



NorfolkHouse
School

“The biggest little
school in London.”

- Year 6 Pupil

1897

The year our school
was founded

2 - 11

Age range of
our pupils

14

Our typical
class size

2 sites

Princes Avenue from Nursery
- Form 1, Muswell Avenue
from Form 2 to Form 6

6 miles

from central London

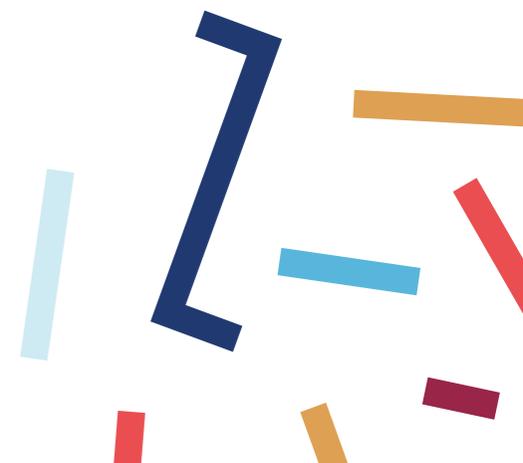
Part of

the Bellevue Education Group



Contents

| | |
|--|---------|
| Introducing Norfolk House | 6 - 11 |
| Princes Avenue - The Journey Begins | 12 - 17 |
| Muswell Avenue - Growth, Challenge, Confidence | 18 - 21 |
| Beyond Norfolk House - Our Pupils' Next Chapters | 22 - 23 |
| Wellbeing at the Forefront | 24 - 25 |
| A Curriculum that Inspires | 26 |
| Building the Habits of Personal Growth | 27 - 29 |
| One World - Nature & Sustainability at Norfolk House | 30 - 33 |
| Discover More | 34 - 35 |



A very warm welcome to Norfolk House

A small school with a big, beating heart. Selecting a school for your child is no simple task. Our own childhoods remind us of how the earliest experiences have a profound impact on the paths we later follow and the people we later become.

That is why, from our small class sizes to our highly personalised learning provision, the pupil experience at Norfolk House has been carefully curated to nurture and grow the unique person within. We are committed to supporting each pupil to flourish, to realise their immense potential and to enjoy every step along their journey with us.

We are optimistic about the world into which your child will grow up. Though it will be replete with challenge and change, we take great pride in our duty to empower pupils to shape and improve the world of tomorrow. Our future-facing curriculum and time-tested values support pupils to leave us at eleven as

resilient individuals, with confidence, self-efficacy, and a life-long curiosity about the world, and those with whom they share it. Finally, we recognise that an excellent education is built on positive relationships, in which every pupil feels known, liked and valued. All our staff understand that children learn best when they feel happy and safe

I hope that, after having read the pages that follow, you will be keen to get to know us better by booking a tour. When you come to visit, I look forward to introducing you and your child to our close-knit community, often accurately characterised as 'a village school in the heart of North London.'

With warmest wishes,

Tej Lander MMus MA FCCT
Head Teacher

Pupils achieve excellent results in selective entrance examinations, some winning awards and scholarships for academic success and music.

- Independent Schools Inspectorate

1897

Norfolk House School first opens at number 10, Muswell Avenue.

1914 -
1918

A number of the former pupils from the early years of Norfolk House serve the United Kingdom in the armed forces during the First World War.

1939 -
1945

While many former Norfolk House pupils serve in the Army, Royal Navy and Royal Air Force, the school itself is struck by an incendiary bomb which - miraculously - fails to detonate! The chipping in the floor tiles where it landed can still be seen in the atrium of the Muswell Avenue site today.

1943 -
1949

Graham Andermarh attends Norfolk House. He recalls German bombs falling on Muswell Hill, including the famous incendiary bomb that didn't go off!



1980

The Norfolk House Old Boys & Parents Association is founded

1994

Norfolk House admits girl pupils alongside the boys



2012

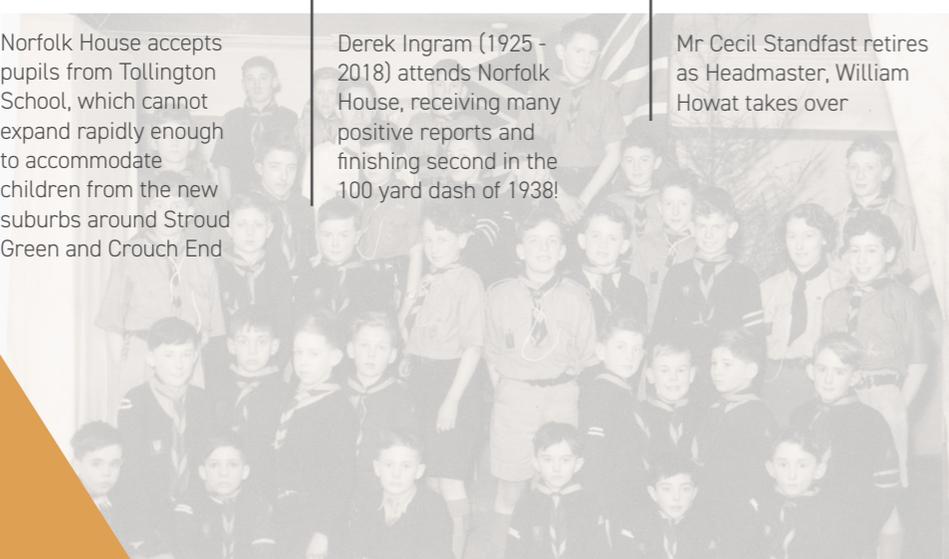
Plans go ahead to extend the Muswell Avenue site

2022

Norfolk House celebrates its 125th anniversary. By now, Bellevue Education, which started with Norfolk House, is a group comprising 21 schools across the UK, France and Switzerland.

1910

Norfolk House accepts pupils from Tollington School, which cannot expand rapidly enough to accommodate children from the new suburbs around Stroud Green and Crouch End



1932 -
1939

Derek Ingram (1925 - 2018) attends Norfolk House, receiving many positive reports and finishing second in the 100 yard dash of 1938!

1948

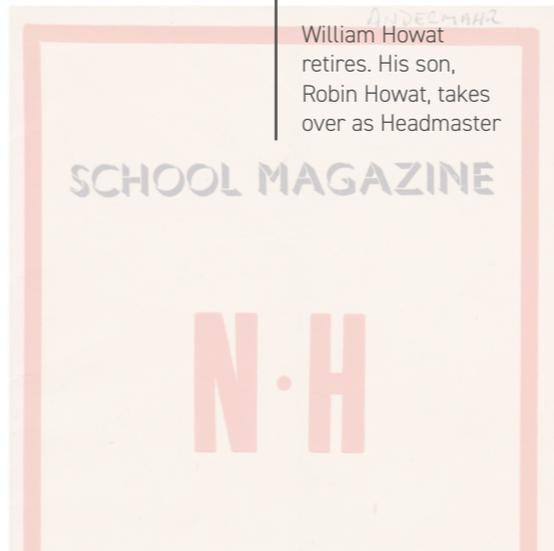
Mr Cecil Standfast retires as Headmaster, William Howat takes over

1964 -
1971

Christian Andree (b. 1960) attends Norfolk House and remembers Latin lessons with Mr Hurd, as well as the Headmaster Mr Howat

1981

William Howat retires. His son, Robin Howat, takes over as Headmaster



2004

Norfolk House is acquired by Bellevue Education and becomes the first school of the group

2013

The Montessori House Nursery in Princes Avenue is acquired by Norfolk House to become the school's Pre-Prep site



Ethos & Core Values

It is critical pupils at Norfolk House School achieve the very highest standards both academically and socially. We have developed our own school ethos which we share with staff, pupils and parents:

“To provide our children with the opportunities to achieve their potential within an environment where they feel valued, fulfilled, confident and emotionally secure.”

To achieve this, we:

Innovate: using the latest learning techniques to provide a stimulating and meaningful learning experience for all our pupils.

Collaborate: by fostering a culture whereby every member of the Norfolk House School community works together for the benefit of the children.

As a result, our pupils succeed both inside and outside of the classroom and each child leaves us as a well-rounded individual who is:

Caring: We show kindness, empathy and respect. We are compassionate, thoughtful and take action to support others and protect the environment.

Reflective: We consider honestly our approach to learning and behaviour. We think carefully about the consequences of our actions in order to make responsible choices and grow.

Open-minded: We appreciate and seek to understand ideas, views and values from others. We are willing to make changes and recognise the benefits of compromise and collaboration.

A Communicator: We express our ideas confidently, clearly and purposefully. We listen thoughtfully and interact with others in a polite and mindful manner.

A Thinker: We are curious and inquire into the world around us. We use critical and creative thinking skills to develop our powers of deduction, reasoning and problem solving.

Resilient: We have a strong, positive mindset and we persevere. We bravely face challenges, setbacks and disappointment, striving to overcome them.

Principled: We understand the difference between right and wrong and act with integrity, honesty and fairness. We recognise and respect the beliefs and opinions of others, whilst remaining true to our own values. We take responsibility for our actions and their consequences.

Ambitious: We are motivated and determined to succeed. We explore new ideas, aim high and constantly challenge ourselves to achieve our full potential and exceed expectations.



Princes Avenue

The journey begins

Pre-nursery to Form 1

With a long history of outstanding Early Years education, we are proud to continue providing the next generation of children with a joyful and educationally-rich beginning to their school journey.

The philosophy at Norfolk House for our younger years draws on a unique combination of pedagogies, the vibrancy of our local area and the diversity of the families within our school. We combine the best of the leading schools of thought, including Montessori, Reggio Emilia and Froebel, as well as innovative educational research such as *Communication-Friendly Spaces* and *Sustained Shared Thinking*.

Young children learn best from direct experiences and activities that interest them and build on their existing knowledge. Our offer at Norfolk House is designed to inspire and is linked by a series of challenges, social interactions, and active participation, rather than passive observation. In our shared garden space and light-filled classrooms, it is through play that children develop creatively, physically and socially.

Children at Norfolk House also benefit from direct teaching, where learning is tailored to each child's next steps. The development of children's language is central, since this is the key to developing relationships with peers, as well as being a strong indicator of academic success in later years.

Through the experiences we offer across Princes Avenue, we aim to promote children's well-being, learning and development, and provide the foundation for later success in life beyond school.

From the age of 2 children join our pre-nursery and can attend part-time or full-time

⋮

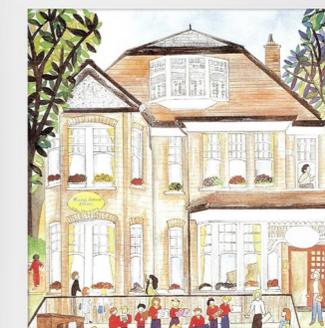
Around their 3rd birthday children transfer upstairs to our Nursery, depending upon their date of birth they stay either for 1 year or up to 2 academic years

⋮

Children enter Reception in September of the year of their 5th birthday

⋮

Then transfer upstairs to the top of our building for F1



“Pupils solve problems confidently from an early age.”

- Independent Schools Inspectorate

Pre-nursery

Educating our youngest children is a very special privilege and one we delight in here at Norfolk House.

Welcoming children from their second birthday into our garden room at Princes Avenue, we provide a nurturing first step into education with learning underpinning all experiences. Under the guidance of wonderfully gentle, supportive key workers, children learn to become confident individuals and build their first friendships.

In the Pre-Nursery, the main focus is ensuring that the children have a firm foundation in the three Prime Areas of learning. Where children demonstrate confidence and mastery in these three areas, staff members will then begin to delve into the more challenging Specific Areas of learning.

Nursery

Our Nursery is based in the light-filled middle floor of our Princes Avenue site and offers a range of engaging EYFS activities and experiences in mixed-age groupings.

In the Nursery, we operate on the basis that all children are individuals, with their own strengths, areas of development, interests, and learning styles. We work with each child on their unique next steps in learning to ensure teaching is targeted specifically at individual learning objectives. We enable children to work on different concepts at a level which is appropriately challenging for them.

Our highly skilled Nursery team scaffold children's learning via a combination of play-based activities and adult-directed learning.

“Younger children in EYFS communicate effectively as they explore their surroundings.”

- Independent Schools Inspectorate

Reception

Reception marks the beginning of children's official entry into school and, together with Form 1, forms our Pre Prep department. During their first years of school, pupils learn many of the key academic and social skills they will continue to use and build on throughout their life.

As educators, we focus our attention on supporting children to embed these first skills deeply whilst in Reception class.

In Reception, we continue to follow the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum (EYFS) and we address all seven areas of EYFS learning through half-termly topics and daily lessons focused on English, Maths, and Phonics. Our curriculum is enhanced by regular outings to local sports venues such as Highgate Woods and for gymnastics.

During structured play sessions, learning is achieved through carefully-selected play opportunities. Teachers work as adult play partners with groups of children on specific learning targets through games and play-based activities.

The balance between teacher-directed and child-initiated learning is one of the most effective elements of our Reception. It allows children to transfer the skills and knowledge they gain during our morning sessions to their play in the afternoons. Both styles of learning are important, but it is the balance that allows us to extend our children's understanding and successfully prepare them for the next stage of their learning.

Form 1

In Form 1, pupils transfer from the EYFS Program to a curriculum broadly based on the National Curriculum. This transition offers opportunities to engage in a more formalised style of learning and to explore particular subjects in greater depth.

In Form 1, subjects such as History, Computing and Religious Education are introduced. In Norfolk House's Pre-Prep, we have developed a comprehensive procedure spanning two terms, designed to support a seamless transition from Reception to Form 1.

Once in Form 1, structured play sessions are held once a week to continue supporting pupils' learning through play and there is a strong emphasis on speaking and listening, to ensure that children feel comfortable with their new teacher and class. As the year progresses, opportunities for hands-on, activity-based learning continue to ensure early experiences are memorable and rewarding.

While our English and maths provision broadly follows the National Curriculum, we spend a great deal of time ensuring that learning is tailored to our context and takes account of pupils who exceed the national expectations.



“Pupils are quick to support each other, show extremely good leadership skills and demonstrate high levels of initiative when moving their own learning forward.”

- Independent Schools Inspectorate

Muswell Avenue

Growth,
Challenge,
Confidence

Norfolk House
School



Muswell Avenue Site

Big things often have small beginnings.

At the centre of Norfolk House School's approach to education is our desire to ensure all pupils love coming to our small school and leave having grown into the best version of themselves.

At the start of Form 2, pupils move from the Princes Avenue site to the historic building at Number 10 Muswell Avenue. During this phase of their education, the range of challenges and opportunities open to our children expands still further. By the time pupils leave us at the end of Form 6, they are confident, caring and resilient young people, who consistently gain admission offers from London's leading senior schools.

While excellent results are important, we strive to ensure that the pupils leaving Muswell Avenue at the end of their Norfolk House journey also take with them an 'evergreen' sense of curiosity and a deep-seated passion for life-long learning.

We know that achievement is individual: for one student, it may be to attend a certain secondary school, for another it may be a sporting or musical goal. Personal growth is at the centre of our school and every teacher at Muswell Avenue inspires and supports the pupils to have the confidence to exceed their own expectations and strive for success in everything they do.



Credit: Parul Arora | www.justnoey.com | @justnoey

Form 2 Highlights:

- Taking part in the Junior Prep Showcase
- Visiting the British Museum
- Learning about The Romans in Verlanium
- Learning how to Pond Dip

Form 3 Highlights:

- A visit to the Little Theatre Company
- Learning more about Roald Dahl at the Roald Dahl Museum
- Taking part in Ancient Greek Day
- Become a warrior for a day

Form 4 Highlights:

- A tour of Parliament
- A Hampton Court visit
- Becoming an Aztec for a day
- A residential trip

Form 5 Highlights:

- A visit to the Science Museum
- Attending the Floating Classroom
- The House Music Competition
- A residential trip

Form 6 Highlights:

- A visit to the RAF Museum
- A Globe Theatre visit
- Residential Trip
- The end of year production

Norfolk House teaches you that it isn't bad to make mistakes and challenges help you learn.

- Muswell Avenue Site Pupil

Forms 2 - 3

Forms 2 and 3 comprise Norfolk House's Junior Prep phase. This is a period of a child's school journey during which teachers gradually introduce pupils to a more diverse range of challenges and learning experiences.

Located on the ground floor at Muswell Avenue, the light and airy pairs of Junior Prep classrooms both have a sliding wall between them, allowing our small classes to be separated most of the time, but also providing opportunities for more social and collaborative activities when in the open configuration.

We understand how crucial the chapter between early childhood and the pre-teen years is. In Junior Prep, pupils are therefore encouraged to find their voices as their unique personalities develop and to use their learning as a vehicle to express themselves creatively, without being fearful of making mistakes. Throughout Forms 2 and 3, high expectations ensure pupils realise their potential and are able to transition seamlessly into the final phase of their Norfolk House journey.

“Pupils’ creative and extended writing skills are extremely well developed at all levels and improve rapidly as the pupils move through the school.”

- Independent Schools Inspectorate

Forms 4 - 6

Forms 4-6 comprise the Norfolk House's Senior Prep. This, the final phase of a pupil's journey through Norfolk House, is in many ways true to the ideals of a traditional preparatory education: we leave no stone unturned in supporting children to prepare for and look forward to the next stage of their schooling.

At the same time though, it is very much a 21st century experience, carefully curated to equip pupils with the knowledge and skills that will best advantage them in the world of their future.

Novel experiences and opportunities for creativity abound in Senior Prep, where learning is always rooted in a firm foundation of academic challenge and rigour. We have many decades of experience with all forms of the 11+ process, which we leverage to ensure that success at this crucial milestone is a natural byproduct of an education that remains broad and holistic throughout, rather than becoming narrowly exam-focussed in the later years.

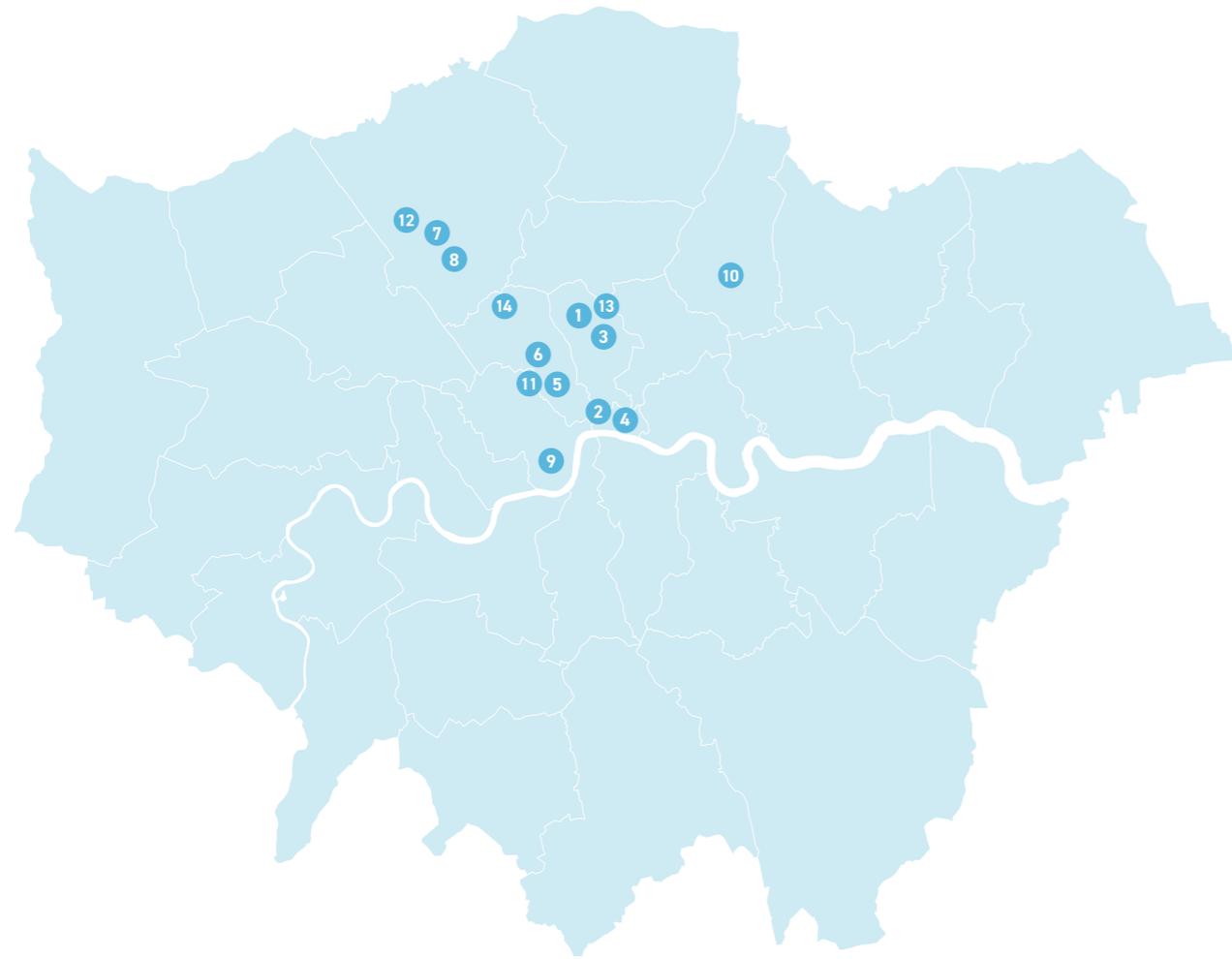
When a child leaves Norfolk House, they leave confident, resilient and ready for their new chapter. By the end of Form 6 the children have developed into confident communicators who are able to articulate their thoughts and feelings. Pupils leave Norfolk House as a principled individuals, ready to become citizens of the world.

“As they leave the school, pupils are exceptionally well prepared for the next stage of their education. They are capable, confident, well-rounded young people who are ready to meet their next set of challenges.”

- Independent Schools Inspectorate

- 1 St Michael's Grammar School
- 2 Queen's College
- 3 Alexandra Park School
- 4 City of London School
- 5 North Bridge House School
- 6 St Anthony's School for Boys
- 7 Haberdashers' Boys' School

- 8 Haberdashers' Girls' School
- 9 Francis Holland School
- 10 Forest School
- 11 University College School London
- 12 Aldenham Senior School
- 13 Highgate School
- 14 Belmont Mill Hill Preparatory School



Beyond Norfolk House

The 11+ Process

The process of selecting a senior school is one we take very seriously. Over many years, we have thoroughly prepared children not only for the 11+ exams of selective senior schools, but also for the rigours of state secondary schools.

We specialise in preparing children for senior school education from the younger years by nurturing confidence and excellent learning habits and gradually building on these skills in readiness for the entrance process.

We work closely with parents to understand all of their requirements for a potential school, from academic achievement to size, culture, and location.

Our close working relationships with senior schools, as well as our knowledge of each child as an individual, inform our discussions with parents and allow us to ensure that every child applies to the appropriate school. We are proud of the academic foundation we provide our pupils before they move onto the next chapter of their education and Norfolk House pupils consistently receive offers from some of the country's most prestigious schools.

For more information on our leavers destinations please visit norfolkhouseschool.org/preparing-our-pupils/destination-of-leavers/



Wellbeing at the Forefront

Pastoral - friendships, wellbeing, safeguarding, house system

Pastoral Care is an important part of life at Norfolk House and is at the heart of our Educational philosophy. Norfolk House School and Nursery provide a happy and nurturing environment in which it values individuality and encourages tolerance, empathy and mutual respect.

The delivery and success of our pastoral care system is based on a team of outstanding staff who get to know every child and support them along each step of their journey through the school. The staff are supported by our Head of Pastoral and the Senco. Our pastoral care and safeguarding is tailored to individual's needs and where necessary additional support for pupils and families is available.

Developing positive relationships and friendships are an important part of life and we want our pupils' experience of school to be a happy and fulfilling one where they develop secure friendships at school and beyond the school gates. These positive relationships are developed and supported through a carefully planned PSHE curriculum, playtimes, co-curricular activities and assemblies. Children are able to seek support from staff if they are finding a relationship challenging.

At Norfolk House we believe that having an understanding of wellbeing; how to take care of ourselves both physically and mentally and knowing who to go to for support can lead to success.

“Pupils display a strong moral awareness which is clearly demonstrated through the outstanding relationships they develop.”

- Independent Schools Inspectorate



A Curriculum that Inspires

Academic

Norfolk House School's curriculum is broad-based and carefully balanced to ensure depth of study whilst introducing pupils to a wide range of experiences, knowledge, skills and understanding.

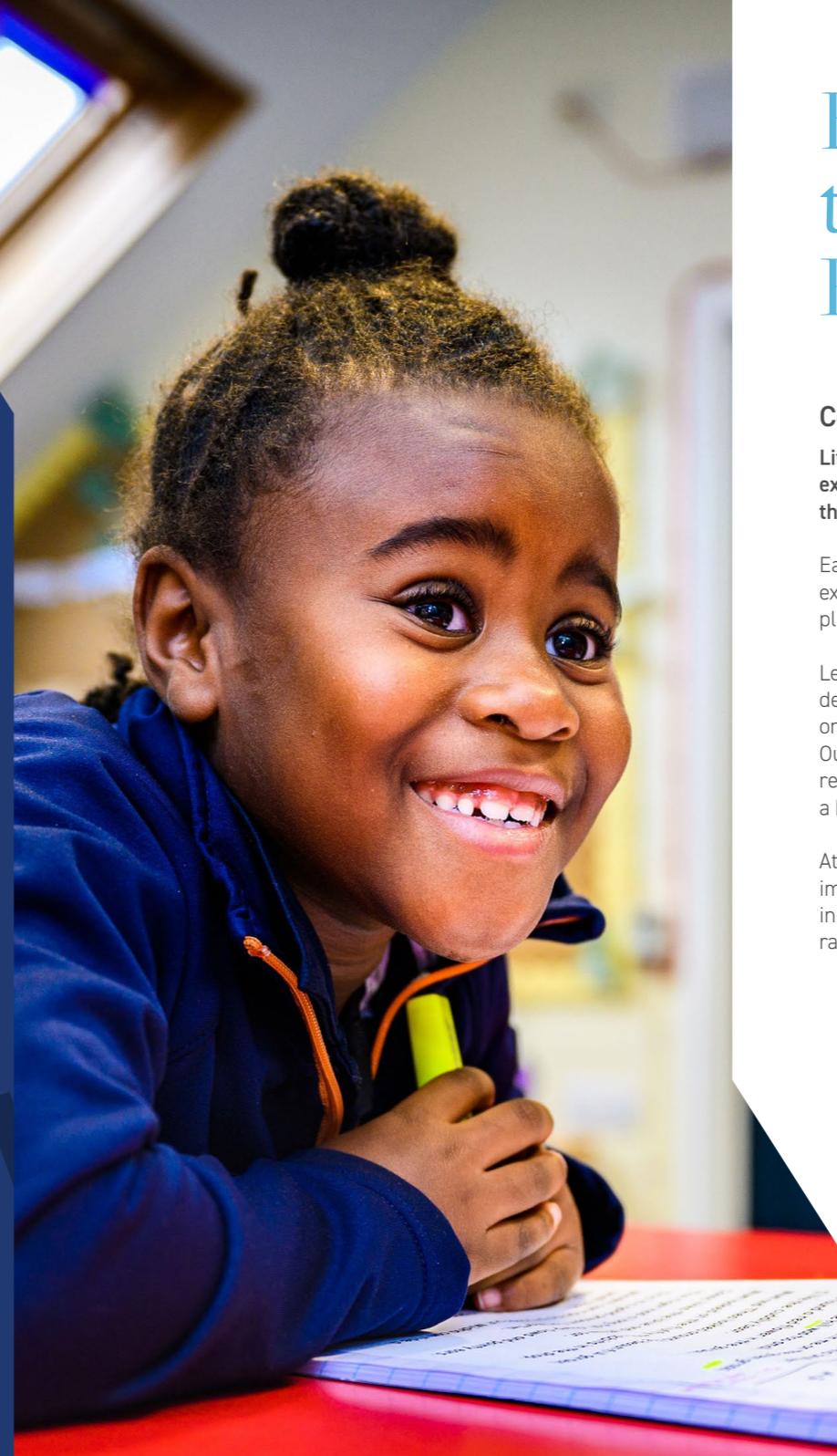
We believe that a curriculum should regularly evolve, with pupils' thinking and collaboration skills given a prominent role and a constant drive to instil a passion for learning.

Through regular review, careful consideration is given to deciding what pupils should learn, how they should learn it and the order in which this learning takes place. We believe pupil voice is central to academic success and we nurture opportunities in the curriculum for children to develop independence, creativity and intellectual ambition.

Whilst our curriculum content is based on the National Curriculum, we enhance the experience by including research projects, subject events and learning outside the classroom.

“Pupils’ confidence and self-esteem blossom, as a result of pupils’ participation in activities that help to identify their particular areas of interest or skill.”

- Independent Schools Inspectorate



Building the Habits of Personal Growth

Co-Curricular

Life at Norfolk House extends well beyond the classroom where extra-curricular clubs, trips and activities enrich the experience of the children, developing key skills and enhancing learning.

Each term the children are offered a wide variety of extra-curricular clubs they can sign up for that take place either before or after school or during lunch time.

Learning outside the classroom is integral to our pupils' wider development and experience. We ensure that our pupils have at least one off site visit per term to supplement and enhance the curriculum. Our Form 4-6 pupils have the opportunities to take part in annual residential trips where developing life skills and independence play a key role.

At Norfolk House we believe that giving back to the community is important and we provide opportunities for the pupils to develop in this area by assisting with the soup kitchen, visiting care homes, raising money and awareness for charities.

“Pupils of all ages demonstrate excellent knowledge, skills and understanding across all areas of the curriculum.”

- Independent Schools Inspectorate

Music

Music at Norfolk House is a subject that focuses on nurturing confidence and engagement, and through doing so, produces young musicians who play and sing beautifully, inspire one another and become passionate about being the best they can be.

The music department at Norfolk House School seeks to nurture each child as an individual with considerable potential. As well as two specialist subject teachers, who still also work as professional musicians, the department includes peripatetic tutors who teach one-to-one lessons in violin, piano, guitar, clarinet and singing.

All pupils have an hour of classroom music a week and are coached to performance standard in singing, recorder, ukulele and keyboard. They also follow a colourful curriculum that encourages creativity, curiosity, scholarship, and the development of transferable skills such as collaboration and innovation through song writing in small groups.

Three extra curricular choirs are offered: Pre-prep, Junior Prep and Senior Prep, which most of the older pupils join and love the fun, challenge and opportunities it provides. There are also two ensembles for children interested in performing on musical instruments. All choirs and ensembles are regularly entered for festivals and competitions, taken on trips, and perform at the school's major events.



With a strong sporting tradition, Norfolk House School boasts an enviable record of success in a wide variety of sports at both individual and team level.

The physical education and sport provision at Norfolk House School produces confident, physically-literate athletes that will acquire the fundamental movement patterns they will need for a wide variety of individual and team sports as well as developing the particular movements and skills required for specific sports.

We do this by embedding the tenets of enjoyment, participation and development into all that we do. Our lessons and fixtures are aimed at developing each child to be the best that they can be and this approach has not only nurtured their own personal growth but has also resulted in county and national representation.

All students have two PE lessons a week and represent the school in fixtures each term through our focus sports of cross country, rugby, football, hockey, athletics and cricket.

Sport

One World

Nature & Sustainability at Norfolk House

Norfolk House runs a weekly Forest School Programme for Nursery and Reception. Pupils visit Highgate Woods every Tuesday afternoon throughout the academic year and in almost all weathers!

Forest School offers a unique educational experience where the woodland becomes an outdoor classroom. Sessions are child-centred and exploratory, offering children the opportunity to use their own initiative, develop their independence, and learn to take managed risks. Confidence and self-esteem are increased through learner-inspired, hands-on activities in a natural setting.

Positive outcomes are wide-ranging and include the development of social, emotional, spiritual, physical and intellectual skills. Furthermore, strengthening our connection to nature supports well-being and nurtures a respect for the environment. Pupils thoroughly enjoy the sessions, which form an integral part of the learning experience at Norfolk House.

“At each stage pupils reflect upon the spiritual aspects of life as they learn in the forest or take on bush craft activities.”

- Independent Schools Inspectorate



School Sustainability

Environmental education and sustainability is at the heart of Norfolk House School's ethos. We are committed to educating our pupils about the impact and long term damage that human choices are having on our planet.

We work hard to raise awareness of environmental issues to ensure that we all work together towards making more sustainable choices.

Norfolk House is registered with the Eco Schools Programme, which provides a framework to support us in integrating environmental education in the classroom. Throughout the school, pupils are actively encouraged and guided to develop responsible attitudes and a commitment to environmental issues, both at home and in the wider community, as well as globally. Our efforts were recently recognised when we achieved the 'Green Flag Award with Distinction.'

Our team of Eco Warriors is democratically elected and consists of a pupil representative from each class who strive to make our community and the planet a greener place to be.



Discover More



Contact Information

For applicants applying from external nurseries

The first step within our admissions process is for prospective parents to register their interest via our website. After this, you and your child will be invited to visit Norfolk House for a tour with the Headteacher so you can see our facilities, and meet current pupils on a 1:1 tour lasting around an hour.

All children (4 years +) applying to join Pre-Prep are also informally assessed during one of our assessment sessions. With parents present, children play 1:1 with one of our staff on a series of activities so we can assess their readiness to benefit from the type of structured day and curriculum we offer. Feedback to parents from this session is also given. Places are then offered once a tour and assessment session has been completed.

If your child is applying for a place in an older year group than Reception, please note that these 'chance' vacancies come about on an ad-hoc basis. Please contact the school office to find out more and to join the waiting list for a place. If your child is called for an interview, there will be a short maths and English assessment while the Head Teacher takes you on a tour.

Headteacher:

Tej Lander

Nursery & Pre-Prep:

5 Princes Avenue,
Muswell Hill,
London,
N10 3LS

020 8444 4399

Junior & Senior Prep:

10 Muswell Avenue,
Muswell Hill,
London,
N10 2EG

020 8883 4584

Website:

www.norfolkhouseschool.org

Admissions:

www.norfolkhouseschool.org/admissions





Junior Prep & Senior Prep

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