



Tolworth Girls' School & Sixth Form



prospectus

Committed to Excellence

Welcome to our school community

I know choosing a Secondary School for your daughter can be a time of anxiety, concern and great excitement. As a parent you obviously want the very best for your daughter and you will be looking for a school where she will experience academic and personal success, a school that will enrich motivate and stimulate her to make the very best of all that she experiences, a school where your daughter will be happy and keen to attend. I know that Tolworth is such a school. We have an excellent reputation locally and nationally and we are also an Associate Training school and year on year we educate the teachers of the future.

Our staff are exceptional and during recent interviews for Head Girl and Head Boy of our joint Sixth Form all commented on the friendly, caring and dedicated teachers they had met on their academic journey. Visitors to the school often comment on the 'happy and vibrant' atmosphere in this exceptional school.

We are concerned that every child is seen as an individual and their particular needs and personalities are known. We have high a spirational academic targets for all of our students. We encourage every individual to achieve the very best and we provide an exciting and diverse curriculum.

We look forward to meeting you soon. We believe that our students are successful because of the

partnership we have with their parents. We need your support and participation in all areas of school life if we are to continue with our outstanding achievements.



Siobhan Lowe
Headteacher

We are right to be proud of our school, we invite you to see the 'Tolworth Girls' factor for yourself, look at our examination results and talk to our students and staff - I am confident you will then be keen to be part of our thriving and happy school community.



A Successful Learning Environment

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Our school attracts and retains very well qualified and enthusiastic teachers. Our excellent reputation means that we can pick and choose the staff we want to work here, we choose the very best. Our staff are dynamic, forward thinking and dedicated to our students and their success.

Our staff are committed to ensuring all our students achieve and collaborate to create a challenging, diverse, and inspirational programme of study to engage students of all abilities.

Our learning programmes cater for the needs of all students, with an individualised programme for our Potential High Achievers, and programmes of support for our students with more specialised needs.

We have high expectations, encouraging our students to set aspirational targets for learning and a focus on their skills acquisition as they progress through their academic journey.

We create an environment for purposeful learning where we stress the importance of enquiry, creativity, independence, empathy and a focus on our community.

Equal opportunities for all

We believe that our school community is enriched by the contribution made by staff and students of each gender, of all races, religions, cultures and abilities.

We are confident that our environment is welcoming and all of our community feel respected and valued as unique individuals. All members of our community expect to be treated with consideration and courtesy and to have their 'voice' heard. We value the opportunity for self-expression and we encourage our students to be involved in decision making. Of course with this freedom to express and be listened to comes responsibility and we do expect all of our community to be responsible. We have a clear behaviour management policy, this maintains our calm and positive learning environment.

It is the ethos of our school to encourage the development of mutual respect and the skills of empathy in all our students, to offer support to others in need, to act thoughtfully and inclusively.

The Curriculum

We have undertaken a major review of our curriculum and we believe that it is important that our students experience a range of subjects that will prepare them fully for the challenges of the 21st century.

We are equally concerned to develop students' skills for leadership, communication, enquiry, resilience, teamwork and collaboration. We have therefore created a curriculum that will challenge and excite our students as well as give them the essential skills they need for the fast changing world.

All students have access to a broad and balanced curriculum; we value the arts, humanities and the learning of an additional language. We offer Double and Triple Science to all our students at Key Stage 4. We encourage all of our students to achieve and place great emphasis on Science Maths and Technology. This includes a fast track programme for our most able Maths and Science students.

We are extending our range of Applied Subjects so that all our students find a learning programme that stimulates and motivates them.



Enrichment

Our School community organises a wide range of activities for students to stimulate their interest and enjoyment. Students are encouraged to participate in these enrichment activities which occur on half termly programmes, the programme is diverse and varied ranging from dance/ drama, music, art, poetry to all types of sporting groups. The school has an excellent reputation for competitive sports participation and success. We regularly take groups of students to places of educational and cultural interest in the UK and abroad. Visits to France and Germany also form part of the extra-curricular programme. Tuition in playing a musical instrument is encouraged and can be arranged through our close partnership with Kingston Music and Arts Service.

Students are expected to enrol in at least one activity each half term as part of their active citizenship programme.

Students are encouraged to take part in community service programmes and charitable fund raising on an individual or group basis, so that they learn the importance of personal effort, service and care for others.

We are proud of our enrichment programme and we report on this termly in our newsletter.

Organisation of Teaching Groups

The way in which a secondary school chooses to organise teaching groups is very important, we have recently reorganised our student groupings.

On entry students are carefully allocated to one of 8 House tutor groups of no more than 27 students. Our groups have a balance of abilities in order to avoid labelling our students, we have created smaller groups so that we can personalise our students' learning.

A well qualified and experienced team of staff support students who are in need of specialist more focused teaching, talented students in Maths and Science may find themselves in a fast track group and we start our GCSE programme in the Spring term of Year 9.

We respect the individual strengths and abilities of all of our students and provide flexible groupings for the majority of our subjects so that all our students can achieve.

Religious Education

In common with other schools we teach according to the local SACRE guidelines on Religious Studies. There is a strong emphasis on investigation, discussion and respect, with students learning to listen and express their viewpoints. There is also a strong practical element to make the subject interesting and relevant to today's multi faith society.

Students are introduced to the main worldwide religious faiths, with some emphasis given to Christianity. Visits are arranged to places of worship and the borough's Christian Youth worker contributes to the programme at certain stages. At Key Stage 4 all Year 10 students will follow a full GCSE course which extends their critical thinking; this course looks at cultural traditions, social and moral issues from the perspective of Christianity and other faith and belief systems.



Care and Guidance

Each student is placed into a tutor group with a Form Tutor and a co-tutor to support them. The Form Tutor works together with the Head of Year and our 'Heads of Lower and Upper Schools' to ensure that each student settles into the life of Tolworth. Each tutor group follows a carefully planned active tutorial programme combined with elements of citizenship.

Tutors will meet their tutees once a day and will look out for any student who may be experiencing difficulties. They will monitor attendance, reinforce our behavioural and uniform policy, praise and encourage students as appropriate; they will also monitor their academic progress and work with the Heads of Year to ensure appropriate interventions and support are in place if a student is struggling.

Tutors are the first point of contact, the main link between home and school; they develop strong relationships with their form group and really get to know them on an individual basis.

Resources

The most important resource Tolworth Girls' School possesses is its staff, both teaching and support.

Tolworth Girls' School is situated in an extensive site readily accessible by public transport.

The school has numerous specialist teaching rooms that are particularly well equipped including: eight Science laboratories, that have recently been upgraded, Design and Technology rooms; Art rooms including ceramics and textile studios; four Business Studies rooms designed to simulate open plan offices; two Music rooms, three Food Technology rooms, and a Media studio.

Although we are housed in an 'old' building, our thinking and educational programmes are of the 21st century.

We regularly bid for grants to ensure that we keep up to date in technological education and we are at the 'cutting edge' with our innovative approaches to the use of ICT.

Tolworth Girls' School has the considerable advantage of sharing its site with Tolworth Recreation Centre, which gives the school priority daytime use of extensive sports facilities and the Croft Theatre.

We do have plans for a major rebuild which will provide upgraded all weather sports facility and multi-use games area.

Community

We interpret community in its broadest sense and our students are aware that they are expected to behave in an appropriate way both in and around their community. Our community stretches from Malawi to Europe and London, and has links with children in Africa, India and in our own locality.

Our parental community is very well served by our PTA which works tirelessly on behalf of the school, they regularly arrange fund raising activities and all parents are encouraged to attend. The Governors too are very involved, attending a range of school events and taking time to talk to and listen to parents and students.

We value our links with all agencies that support the school and work with them to ensure our students' safety and security. Our multi-faceted role as a Specialist Technology, Training and Leading Edge School requires us to work alongside many other partners and higher education institutions. This collaboration brings benefits to all involved.

Assemblies

We regularly meet in Year groups or as a whole school community, there we focus on a common theme and we enjoy the opportunity to meet as a school. We use this time to celebrate publicly the many achievements of our students, to provoke thought and for reflection.

Assemblies are taken by members of the Senior Leadership Team, as well as staff and outside speakers.



Health and well being

Students also showcase their talents and present comments on world and local events.

We are totally committed to ensuring the well being and safety of all of our students, this is reflected in the way we promote a healthy life style for all. We enjoy an excellent record in competitive sport, whilst encouraging maximum participation in a range of physical activities to suit all interests.

We encourage all of our students to reduce their risk taking behaviour and we have a dedicated First Aider, and an attendance officer who supports parents in ensuring the best possible attendance. We have a dedicated team in the Learning Support department who offer structure and specialist guidance for those who may need it.

Citizenship

We have revised our whole school approach to this important element of our students' personal and social development. We encourage our young people to have enquiring minds and to ask probing questions of visiting politicians and other speakers.

Students are invited to express their point of view in a confident manner yet be mindful of the need to be sensitive to the thoughts and feelings of others.

We encourage our students to be 'active citizens' and engage in their local community.

Our students are also highly considerate of others and this is shown in their charity fund raising activities. They have adopted Africa Vision (The Landriani Trust) as their whole school charity. Individual year groups also adopt and raise monies for their charities such as Cancer Research and Children Cancer trust etc. Two of our sixth form have recently represented our school in Malawi.

The student Council plays a significant role and they are represented on the whole school Governors and other

policy making groups. They have a genuine voice and are listened to. They learn to work democratically and take part in the selection of new members of staff.

The World of Work

Our programme begins in year 7 with a team building session and is followed by a number of enterprise activities throughout our students' time at Tolworth Girls' School.

The Work Related programme is carefully planned through each successive stage and is integrated into the overall curriculum. Throughout their time students will have new and exciting opportunities to practise the skills required to be successful and effective in a variety of adult occupations and roles.

All students go on a week's work experience in the summer term of Year 10 and those following a vocational course will have additional opportunity to go on work placement.

Careers Education and Guidance continues in Years 12 and 13, where the emphasis is on individual guidance. Through action planning, senior students are encouraged to become aware of education and training opportunities and to consider the directions they may wish to take in their future career.

Our Sixth Form

For information on our Sixth Form and how you can apply please ask for our Sixth Form Prospectus at reception.



If you feel you would thrive in a busy stimulating and lively atmosphere, secure in the knowledge that a solid framework of support allows you a good deal of independence, then contact Tolworth Girls' School & Sixth Form for more information.

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