



The  
Holmewood  
School

# Think Differently



# Discover.

## A warm welcome

The Holmewood School, London, is a warm and friendly school for students with high-functioning autism, Asperger's Syndrome and other language, communication and social pragmatic difficulties.

Our philosophy is founded on a desire to make a difference and to challenge the way all members of our community think about autism.

We ensure our young people get every opportunity to achieve their full potential in life and this commitment is an intrinsic part of our philosophy and at the heart of everything we do.

We recognise that every child is different and, in addition to academic achievement, our focus is firmly on social, emotional and personal development. This is supported by strengthening independence and life skills, which are key to building confidence and self-esteem.

We are immensely proud of our school and we are excited and committed to its continuing success.

**Lisa Camilleri**  
Head Teacher



## Key facts

- > Age 7 to 19 years
- > Girls and boys
- > Day school
- > Two sites, both within each reach and with good transport links
- > Average of 6 students per class
- > Wide ranging therapy services
- > Specialist teaching
- > Accredited Forest School
- > NAS accreditation



# Our approach



Students, most of whom have been unsuccessful in mainstream settings, become more confident learners than previously. They achieve well and make outstanding progress in personal development.

Ofsted

The Holmewood School is a diverse and inclusive community of excellence, creating ambitious learners ready to lead confident, independent and happy lives.

## Our aims

- > To inspire a love for learning;
- > To encourage belonging and inclusivity in the community;
- > To provide a relevant yet creative curriculum for each learner;
- > To develop value and self-worth in our young people;
- > To nurture independent learners and thinkers.

With your help, we aim to truly understand what makes your child the person they are.

We will develop an individualised programme, which reflects your child's needs and abilities, and enables them to flourish by encouraging and building upon their unique strengths and interests.

## Our core values

### Acceptance:

We appreciate who we are, who others are, and we live together in peace.

### Self-determination:

We know that hard work is worthwhile and gives us joy and satisfaction.

### Positivity:

We are positive about life's challenges and rise up to them.

### Integrity:

We are honest. We do what is right because it is right.

### Respect:

We are kind and supportive to ourselves and each other.

### Excellence:

We work hard and we do our best every day.

Our whole-school focus on celebrating student achievement is reflected in our approach to positive behaviour and rewards.

My son is a changed happy boy since he started at the school and is really beginning to know himself.

Parent

# Personalised learning

## Primary School

In the primary classes we have a strong focus on the core areas of Literacy, Maths, Science, PSHE and ICT, complemented by integrated teaching of foundation subjects such as Humanities, RE, Art & Design, PE and Music.

Learning is planned with the individual child in mind; it is differentiated according to their needs and there is a strong emphasis on intervention work with support from Speech & Language and Occupational Therapy.

Social skills are at the core of our teaching so that students are supported with developing friendships, having positive interactions and developing their self-image and self-confidence.

## Secondary School

In the secondary classes we follow a broader curriculum, which includes Drama, DT, Food Technology, as well as opportunities to pursue a language course.

Subjects are delivered by subject-specific teachers and learners are organised into groups to suit their ability. Our programme encourages students to undertake external exams (including GCSE) covering both academic and vocational routes.

We promote the enjoyment and achievement of our learners by drawing on the expertise and facilities of the wider community to support our curriculum.

## Sixth Form

Our Sixth Form students will follow a bespoke programme tailored to their long-term goals and ambitions. We support a range of courses that develop interests and skills and provide career-related work experiences and qualifications.

We aim for up to 50% of a students' learning to take place in local community settings, such as colleges, where students are also able to access Advanced Level qualifications.

At this stage, there is a continued emphasis on developing and enhancing life skills in preparation for leading independent adult lives.

Specialist teaching for all learning styles



# Learning beyond the classroom

The curriculum is enhanced through off-site educational visits, Forest School education, the provision of community-based work experience and valuable enrichment and developmental programmes.

I enjoyed lighting fires and unleashing my inner adventurer! Forest school is a wonderful experience and you can learn valuable skills.

Pupil

## Independent Living Skills

Learning is real, meaningful and useful for our students. Skills such as cooking, travelling, personal safety awareness and budgeting link strongly with our citizenship and social skills curriculums and help students develop a connection to the world around them.

## Social Skills

Social thinking plays a vital role in the development of rounded and confident individuals, and is considered to be as important as academic achievement.

We focus on self-advocacy, self-esteem, relationships and social interactions, which are essential skills for our students to lead happy and fulfilled lives.

## Forest School & Farm

Our school is a registered Forest School and students have the opportunity to take part in weekly sessions where they learn practical skills including shelter building, fire lighting, making camp fires and using tools in order to nurture creativity and curiosity.

Through the Forest Schools curriculum students learn to push themselves out of their comfort zone, both physically and emotionally, without a fear of failure.

Every student also has the opportunity to practice animal care and horticultural skills at the farm. Visits to the farm focus on social and emotional development as well as practical activities.

Giving the students ownership of their learning helps to make the experience relevant and enjoyable. Most importantly, it offers a fun and engaging alternative for learning outdoors, recreation and socialising.



# Our team

Every student has access to a highly-skilled and qualified team of professionals who work together to ensure they have a learning programme tailored to their specific needs.



Families are offered the support and advice they need to feel confident and informed about their child's needs and future prospects and our multidisciplinary team can provide specific programmes that can be continued at home.

The School benefits from a unique Sensory Integration clinic which is integrated throughout the school day and offers access to a full time Occupational Therapist and OT assistant; helping to develop fine and gross motor skills, undertaking assessments and reports and providing guidance on self-help skills, equipment needs and support devices.

#### We also provide:

- > Speech and language therapy;
- > Music therapy;
- > Psychotherapy;
- > Dramatherapy;
- > Lego therapy;
- > Reflexology.

Our senior leadership team includes a Head of Welfare and Behaviour who provides an essential link between school and home, and a Lead Autism Teacher who ensures continuity of practice throughout the school and develops our vital links with the community.

If you think The Holmewood School might be the right place for your child, please do arrange to visit and have a look round. Our staff will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

As part of our admissions process we will request to see copies of recent reports, a statement of special educational needs or EHC Plan, plus other professional and diagnostic reports. We will also arrange assessment visits for your child if appropriate.

In the case of a Local Authority-funded placement, it will be necessary for the Local Authority to be involved in this process.

Enrolment is year-round meaning we welcome students at any point in the academic year.

Please contact the Admissions Team  
+44 (0)20 8920 0669  
email [enquiries@thsl.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@thsl.org.uk)

## Admissions

**THE HOLMEWOOD SCHOOL**

A PART OF THE CAVENDISH EDUCATION GROUP



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