

# *Growing up* 7+ Entry



Croydon High School

*for girls aged 3-18*

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GDST  
GIRLS' DAY SCHOOL TRUST

# Growing up

Seven year olds are innate explorers, scientists and analysts. As they enter the 'Concrete Operational' stage of cognitive development around this time, they become increasingly capable of applying what they have learnt to a greater range of contexts. In our society, this is also the age where girls can begin to believe that boys are brighter or more capable. For girls, being educated in a single-sex environment, means that they are more likely to take risks with their learning without fear of failure.

By the age of seven a child's emotional maturity has taken a leap forward and they are better placed to cope with transitions and changes to their routine. Conversely though, their growing awareness of the world around them can lead to some feelings of insecurity. To counter this, it is vital that they are in a comfortable and nurturing environment, where they can meet with success and have the support necessary to develop resilience when things are more challenging.



# Confident

## SMALL CLASS SIZES LET EACH GIRL BE AN INDIVIDUAL

Average class sizes in Year 3-6 are in the low to mid twenties which we find works perfectly. With two classes in each year group, we are also able to combine the classes for activities where 'the more the merrier' such as competitive sport or singing as a choir.

## PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES BUILD THEIR CONFIDENCE

Through performance girls develop the skills of presentation, learning how to use body and voice to communicate their message as well as developing the ability to harness nerves rather than being overwhelmed by them.

Whether on the stage or in the boardroom, girls who grow up with regular opportunities to perform in front of a group or larger audience display more confidence in these situations. Just within Year 3, girls will have five formal occasions to perform to an audience.

## HEALTHY COMPETITION PREPARES GIRLS FOR REAL WORLD CHALLENGES

Competitive activities begin in Year 3. Sports trials, maths competitions, robotics tournaments, poetry declamation events and inter-house tournaments all feature in Years 3-6.

They learn how to win and lose with good grace, when to stand their ground and when to compromise or even concede.



Today I played a role...



We first met Lydia when she was 6 years old. Her parents were keen for her to be encouraged out of her shell. By the time Lydia was in Year 5 she had taken part in two Off by Heart poetry competitions, played a lost boy in Peter Pan and received a distinction in her latest singing exam.

In her own words "...before I started Croydon High I was scared I wouldn't make friends. Now I am one of the funniest girls in my class, I love telling jokes.

I never knew I would enjoy being on stage in front of people but now I am happy to show off my talents".

## HOUSE SYSTEM

Our four houses – Evans, Seacole, Garrett and Curie – all named after inspirational women, give girls a vertical community from Junior School right through to Sixth Form. Girls are able to contribute to their houses by gaining house points, entering competitions and playing in inter house fixtures. Houses also teach democracy. In the first few weeks of Year 6 all girls write a manifesto explaining why they believe they would make a good House Captain.

They then deliver these speeches to the rest of their house and the whole Junior School vote in a secret ballot to elect their captains. Senior House Captains from our Sixth Form come to Junior School to present badges to their junior counterparts.



## ROLE MODELS

With our Senior School on the same campus and a thriving Alumnae Network, our girls have plenty of role models. At our annual Careers in the Classroom events, we regularly welcome back old girls who are keen to share their successes with our girls and inspire the next generation. Sixth Form prefects volunteer in our Junior School library and in Ivy Club (our wrap around care) and our Year 6 girls have a 'playground duty rota' where they initiate games for the younger girls.

### Today I pitched my idea...



Amariah, Palak and Ameera from Year 4 were selected as finalists from dozens of schools for the PA Consulting Raspberry Pi competition. Their team name was Ivy Crusaders and the theme was sustainability. The girls designed a water flow meter to measure the amount of water used every time the tap is turned on.

Apart from presenting to the judges the girls had to explain their project to a number of guests and industry professionals. They 'wowed' everyone with their confidence and knowledge but what was most impressive was that they took into account everyone's feedback and developed their ideas on the go.

An idea for a simple 'flow meter' evolved into a 'smart flow meter' that would trigger an alarm and flashing red light if too much water was used!

# Compassionate



# Engaged

At Croydon High Juniors our girls are taught by specialists for subjects which we think require expert knowledge. The subjects we use specialists for are: Sport, Drama, Music, Enterprise Technology, Languages and Art. These specialist teachers only teach their chosen subject and have dedicated their careers to inspiring interest and progress in that area. Beyond the curriculum, our girls are encouraged to engage with a varied and busy extra-curricular programme. We offer clubs before school, at lunch and after school. This allows our girls to design a bespoke week around their set lessons which reflects their individual interests and talents.

## THE SOUND OF MUSIC



Girls in Years 2, 3 and 5 all learn an instrument, starting with recorder in Year 2. In Year 3, every girl learns either violin or 'cello, with lessons funded through a generous legacy left by a former music teacher.

Year 5's Band-on-the-Run allows all the girls to learn a wind or brass instrument. Girls playing instruments then join our Junior Orchestra.

## DESIGNING HER FUTURE

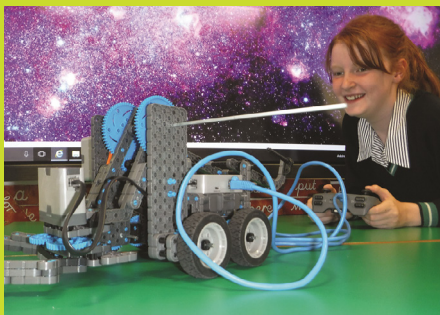
We believe tomorrow's trail blazers will be the designers of – not the users of – technology.

Our girls are introduced to the principles of coding and programming early. By the end of Year 3 they are able to write algorithms to create simple animations and manipulate robots by programming instructions. By Year 5 they understand the concept of designing for a purpose and are confidently able to harness technology to design and create interactive content. They can use sequence, select and repeat in programs, work with variables and experiment with various forms of input and output.



Our Year 6 girls are working on objectives that are normally found on a Senior School curriculum in Robotics, Computer Science and Business Studies. They also start writing more complex programs using Python.

Finally all girls in Year 6 participate in the Enterprise Challenge which is a creative project that involves combining multiple applications across a range of devices, to design and promote their business idea.



### Today I captured my own DNA...



At the GDST Junior Science Conference at the Royal Institute, Seanna learned that 50% of our DNA is the same as that of a banana and that only 0.1% of our DNA makes us unique.

She and the rest of Year 5 spent an incredible day extracting their own DNA in the L'Oréal lab, creating necklaces to take home that held a piece of their own DNA inside. Seanna even created her own personal chromosomes matching her individual characteristics.

Ava in Year 4 is part of our Altitude programme, designed to stretch our most able girls beyond the curriculum. She recently completed a project to identify and curate a collection of works to show the progression of Art.

She first identified the key movements that she felt to be particularly important and then went on to choose specific pieces of work, as well as justify her choices.

### Today I curated my first exhibition...



### Today I represented Team GB...



Sisters, Amelia and Francesca, together with Amber were all selected to represent Team GB in Biathlon.

### ALL GOOD SPORTS

Sport at Croydon High is all about discovery. Girls discover eight different sports in Year 3, quickly learning that there is more than one way to be 'sporty' at Croydon High.

We balance 'excellence in sport' with 'sport for all' in Juniors, with every girl playing in competitive fixtures for their House, attending training sessions outside lessons and tracking their personal progress.

With six netball and tennis courts, a full length swimming pool, all-weather hockey pitch, indoor sports hall, gymnasium and dance studio – girls have the opportunity to learn their chosen sports in first class facilities.

# Ambitious

# at Croydon High

## ENTRY INTO YEAR 3 AT CROYDON HIGH OPENS UP A WHOLE NEW WORLD OF POSSIBILITIES FOR GIRLS

On top of the academic basics taught by caring class teachers, our girls experience specialist teaching in Enterprise Technology, Drama, Languages, Music, Sport and Art. This is also a time for personal exploration as the girls are offered a wealth of extra-curricular activities from card games to coding and from Bollywood to blogging. As they explore new subjects, new sports and new hobbies they begin to develop their sense of personal identity.

Who are they? What makes them happy? What makes them special? This journey of self-discovery through Years 3-6 is crucial to their self-assured transition to secondary school four short years from now. As girls grow up, discover their strengths and weaknesses and experience success and setback, it is crucial that they are treated as individuals. Our expert staff team are there every step of the way to support, to guide, to challenge and to extend.



*It's about*  
**Every girl,**  
**Every day**



## TODAY I...VISITED CROYDON HIGH JUNIOR SCHOOL

The best way to decide if Croydon High is the right choice  
for your daughter is to visit us.

We recommend that you have a personal tour of the Junior School on  
a normal school day and meet our Head, Sarah Raja. This will allow you to see  
first-hand how girls learn in our unique atmosphere.

Please contact our Junior Admissions team to find out more or to book an appointment:

Call us on 020 8260 7508 or email [juniors@cry.gdst.net](mailto:juniors@cry.gdst.net)

7+ Entry – Key Dates for Admission in September 2022

7+ Entrance Test – Tuesday 8 March 2022

WE LOOK FORWARD TO MEETING YOU SOON



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