

# Academic Excellence at Croydon High School



Croydon High School

*for girls aged 3-18*

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GDST  
GIRLS' DAY SCHOOL TRUST



*A place of inspiration*







# Academic Excellence at Croydon High School

*Creative and independent problem solvers  
with excellent communication skills*

The GDST's founding aim was that their schools should be 'places not only of instruction but of education in the true sense of the word, which provide a training of the individual girl by the development of her mental and moral faculties'.

This broad view of education and of the value of the individual is captured in our 'every girl, every day' mantra, which colours each pupil's holistic experience of our school.

We place creativity, innovation, problem solving and independence as the four cornerstones of our approach to excellent teaching and learning.

Our curriculum, which balances knowledge and skills in equal measure, seeks to foster a love of academic scholarship and ambition, not just for success for public examinations, but for its own sake, too.

As we help shape the next generation of leaders in our society, we prepare each girl to become confident and engaged, compassionate and ambitious. This approach ensures that all pupils—regardless of their starting points— are given every opportunity to fulfil their academic potential.









# Promoting Scholarship for All

Croydon High's Academic Scholars are a small number of girls who show exceptional potential for future academic study.

However, given the strong academic potential of every single girl at Croydon High, the vast array of opportunities to develop and enhance interest, knowledge and skills in different areas of our curriculum and enrichment programme is open to all; our programme is not exclusive. Whether or not a pupil is a 'scholar' in a particular area, they will be encouraged to develop their interests and talents both in the classroom and beyond. Our scholarship programmes ensure each pupil models excellence for their peers as they become leaders in their respective areas.

Building on our highly successful Altitudo programme for very able girls in the Junior School, the Sapientia and Consilium programmes are for the Lower School (Years 7-9) and Upper School (Years 10-Upper Sixth), respectively. Mentoring and coaching is placed at the heart of these programmes and we look to our staff, senior girls and our extensive Croydon High and GDST network of alumnae and parents for support to both inspire and develop our girls.

Recently, we teamed up with Whitgift School to provide a weekly lecture series which offers pupils the chance to hear from an impressive roster of speakers drawn from a wide variety of careers and backgrounds. From eminent legal thinkers, to people at the vanguard of the emerging technology industries, and composers of West End theatre, there really is something for every girl to take away from this lecture series.











*“Look deep into nature and you will understand everything better.”*

Albert Einstein



# Sapientia and Consilium

The Sapientia Programme – building a strong foundation for future academic excellence

Meaning ‘wisdom is the fountain of knowledge’, our Sapientia fons Vitae programme begins with a day of activities in a pupil’s final term of Year 6, before they join us.

An array of challenging activities provide our new scholars with a taste of the school and of our distinctive pupil-centric approach to academic scholarship.

Academic Scholars also have the opportunity to attend challenging lectures and workshops which punctuate the academic year. These sessions are delivered by both our teaching staff and specialist visiting speakers. This year included sessions such as Opera and Gender Identity, The Only Way is Ethics, The Poetry of Baudelaire and Stem and Showbiz, to name but a few.

Within the classroom, academic scholars are repeatedly stretched and challenged with a rich diet of differentiated activities. Every scholar is supported to meet the very highest standards in their particular fields by teachers who are at the forefront of their subject disciplines. We expect our academic scholars to play a pivotal role in our subject-specific clubs and activities.

WHITGIFT	
ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT PROGRAMME	
Friday 6 September Concert Hall, 4.00-5.00pm	Upper School Academic Enrichment: PRISM – ‘Space’
Thursday 19 September Concert Hall, 4.00-5.00pm	Academic Enrichment: Kevin Zuchowski-Morrison, ‘Is Street Art Real Art?’
Friday 27 September Concert Hall, 4.00-5.00pm	Academic Enrichment: Dr David Mitchell, ‘Making the Case for the Humanities’
Friday 4 October Concert Hall, 4.00-5.00pm	Lower School Academic Enrichment: PRISM – ‘Space’
Friday 11 October Concert Hall, 4.00-5.00pm	Academic Enrichment: Professor Meric Srokosz, ‘What will happy the day after tomorrow: the Ocean and Climate Change’
Friday 18 October Concert Hall, 4.00-5.00pm	Academic Enrichment: Vicky Featherstone
Friday 8 November Concert Hall, 4.00-5.00pm	Academic Enrichment: Derek Redmond, ‘Dealing with Adversity’
Friday 15 November Concert Hall, 4.00-5.00pm	Lower School Academic Enrichment: PRISM – ‘Enlightenment’
Friday 22 November Concert Hall, 4.00-5.00pm	Upper School Academic Enrichment: PRISM – ‘Enlightenment’
Friday 29 November Concert Hall, 4.00-5.00pm	Academic Enrichment: Professor Richard Harvey, ‘Creativity: Can Com
Friday 6 December Concert Hall, 4.00-5.00pm	Academic Enrichment: William Butler Yeats

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Date	Sapientia (7-9)	Consilium (10-13)	Speaker	Topic/ Title
16th January		✓	Toby Marlow	Writer of ‘Six’ Q & A
23rd January	✓	✓	Dr. Purvis	Gender Identity & Opera
30th January	✓	✓	John Levy	An introduction to the conflict in the Middle East
6th February	✓	✓	Zena Birch	What is Love? A Humanist Perspective
13th February	✓	✓	Mr. Gadd	Art/ Naturalism
HALF TERM				
27th February		✓	Mr Pickering	Film Noir
5th March		✓	Jacob Thorpe	Thursdays are a drag: A history of the art of drag
12th March		✓	Paula Redmond	Clinical Psychology (Stereotypes)
19th March	✓		Diverse Histories	Diverse Histories
26th March	✓	✓	Atiya and Hameeda (REP PGCE students)	An introduction to Jamaeli Islam
EVERY GIRL - EVERY DAY				
<div> <div> <b>Juniors</b> Tel: 020 8240 7508 Email: juniors@everygirl.net </div> <div> <b>Seniors &amp; Sixth Form</b> Tel: 020 8240 7500 Email: seniors@everygirl.net </div> </div> <div> <b>GDST</b>  <small>Girls' Day School Trust is a Limited Company Registered in England No. 4485 Registered Charity No. 1059766. Registered Office: 17 Riverside Place, London SE10 2DZ</small> </div>				



Rosemary, pictured here won a recent competition organised by Whitgift School for her essay on Space Medicine.



# The Consilium Programme – harnessing the power of our network

Many of our girls go on to prepare applications for the universities of Oxford and Cambridge, some decide to study at prestigious universities abroad and others choose an apprenticeship route, which typically offers valuable work experience and sponsorship through a degree course. All of these routes are highly ambitious and competitive; preparation therefore begins well before Sixth Form and our Consilium programme ensures they receive the very best preparation possible.

From the beginning of Year 10, all girls are encouraged to identify their strengths and begin to understand how to build upon these in preparation for the future. Mentoring plays an important role firstly in helping girls set themselves ambitious and stretching targets for the future and given the necessary support to help realise them.

Within the classroom, academic scholars are repeatedly stretched and challenged with a rich diet of differentiated activities. Every academic scholar is supported to meet the very highest standards in their particular fields by teachers who are at the forefront of their subject disciplines. We expect our academic scholars to play a pivotal role in our subject-specific clubs and activities.













# The Pathways Mentoring Programme

This programme is a unique offering for Croydon High Sixth Form students, providing personalised mentoring that helps them explore and then maximise their career opportunities.

Pathways mentoring is about the girls being more self-aware, taking responsibility and directing their lives in the direction they choose.

Girls join one of a number of Pathways groups; some are focussed on a specific career path such as Law or Medicine, others are broader such as STEM or Creative Arts, and others more exploratory such as the Open Pathway designed for students interested in a number of different career options.

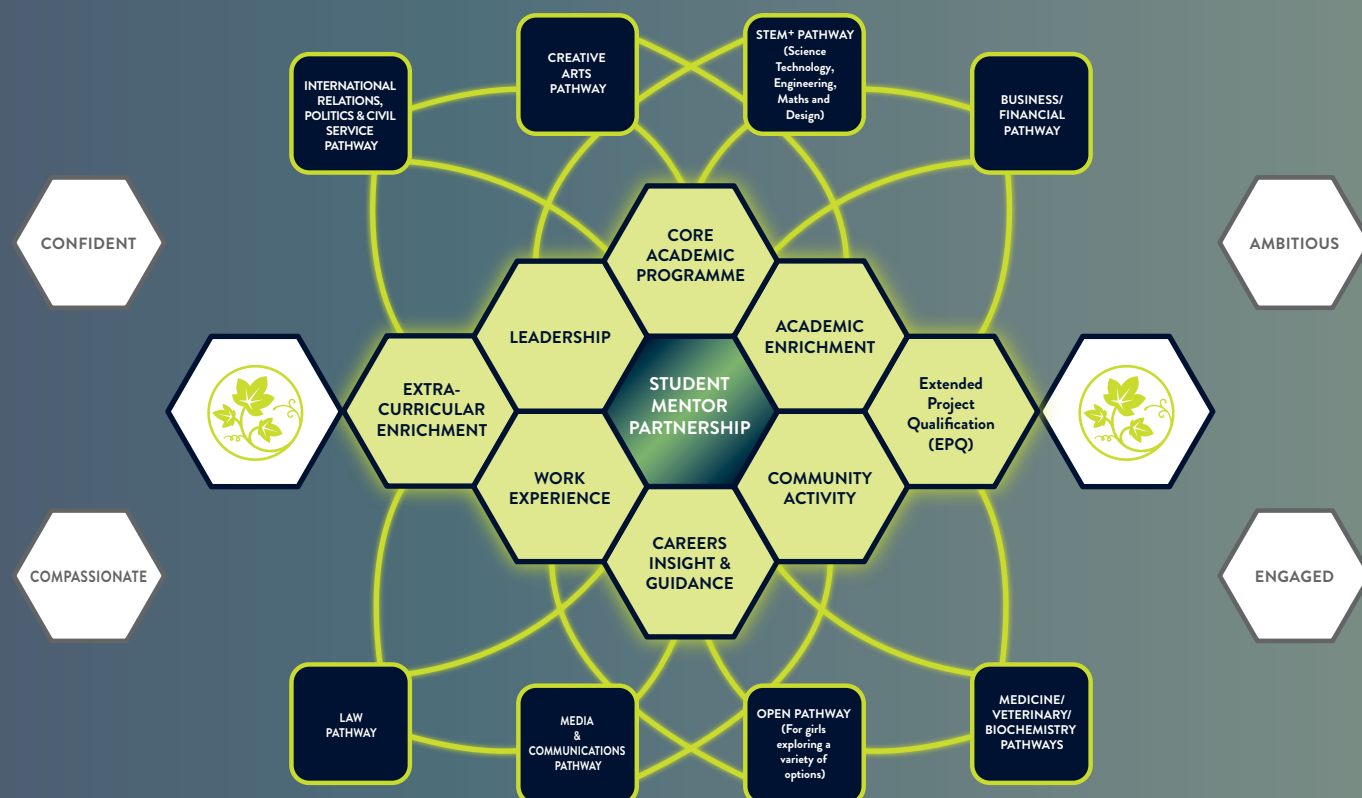
These groups are led by staff who have invaluable experience in their specific subject areas and provide exceptional personal support for each girl in regular mentoring sessions.

In addition to these sessions, Pathway Careers Professionals (PCPs) linked to each group, offer career guidance through group mentoring, email communication, visits to workplaces and networking opportunities.

Many PCPs come from our invaluable alumnae network and include barristers, scientists, medics and those involved in creative professions.

They say it's not what you know, it's who you know, but in reality of course it is actually both.

The Pathways Mentoring Programme combines both, providing our sixth formers with an enviable springboard in to life after school.





# Nurturing ambition to aim high

During Years 7-11, guest speakers, including academic staff from Oxford and Cambridge and members of our Ivy Link network of former pupils, inform and inspire on the distinctive features and merits of study at Oxford and Cambridge.

Our annual school visits for Year 10 students to these Universities gives a real taste of their unique atmosphere. It is a wonderful opportunity to tour facilities and to meet up with former Croydon High students currently studying as undergraduates.

One of the goals of the Consilium Scholars Programme is to ensure that our older students receive the very best practical preparation and inspiration for the next stage of their educational journey.

It is not an Oxbridge programme per se, but all of our likely Oxbridge applicants will be involved in this vibrant programme which stimulates and develops their intellectual curiosity and ambition.

Students are also involved in debating and MUN events, to help them to form and express opinions, and to develop confidence and mental dexterity.

Careful advice is offered to Y11 students on A-level subject choices and combinations, taking into consideration Oxbridge or other top University ambitions.

While Oxbridge may not suit everyone, it is more accessible than many students imagine. The admissions process is competitive, but often the hardest step on the journey is visualising being part of these communities – and believing that entry is possible.

At Croydon High we work hard to develop the crucial self-belief and high aspirations that will take the girls anywhere they want to go.





# Academic Scholarships

Croydon High offers a limited number of academic scholarships for entry at Year 7, Year 9 and in the Sixth Form.

These are awarded on the basis of academic excellence.

We also award a very limited number of bursaries, offering financial assistance with fees for girls entering Year 7 or Sixth Form. These are awarded on the basis of academic excellence combined with financial need.

All applications for bursaries will be means tested and assessed by the Bursary team at the GDST's Head Office.

## Academic Scholarships for Year 7 Entry

This are awarded on the basis of performance in the Entrance Test

## Academic Plus Scholarships for Year 9 Entry

This will be awarded to applicants from external schools who apply for academic scholarship and assessment in: Art & Design, Music, Drama or Sport.

## Sixth Form Scholarships

There is a competitive Academic Scholarship examination for Year 11, which is open to both internal and external candidates.

