounders teams and take part in a host of local championships including swimming and athletics. We also play cricket, football and water polo but are always looking for new sports: we have recently introduced sailing.

We support and encourage the many students in both Seniors and Preparatory who are heavily involved in sport outside of school. We love to hear about their progress at Club and National Level and believe they make excellent role models for the other students.

Prospective families are always surprised to discover that we have a modern, 25m swimming pool tucked away behind the Senior School. Here, every pupil from Reception upwards enjoys regular swimming lessons. We also have full use of the Whitgift Sports Club facilities along with the use of Trinity's Astro turf for hockey.

Nursery, Pre School & Preparatory

Boys and girls join us in Nursery (1+) and Pre School, after which girls continue into Reception from the age of 4+

We aim to get children off to the best possible start. Pastoral care and the quality of our staff are second to none, whilst our facilities are first class. We know how important your children are, and their happiness, wellbeing and education are our top

priorities. Our secure, spacious site allows us to start the important work of nurturing the children in our care into articulate, confident and happy learners.

Tim Horton
Head of Preparatory

Mr Tim Horton, MA FRCO



‘Very well set up for working parents’

The Good Schools Guide
2018



We want our pupils to enjoy their earliest years, and our Melville Avenue site provides a secure place for our youngest pupils to run, play and spread their wings. Our caring and dedicated teachers are the bedrock of our community which is respectful, nurturing and celebrates diversity.

A first-class academic education is an integral part of our broad, values-based

education which aims to provide pupils with a framework of core and timeless values. Small class sizes enable us to provide each of our pupils with a truly bespoke education.





Nursery (1+) & Pre School (3+)

The Journey Starts Here

Our youngest pupils enjoy a stimulating environment, beautiful grounds and well-resourced buildings. By learning through play, children are encouraged to develop a love of learning that will stay with them for the rest of their lives.





‘The overall effectiveness of the Early Years provision is outstanding’

ISI Report
2016

Nursery, Pre School and Preparatory have achieved the highest rating available in our latest ISI Inspection Report.



Jacqui Hines, NNEB

As Head of Nursery and Pre Prep for the past ten years, I have been fortunate enough to be fully involved in the development of this outstanding establishment.

It is unique and inspiring to all children, overflowing with the care and education of children from the ages of one to five years. We provide the children with adventure, stability, security and the confidence to express themselves, whilst the staff are committed and dedicated.

Jacqui Hines
Nursery Manager

Reception (4+)

A key moment in every child's learning journey

'Children in Nursery and Reception demonstrate that they enjoy initiating their own activities using the outdoor environment'

ISI Report 2016





‘We place a particular emphasis on kindness and good manners’

Mr Horton
Head, Preparatory

We want our Reception pupils to arrive at school happy and eager to learn, for it is in Reception that the foundation of each girl's future academic success is laid. At Old Palace, pupils are taught in small classes by their own class teacher, supported by a Learning Assistant. They enjoy stimulating lessons on child-centred topics which extend well beyond the basic framework of the National Curriculum. Girls learn about relationships with older pupils through our popular 'buddy' system.



Years 1–5 (6–10+)

Where a love of learning begins



‘The teachers and staff are always so supportive of the children. They never say they cannot do something. Instead they encourage and support them to achieve their goals.’

The Good Schools Guide
2018

As girls enter Key Stage I, their curiosity and enthusiasm continue to grow. Our engaging curriculum enables each girl to thrive as we continue to nurture their love of learning. This truly bespoke approach within a caring and happy environment excites and challenges every learner. Girls are taught in small classes with a number of specialist teachers for languages and music. Our well-stocked Wagstaff library inspires readers of all ages and this rich, literary resource is often referred to as ‘the jewel in our crown’.

At Key Stage 2 we introduce our pupils to a broader range of subjects. Girls continue to enjoy regular swimming lessons at our on-site pool in the Senior School and we take full advantage of our proximity to London, arranging regular education trips to museums and theatres.





**Pupils
enjoy taking
part in
competitive
sports fixtures
against other
schools.**



Facilities include dedicated rooms for IT, DT, Science, Music and Food Tech.



‘Pupils’ musical achievement is outstanding. Pupils in Years 4 and 5 achieved second place and a distinction at the local music festival and 28 Preparatory pupils sang and were awarded the Challenge Shield at another.’

ISI Report
2016

Preparatory pupils enjoy a rich and diverse musical education. In addition to weekly class music lessons, delivered by a specialist music teacher, we encourage girls to pursue their musical interests in a variety of ways.

We award Choral Scholarships in Year 3 (7+) following an audition. Holding a Choral Scholarship is something to be proud of; girls will be contributing not only to the musical life of Old Palace but to Croydon Minster as well.

We also run an Instrumental scheme, which allows Year 3 pupils to participate in free group lessons for a year on a variety of orchestral instruments.

The Senior School

Learning to thrive in an ever-changing world





‘Pupils are well educated in accordance with the school’s aim to equip learners with the confidence, skills and knowledge needed to lead independent, successful and happy lives in an ever-changing world’

ISI Report
2016

Every pupil at Old Palace receives a broad, values based education. Surrounded by the beauty of our historic, Grade 1 listed site and a close, caring community our girls thrive, safe in the knowledge that they are valued, supported and intellectually challenged.

We want our students to be happy and confident and to know that there are no limits to their ambitions and dreams. Old Palace is there to help and encourage them...every step of the way!

When students leave Old Palace, they do so with outstanding academic credentials, a distinguished sense of social responsibility and the necessary skills to cope in the modern workplace: namely, resilience, adaptability and moral courage.



Year 6 (10+) Expanding Horizons

**Year 6 pupils
embrace
the many
opportunities
open to them
through being
part of the
Senior School.**





Girls new to Year 6 join pupils at our Senior School site in Croydon where they quickly become the much-loved, youngest members of the Senior School. Specialist teaching, a dedicated space and access to a wealth of Senior School clubs and societies ensure that Year 6 is a time of new experiences and personal development.



‘The more able and the gifted and talented pupils progress particularly well as a result of the stimulus provided by the school for both academic and talent enrichment’

ISI Report
2016





Year 7 (11+)

A time of opportunity and confidence building

Students new to Year 7 will find the Old Palace community welcoming, supportive and full of exciting opportunities. Moving to a new school can be an unsettling experience, so we have established trusted strategies to ensure a smooth transition. Girls soon relish the numerous social and cultural events on offer and their confidence grows, aided by a strong framework of pastoral support.

We are committed to ensuring that all our students are stretched and challenged in their learning. Girls are encouraged to participate in many of the exciting clubs and activities on offer and they take part in competitions which challenge their thinking and creativity. Students with academic or music scholarships and those who demonstrate exceptional academic ability are invited to join the prestigious Palace Group, where they will continue to be stretched and challenged.

‘A transformative education’

The Good Schools Guide
2018

45%

The number of pupils receiving financial assistance in the form of a bursary

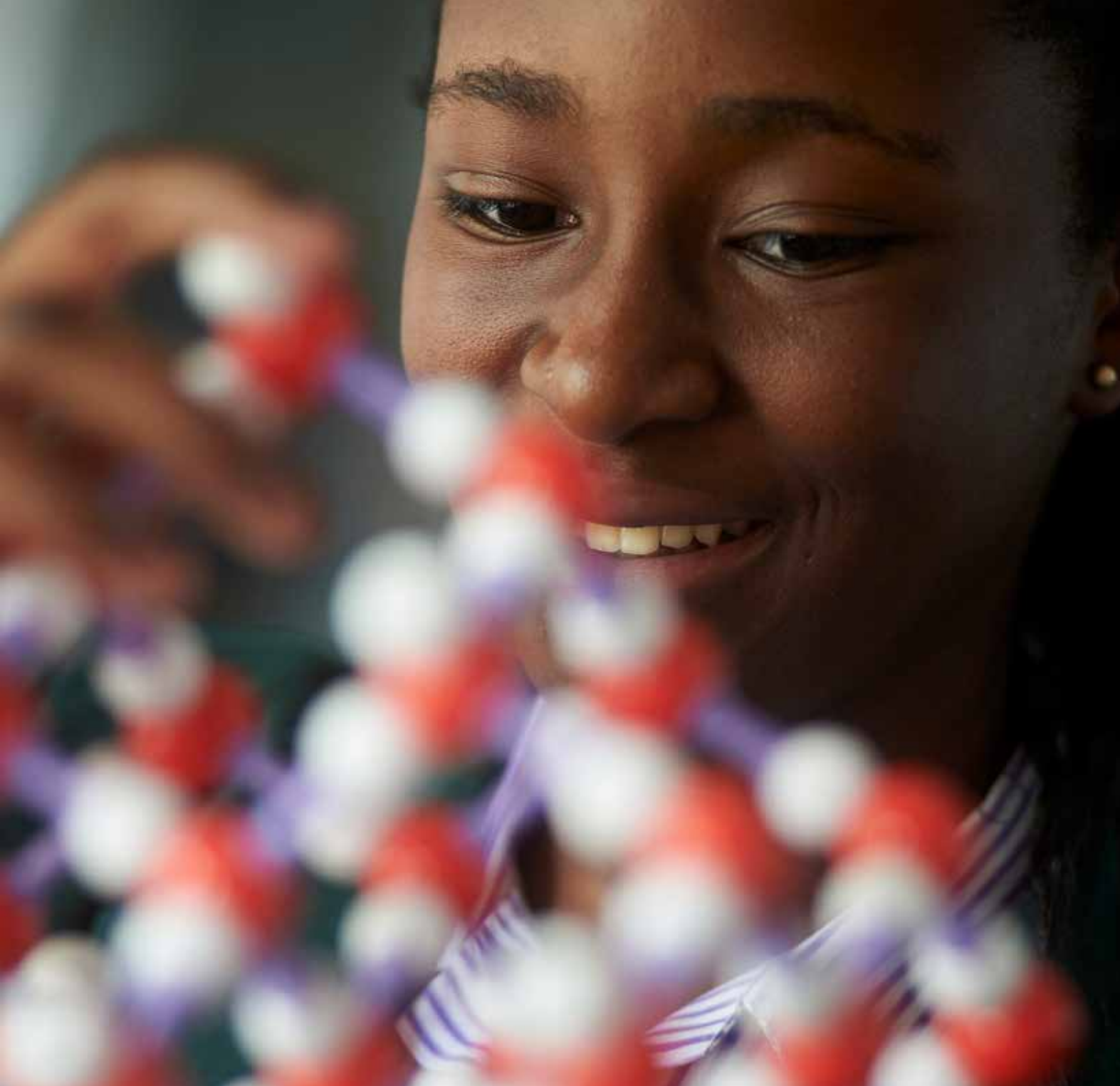


Year 8–11 (12+)

A time of personal and academic growth

An Old Palace education is a precious gift and one which can transform a girl's future. Small classes, excellent facilities and dedicated teachers ensure the very highest academic standards. Our latest ISI Inspection rated Preparatory and Seniors Excellent in all areas whilst our latest GCSE and A Level results place us in the top 100 independent schools in the country.

As students begin their GCSE studies, the pace and depth of learning increases in accordance with their individual academic ability. Parents know that their daughters are expected to take



‘Teaching is of a very high standard. It is clear from the marking by staff that they are diligent and alive to a pupil’s abilities’

The Good Schools Guide
2018

greater responsibility for their learning, both in school and beyond, and we encourage students to take risks in a managed way – free from judgement.

We place great importance on the need for families and the school to work closely together, and we support parents with a very popular programme of Parental Workshops and a ‘Head’s Surgery’.



‘The transition into Sixth Form is a challenging one. I have only been here a few months, yet I have formed some extraordinary friendships. The teachers are very kind...the lessons are so interesting and enjoyable and if I don’t understand anything they are always there to help’

Shania
New Sixth Form student

Art, Dance,
Drama,
DT, Product
Design and
Music: the
number of
Exhibitions
awarded to Year
12 students

The Sixth Form (16+)

An exciting new chapter

‘In the Sixth Form,
further enrichment
and challenge enable
pupils to achieve
success in the wider
community...’

ISI Report
2016



Our Sixth Form students enjoy a unique and privileged position within the School and become important role models for our younger pupils. They are expected to embrace their responsibilities, such as becoming key members of the student leadership body.

Academically our students are stretched and challenged, enabling them to achieve some truly outstanding examination results. They also develop vital life skills through our ‘Learning for Life’ programme. Most importantly, however, they become valued members of the close-knit and supportive Sixth Form community where service to others, mutual respect and self-worth are just as important as academic success.

They continue on a stimulating programme of careers talks, university visits, subject-specific lectures by specialists and academic and cultural trips both in London and abroad; all with the sole purpose of developing their individuality and interests.

We support them as they make crucial decisions for their future. Students are thoroughly prepared for Oxbridge, STEP Mathematics, EPQ (The Extended Project Qualification), the Arts Award (Gold) LawPrep, MedPrep and EngineeringPrep.

Next Steps
University
and beyond

Birmingham Brighton
Cambridge City (U
Exeter King's Colle
Manchester Newca
Southampton UCL

ton & Sussex Brunel
(OL) Durham Edinburgh
ge, London Leeds LSE
stle Nottingham
Warwick

Our Destinations

Every year our students win places to study at the UK's leading universities. Popular courses include: Art, Biomedical Sciences, Drama, Economics, Geography, Law, Mathematics, Medicine, Modern Languages, Pharmacy, Politics and Psychology.

**Our Sixth Form
Enrichment
Programme
is designed to
broaden young
minds**

Europe,
New York,
Tanzania and
China; just some
of the recent
educational trips
open to students

The hallmark of an Old Palace student
Our students acquire a broad range of skills which enable them to thrive at university and beyond. These include independent learning, effective revision techniques and how to plan and manage their time and workload effectively. We encourage our students to take and shoulder responsibility and to have the moral courage to stand up for what's right; two very important qualities and ones which we think are the true hallmark of an Old Palace girl.





‘As students leave the gates of Old Palace at the end of their A Level years, they depart with a distinguished sense of social responsibility and they know who they are and what they stand for.’

Carol Jewell
Head

Our schools

Two sites: One community



**Old Palace of John Whitgift
Nursery, Pre School and Preparatory**
Melville Avenue
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Nursery, Pre School and Preparatory

- | | |
|--|--------------------|
| ① Vineyard / Visitors Entrance | ⑧ Tennis Courts |
| ② EYFS (Nursery, Pre-School & Reception) | ⑨ Centenary Block |
| ③ Science Lab | ⑩ Sports Hall / PE |
| ④ Reception / Pre-School Outside Space | ⑪ Music Hall |
| ⑤ Assembly Hall | ⑫ Field |
| ⑥ Teaching Block / Library | ⑬ Staff Car Park |
| ⑦ Playground / Netball Courts | |



‘A beautifully crafted modern building in red brick with stone mullions and cloisters provides ample (Seniors) teaching space and labs. Then, over the road...there is a large modern dining room where everyone eats together.’

The Good Schools Guide



Senior and Sixth Form

- ① Croydon Minster
- ② Cathedral Building
- ③ Shah Building / 6th Form / Dining Room
- ④ Visitors and Staff Car Park
- ⑤ Art / Music / Technology
- ⑥ Year 6 / Teaching Block
- ⑦ Courtyard
- ⑧ Swimming Pool
- ⑨ Coutyard
- ⑩ Chestnut Gate
- ⑪ The Great Hall
- ⑫ Medieval Gardens
- ⑬ Science Block
- ⑭ The Old Palace
- ⑮ The Chapel
- ⑯ Visitors Entrance
- ⑰ The Guard Room / Library





To find out more go to
www.oldpalace.croydon.sch.uk