



Holy
Cross

PREPARATORY SCHOOL

"Girls happily aspiring to be
the best they can be"



Why choose Holy Cross?



Holy Cross Preparatory is the perfect school for girls who want to be happy, enjoy school life and achieve excellence. Here your daughter will develop her curiosity, her love of learning and aspire to be the best she can be spiritually, academically, personally and physically.

We are a girls' preparatory school. Our success is the result of a combination of a broad, dynamic curriculum delivered by exceptional teachers, within a happy and nurturing Catholic ethos with other girls and families who value and support a quality education. Girls here achieve academic standards well above the national average.

Set in a glorious eight acres of green open space on the private Coombe Estate on Kingston Hill, our outstanding facilities also offer prep girls the best of provision in art, computing, drama, music and sport, and accordingly our girls excel in these areas.

Your daughter is just beginning on her educational journey at Holy Cross. Here she will have the chance to try a huge variety of activities so she can discover and develop her own talents and interests. Her learning environment will provide her with every opportunity to develop the knowledge and skills she needs to succeed in a fast changing world.

There is no doubt your daughter will receive a first-class education here. It is an environment where success is encouraged and celebrated. She will be challenged to achieve more than she thought possible. Standards and expectations at Holy Cross are very high, not just in the academic subjects but in the Arts and sport - from her first day in school, we strive to develop the all-round high achiever with high self-esteem.

In short, you want the best for your daughter. We do too.

Sarah Hair

Headteacher.

36
scholarships
to senior schools
in 2015

THE SUNDAY TIMES
**Prep School
of the Year
2013-14**

About us

Holy Cross offers girls a holistic education in a happy, nurturing and caring environment where pupils develop a love for learning inspired by their teachers, peers and the facilities. Consequently, pupils who engage and participate in this school life perform academically well above the national average.

Holy Cross Preparatory School educates girls aged 4-11. Its two-form entry, combined with small classes, ensures a family-like atmosphere catering for the needs of every child. Our broad, dynamic core curriculum excites and engages all learners while our extra-curricular programme enriches and extends pupils' knowledge. In addition, our co-curriculum and extended hours programme (from 7:50am until 6:00pm) provides flexibility for the needs of our parents.

The land on which our school stands has a fascinating history. Since the time of Edward the Confessor it has been tenanted and owned by many well-known people including the author John Galsworthy, Sir Frederick Pascoe Rutter and a former Governor General of the Bank of England. In

1971, The Sisters of the Holy Cross bought the school and the first lay Headteacher was appointed in 1992.

Pupils come from the surrounding areas of Wimbledon, Kingston, Surbiton and the borders of Richmond Park. Girls of all backgrounds and all faiths are welcome.

Holy Cross is moderately selective on entry, however it is the holistic, child-centred education which nurtures the gifts and talents of all pupils, builds confidence, independence, high self-esteem and consequently success.

“Excellent teaching, wonderful pastoral care, fantastic facilities, and an all-round education, promoting self-belief and confidence where each girl is praised and recognised for her individual merits and for the contribution she can make”.

Parent - July 2016



Love of learning - a dynamic curriculum

Erupting volcanos, re-enactments of Roman army manoeuvres in the playground, House of Lords style debates, Shakespearean readings and the cultivation of vegetables to make soup.

Our broad, dynamic curriculum is exciting, relevant and highly motivating. It enables pupils to excel academically whilst providing a wealth of experience, a lot of enjoyment and success in the academic subjects, the creative arts, languages and sports. We like to foster an appetite for curiosity and develop a love of learning in our girls.

An emphasis is placed on high quality teaching and learning activities, first-hand experiences and creativity. Well-resourced modern classrooms, equipped with the latest technology enables teachers to utilise the best of both traditional and modern teaching methods according to learning intentions. Effective classroom management ensures girls can learn in a calm and organised way. Interactive whiteboards open a window to the world through media clips, while practical activities are multi-sensory to deepen understanding and retention.

Experienced class teachers deliver the core curriculum, teaching lessons in English, maths, science, the humanities, RE and PSHE. Throughout the week, specialist teachers impart their expert knowledge and enthusiasm to teach pupils computing (including coding and online safety) drama, French, music, PE and art, ensuring high attainment in these areas. A thriving Music Department inspires girls to play a range of instruments while the Sports Department's policy of 'Sports for All with Excellence' ensures a healthy body supports a healthy mind.

Our co-curriculum, incorporates workshops, guest speakers, artists, authors, illustrators, educational visits, and residential trips such as the Jurassic Coast and France, is an important part of the girls' enrichment programme which enhances our core curriculum. Our extensive, extra-curricular programme of optional activities before, during and after school allows girls the choice to explore or pursue particular interests or talents.

Curiosity
Knowledge
Understanding
Independence
Application
Problem-solving
Questioning
Evaluation
Collaboration
Imagination, Enquiry
Communication
Critical Thinking
Confidence



The Arts - spirit of creativity

Every child is creative whether moulding the clay between their fingers in pottery, sketching in the field, moving to the captivating rhythm in dance, expressing the sound of the soul in song or through the dedication of mastering the violin - the budding young artist is waiting to escape!

The expressive arts, comprising of art, drama, music and dance, foster confidence, creativity and imagination in every child. Pupils attend timetabled lessons in these subjects where specialist teachers impart their knowledge, enthusiasm and expertise to girls.

Art lessons encourage strong and confident expression in a variety of mediums to communicate ideas, feelings and experiences. Visiting artists and trips to art galleries foster a depth of artistic knowledge.

Drama develops self-confidence, self-esteem and freedom of expression. The weekly drama curriculum teaches skills and techniques giving pupils the ability to perform with

energy and enthusiasm in the many pupil performances throughout the year. Live performances, visits from theatre companies and trips to playhouses encourage confidence and instil professionalism in the girls when it is their turn to tread the boards in our modern theatre.

Music is an integral part of school life. All girls are given the opportunity to make music, learn an instrument and take part in the various musical activities on offer. Young children love to make music and enjoyment can be found in Orchestra, Choir, Brass and French Horn Group, String Ensemble, Flute Group, Guitar Group and Jazz Ensemble. Visiting music teachers tutor the girls in piano, violin, cello, guitar, flute, clarinet, trumpet, singing, horn, French horn, trombone, cornet and saxophone. Tuition in Music Theory is also available. Musical achievement is of a very high standard and many girls complete the Royal School of Music exams.

“Aren't the girls amazing!
Their confidence, professionalism and high standards are so impressive and unusual. I think Holy Cross is one of the most nurturing and supportive schools I've seen that allows girls to grow and mature and gain in confidence and have fun!”

Visiting music teacher,
June 2015



Sport - healthy heart, healthy mind

Sport plays an important part in school life. A healthy heart supports a healthy mind and we aspire for our girls to be fit, all very achievable with eight acres of space and exceptional on-site sporting facilities just for our prep girls.

The sports hall is the size of an indoor netball court providing PE lessons in all weather conditions and the specialised wooden floor lends itself to gymnastics and dance. Three outdoor courts facilitate netball and tennis while our large on-site sports field is marked up with games pitches in the winter and an athletics track and rounders pitches in the summer. The long jump pit is a firm favourite for jumping and the 50 metre straight enables girls to run with speed. The rural grounds allow the older girls to practise their cross-country skills.

The Sports Department has a policy of 'Sports for All with Excellence', developing physical skills and fitness so each and every girl can do her personal best and learn to work

as part of a team. With excellent facilities and a dedicated team of PE staff with a variety of different coaching skills, the girls participate in a wide range of sports. A broad, balanced PE programme develops girls' skills in gymnastics, dance, netball, hockey, tennis, cross-country, rounders and athletics. Swimming is taught at a local pool.

In addition there is a large extra-curricular sports programme whereby every girl represents her school in matches. The girls partake in an extensive calendar of fixtures and tournaments. For instance, in 2015/16 the junior girls played over 150 matches against other schools (and won or drew an incredible 77% of them). The school is renowned for sporting success in netball, hockey, cross-country and rounders at local, county, regional and national level.

Gymnastics, Dance,
Fundamental Sports'
Skills, Netball, Hockey,
Tennis, Cross-country,
Rounders, Swimming
and Athletics.

In 2016, the Under 11's
finished 6th nationally
in the IAPS Hockey
and won the Small
Schools' Tournaments
in hockey, in netball and
in rounders.



Extra curriculum - a world of opportunities

Strategic moves in chess, classical ballet, playing Brahms symphony in our 50 strong orchestra, Quicksticks, hockey, exchanging views in debating, mastering baking with the mini-chefs or growing greens in gardening club – Holy Cross offers an extensive extra-curricular programme available before school, at lunchtime and after school.

The programme is carefully managed and changes on a regular basis to inspire girls to explore new avenues of interest or pursue their favourite hobbies. In addition, there is an extensive range of sports clubs and musical activities on offer through the Sport and Music Departments. There is always much to engage eager young minds and bodies – smiles are in abundance.

Girls have the opportunity to start early and stay late. After-School Club provides our girls with the opportunity for light tea, whilst they complete homework, physical or creative activities.

During the holidays the school's activity camp provider runs a popular activity camp for children aged 4-12. The School offers older girls the opportunity to challenge their mental and physical skills at the PGL activity camp: abseiling down a 30 metre wall; building floating rafts from canisters; getting a team to the top of Jacob's Ladder - all activities offer thrills, challenges and adventure, building confidence, determination and self-belief.

Art, Ballet
Chess, Cookery
Debating, Drama
DT, Golf
Hip-Hop, Judo
Mini Engineers
Playball, Pottery
Science Academy
Scribblers
Smarty Arties
Simply Sewing
Quiz Club, Yoga
Zippy Fingers



Learning in God's love

Holy Cross is a warm welcoming school, well renowned for its sense of family and excellent pastoral care. With a Catholic foundation the School's mission is to provide a Christian education in which the worship of God, gospel values, a knowledge and respect for other faiths and sensitivity towards others are central to school life.

In the spirit of St Francis, the School is a caring community which strives to enable each person to realise their full potential and works in partnership with parents, teachers and children to develop the God-given gifts and talents of each person. The School is inclusive and welcomes all faiths into its community.

Although class teachers are primarily responsible for the pastoral care of their girls, the School works in a holistic way with all staff supporting girls with care and sensitivity when they feel challenged by the demands in their lives. The Holy Cross Way gives pupils a guide to a life where they are considerate to others and God's beautiful world.

Older girls complete a mindfulness course to equip them with the understanding and skills to recognise and negotiate the complexity of the demands of today's modern world in a positive, reflective and controlled way.

The Holy Cross Way

A Holy Cross girl follows God's path by....

- Putting others before herself.
- Doing her best at all times.
- Respecting others and their property.
- Wearing her school uniform with pride.
- Being a caring, loyal friend in every way.
- Greeting everyone with a smile.
- Endeavouring to participate in school activities.
- Being honest but always speaking the kind truth.
- Being a Holy Cross girl wherever she is and in everything she does.

Love

Kindness, Patience

Compassion

Forgiveness

Empathy, Honesty

Reflection

Resilience

Perseverance

Loyalty

Respect, Courtesy

Friendship

Self-belief



First steps at school

Ready with shiny shoes, smart tartan pinafores and fresh smiling faces, the first day at school for Reception girls is September in the year following their fourth birthday.

Reception girls are taught in two modern, purpose-built classrooms which lead out to their own spacious outdoor learning area, where they can run, explore, plant seeds and be imaginative on their very own HMS Holy Cross ship, play house and climbing equipment. Learning is child-centred with a focus on developing the three characteristics of effective learning: playing and exploring; active learning; as well as creating and thinking critically.

On arrival at the start of the year, the Reception girls are welcomed to school by their 'big girl' buddy from Year 6. The older girls act like a big sister, there to support the new Reception girls in their first few weeks. This relationship is encouraged to grow and flourish throughout the year

as girls accompany one another on school outings and at events.

The class teacher and teaching assistants encourage the reception girls to become independent creative thinkers following the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum.

Holy Cross Prep is a high achieving school where pupils make quick progress. "Outcomes for all children are outstanding" was the Independent Schools Inspectorate assessment in 2010 and the School was subsequently granted exemption from the learning and development requirements of the EYFS framework for children aged 3-5, by the DfE 2013. This allows the school freedom to exercise its professional judgement in implementing a curriculum with teaching strategies that are best suited to the needs of our bright, eager young learners. It also enables the girls to be taught and extended by specialist teachers and access part of the Year 1 curriculum early.

"Holy Cross just consistently exceeds my expectations. At every interaction with the school and its girls I am delighted and wowed."

Reception Parent, 2016



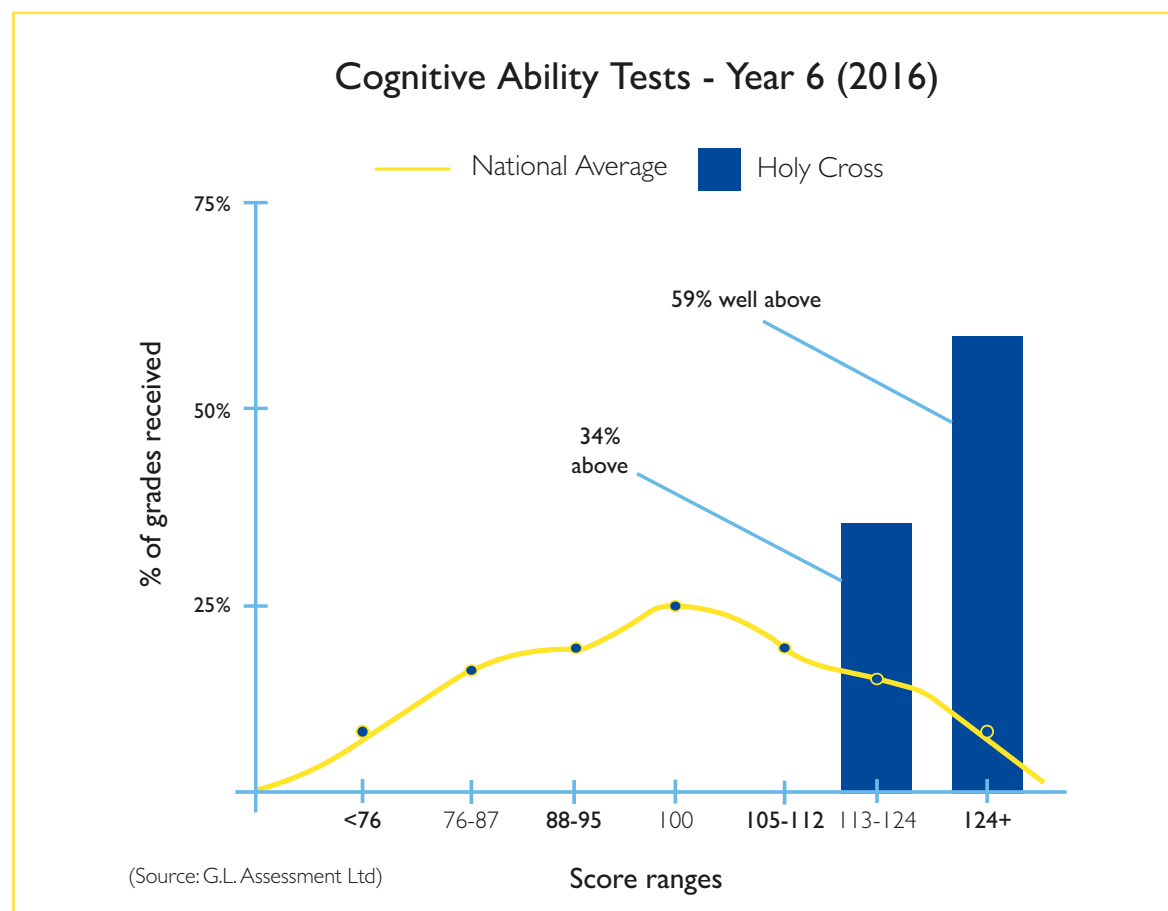
Achieving academic success

Academic standards at Holy Cross are high and girls achieve well above the national average. With a nurturing, supportive ethos and excellent teaching, our highly motivated girls are capable risk-takers and independent thinkers, diligently moving their learning forward and becoming confident at acquiring new knowledge and skills.

Girls may be identified as needing some extra support at some point during their school career. We can also support pupils with a range of mild to moderate speech and language difficulties if needed.

The School has impressive academic results. In the national SATs (Standardised Assessment Tests) it was ranked in the top 13 schools nationally in the four school years 2011 to 2014. This included a ranking of 5th nationally in 2014 and 2nd nationally in 2013*.

This academic success not only enables access to highly selective senior schools, it also offers opportunities for academic scholarships as reflected in the large number awarded to Holy Cross girls. For example, in the school years 2014 to 2016 at least 1 in 4 girls were awarded an academic scholarship to senior schools.





Eight glorious acres

Holy Cross is located on the private Coombe Estate and is accessible from Coombe Lane West or Kingston Hill. Kingston, Wimbledon, Surbiton, and the areas surrounding Richmond Park are all within easy travelling distance.

The school is privileged to enjoy extraordinarily large 8-acre grounds this close to London, where the girls have all the space they need to learn, explore, reflect, play and participate in sport on-site. Parking is readily available.





Scale
20 metres

Plan of School Grounds

Fabulous facilities

As well as the modern classrooms for each form (all equipped with interactive whiteboards and a secure, managed Wi-Fi system for mini laptops and iPads) there are specialist classrooms for art, computing, cookery, design technology, French, music, and science.

The Coombe Ridge Performing Arts and Sports Hall provides superb indoor sports facilities throughout the day. Multi-functional, the hall quickly converts into two soundproofed smaller halls for PE/drama and dining, or into a large performing arts auditorium incorporating a curtain-theatre and tiered seating for performances in front of an audience of 284 people. Outdoor sports facilities include three hard courts for netball or tennis, a large field for games and an athletics track in the summer.

The extensive, leafy and picturesque grounds include a large play area with a small village, willow pods, trim trail and a woodland climbing challenge complete with a tree house. There are designated habitats for environmental study including a mini-beast area, woodland walk, meadow, ponds and planting beds for gardening.





Catering - feeding the body & mind

Our award winning catering team provide a varied, nutritious and healthy lunch. With bread baked fresh on the school premises every day, a salad bar and a 3-week revolving menu created by a nutritionist, there is always plenty to choose from...and always lots going on, from sausage or pasta making demonstrations to theme days with our chefs in fancy dress.

Girls are encouraged to taste and try new foods as well as seasonal fruits and vegetables, developing their young palates and teaching them to enjoy the pleasure of food as a social occasion with good manners and conversation.

All food is freshly prepared and cooked on site and all diets are catered for.

For further information regarding dietary requirements please contact the school.





Friends & family

A warm Holy Cross welcome awaits every family and we are proud of our strong relationships with past and present pupils, parents and the local community.

Our parents association, The Friends of Holy Cross (FOHC), organises fun activities and events for the girls and their families throughout the year. From festive shopping at the FOHC Christmas Fair and the Dads' and Daughters' Camp Night in the school grounds, to the themed Summer Ball for parents and friends; all events raise funds for the School and good causes while friends and families have lots of fun along the way.

The School has many links with the local community including St. Ann's Church and Parish, the Coombe Schools, Southwark Diocese, local homes for the elderly and various charities.

Our Alumni Association keeps old girls and their families in contact with one another and the regular meet up has

become a popular social event. Once a Holy Cross girl always a Holy Cross girl!



Lifelong friendships

Social events

Fun for all the family

Quiz Nights

Christmas Fair

Festival of Sport

Infant Movie Night

Race Night

Camp Night

Girls' Disco

Summer Ball



Where next...

Holy Cross provides each girl with an outstanding start in life and by the time they leave us, Year 6 girls are confident, gracious, highly motivated young ladies who academically achieve well above the national average, and tend to excel in music, drama and/or sport.

At 11 they are ready to move to the next exciting step in their education, a new adventure at senior school and there are many schools to choose from.

Holy Cross girls leave us well prepared and go onto a range of destinations, including the local selective independent day schools (11+), grammar schools (11+) and boarding schools (CE 11+).

We support pupils and parents in preparing for, selecting and securing the best senior school suitable for each girl. Girls are well prepared in school, for exams, interviews and scholarship tests at various schools and parents are guided through the choices available. Each year the gifts

and talents of our Year 6 girls are consistently recognised by senior schools, as demonstrated by the outstanding number of scholarships awarded.

Scholarships

- 2016 - 28 scholarships
(8 academic, 8 music, 8 sport, 2 drama, 1 all-round, 1 art)
- 2015 - 36 scholarships
(16 academic, 15 music, 2 English, 3 sport)
- 2014 - 32 scholarships
(16 academic, 7 sport, 6 music, 1 drama, 1 art, 1 art & drama)

“Her formative years
at Holy Cross have
been without question
the best building blocks
to the rest of her life”

Year 6 Parent 2015



Visiting Holy Cross

Visits to the school are encouraged and we look forward to welcoming you here. Please contact the school office to make an appointment and for further information please visit the school website.

020 8942 0729

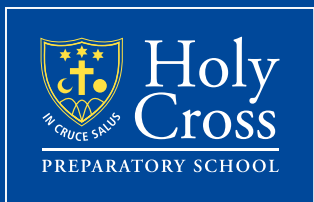
admissions@holycrossprep.com

www.holycrossprepschool.co.uk





"I like the friendliness and its welcoming spirit...I like how all the teachers and staff always make lessons fun and enjoyable as well as teaching interesting things. I also love how everyone is joyful to be with, it feels like a second home."



THE SUNDAY TIMES
**Prep School
of the Year
2013-14**

Holy Cross Prep School is owned by the Sisters of the Holy Cross. The School opened in 1952 adapting Coombe Ridge House, originally built by the Galsworthy Family in 1873.

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