

FULHAM CROSS GIRLS' SCHOOL

PROSPECTUS

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EMPOWERING TOMORROW'S WOMEN



“The school is outstanding because it ensures outstanding achievement for all students and strives constantly to provide the best possible care and education for each individual...students are exceptionally well prepared for the future.”



An Outstanding Girls' School

Fulham Cross Girls' School is an outstanding school, consistently in the top two percent nationally for the progress that our students make. However, if you ask any member of the school community they will tell you that it is so much more than that. It is a truly exceptional school that changes girls' lives through our commitment to Empowering Tomorrow's Women.

Fulham Cross is a school of great heart where diversity is celebrated and girls take care of each other so that they can flourish in a supportive environment and achieve their full potential. Our families share our commitment to ensuring that the girls are independent and make choices with integrity and intelligence whilst our staff believe that our students deserve the best. We demand this of everyone who joins our school community.

We believe that every young woman should be empowered to be bold, brave and ready to overcome the challenges that girls and women face to succeed in today's society. We are passionate about providing a route into a successful, rich and interesting future through education.

Fulham Cross Girls' School embodies a united school standing together for what we believe in, and this is how we Empower Tomorrow's Women. Our students achieve outstanding results in their GCSE examinations, preparing them for the challenge of further and higher education at some of the country's most prestigious sixth forms and universities. Our great strength lies in ensuring that all girls are challenged to achieve beyond expectations and the progress made by all our students, whatever their starting point in Year 7, is truly exceptional. Shortlisted for 3 years running from 2016 to 2018 for TES Secondary School of the Year, Fulham Cross Girls' School continues to demonstrate that a first rate, girls' only education is life changing and we expect our students to



share our vision and rise to the challenge.

We also believe that, in order to succeed, our students need to feel safe, happy, enthused and excited. As a small, friendly school we are able to ensure that we know our girls well and we provide "outstanding care, guidance and support, together with an innovative curriculum" (OFSTED, 2009). Our girls have a range of opportunities to develop personally and socially, alongside their academic studies, to ensure that they leave Fulham Cross fully equipped to face any challenges that may come their way. We are currently in the process of developing state of the art facilities to enhance our offer in science and physical education - it's a great time to be a Fulham Cross Girls' School student - come and join our success!

Denise Fox MA NPQH Headteacher,
Fulham Cross Girls' School



A high quality curriculum delivered by well qualified expert teachers

“Staff teams work closely together, and with students and their parents, to create a supportive, inclusive and caring learning community that motivates each student according to her individual needs and preferences”



Many schools fit their students into a set curriculum. Fulham Cross Girls' School takes a different approach to ensure that all our students are challenged and supported to achieve beyond expectations. With mixed ability teaching in all subjects until Year 9, when students are taught in sets for maths and science, we are able to ensure that the most able students are stretched, whilst those needing support can receive this through our outstanding personalisation programme. Our track record speaks for itself in demonstrating that this is the right approach to ensure success for all.

Our students study a broad and balanced range of subjects, meticulously planned by well qualified teachers to ensure that the girls acquire the knowledge and skills they require to succeed. Alongside the core subjects, English, Mathematics and Science, our students enjoy a range of subjects within the humanities, the creative arts and Modern Foreign Languages, where we have state of the art facilities providing

the right environment for girls to work towards GCSEs in a range of languages. Our computer science course is new and innovative with students working on higher level computing skills from Year 7 onwards, whilst subjects including Food and Nutrition and Product Design allow students to develop their practical skills within a workshop environment. Religious Studies allows our students to gain a broad understanding of all faiths, preparing them for life in a rich and diverse society. Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PSHEE) also helps to prepare our girls to make well informed choices about their wellbeing

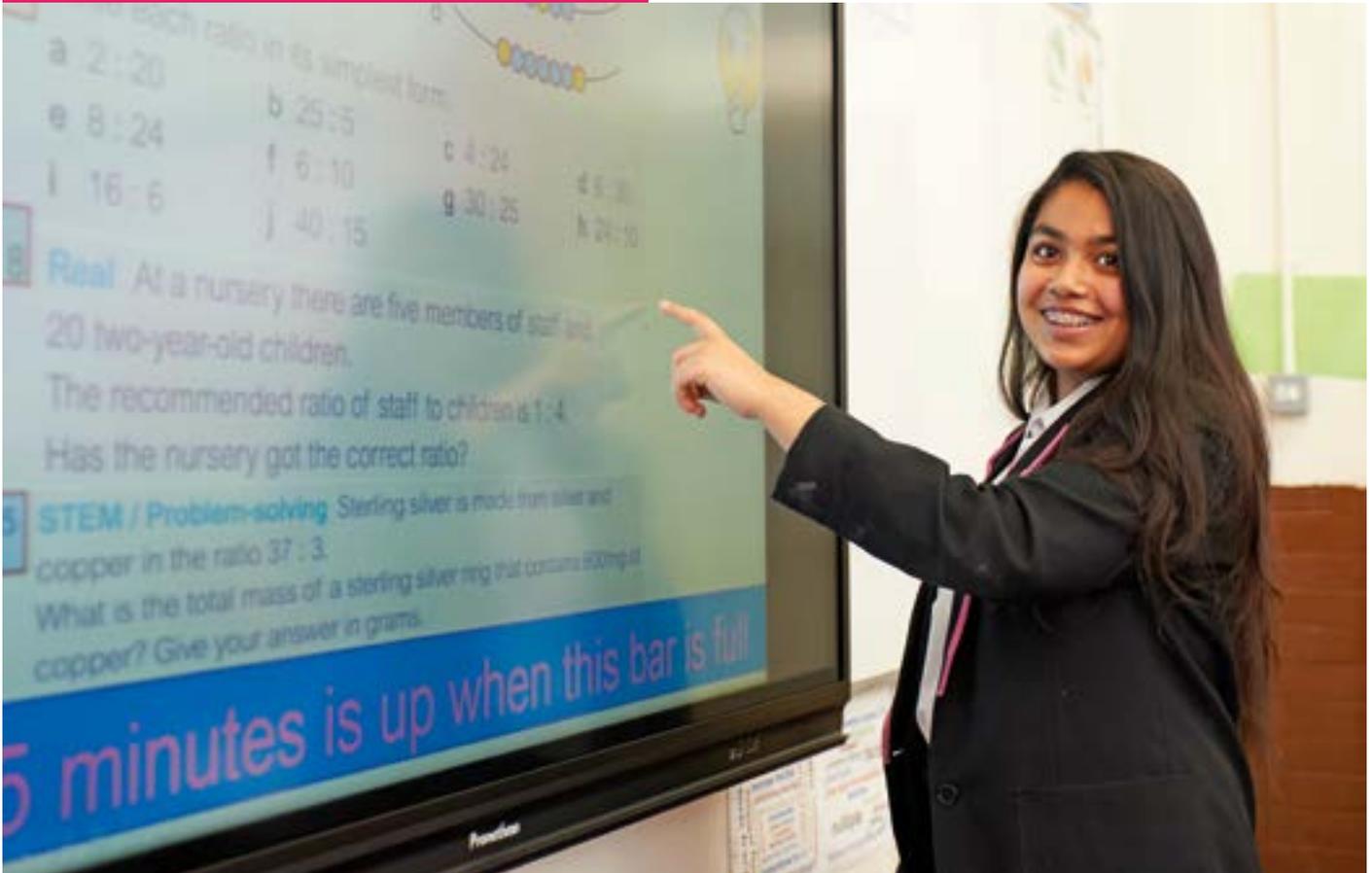
and is delivered through timetabled lessons across all year groups. Our EMPOWER programme enriches our offering through a series of engaging and enjoyable activities to develop students' Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural (SMSC) experiences whilst also enhancing their learning and providing opportunities to explore life outside the classroom.

Our high quality curriculum is supported through an outstanding personalised team of professionals including Progress Tutors, Teaching Assistants and Personalisation Teachers to ensure that all students have the opportunity to excel.

Challenge and Innovation

“I love the all-girls’ environment; we are encouraged to concentrate on our studies and stretched in every lesson. All the teachers are brilliant and tailor the lesson to suit our needs, whatever they may be.”

Year 10 Student



At Fulham Cross Girls’ School, challenge is at the heart of what we do. We aim to challenge all students, including the more able, both within the curriculum and through extra-curricular activities. Students are expected to work towards, and succeed in, challenging subjects and are supported to do this through rigorous academic monitoring and excellent teaching.

Students of all abilities are provided with opportunities to develop academically through a range of challenging activities. Throughout Years 7, 8 and 9, more able students have the chance to participate in programmes designed to encourage critical thinking and to develop essay writing skills in preparation for higher education. Students also have the opportunity to

participate in trips and visits to other countries where they are encouraged to speak the modern foreign language that they have been learning in the classroom.

In Years 10 and 11, students are selected to participate in a range of activities to develop higher level critical thinking skills, including university projects and visits involving lectures and seminars of degree level standard.

Through our EMPOWER programme, we aim to ensure that all students have had at least one university visit but, for academically gifted students, the challenge programme provides a more in-depth

opportunity to enhance their experience. Regular talks delivered by experts in a range of fields, including members of our Alumni, allow the girls to explore potential career paths and academic opportunities. Fulham Cross Girls’ School students are frequently awarded scholarships to

highly prestigious colleges including Godolphin and Latymer, Francis Holland, Putney High School, St Catherine’s and the BRIT School.

The majority of our students go on to study at university, leading to careers in fields including medicine, dentistry, accountancy and education.



Enrichment and Intervention Programme

We believe that extra-curricular and enrichment activities are vital to give our students an exciting and enjoyable educational experience and our wide and varied enrichment programme is designed to meet the needs and interests of all our students. The programme is flexible, according to the interests of the students, from debating and reporters' clubs to rowing and gymnastics, reading and poetry clubs to Glee Club and instrumental tuition, there is something for everyone and students are encouraged to talk to staff if there are activities that they would like to participate in not currently offered. Regular participation in inter-school competitions for activities such as debating, spelling and a range of sports have resulted in great success and given our girls the opportunity to develop teamwork skills and a competitive edge. Our home learning programme is extensive and varied and access to the library before/after school is available for those who need a quiet place to work. Saturday and holiday schools are regularly run for students in Years 10 and 11 to optimise their preparation for GCSE examinations.

Preparation for work is crucial for our students and our Year 10s participate in two weeks' work experience in the Autumn term, together with a formal preparation



and evaluation programme to make sure that they get the maximum benefit from the experience. The school has excellent links with local businesses who welcome our girls year after year and we always receive glowing references from them at the end of their 'employment'.

Girls also have the chance to hear from a wide range of professionals from various fields of employment through our EMPOWER breakfast talks which are planned with input from the students so that varying interests can be catered for.

At Fulham Cross Girls' School we aim to be a key part of the local community and we provide opportunities for the girls to develop links through meaningful activities within the community, including work with local charities. This not only forges a stronger connection between the school and the community but improves self-awareness, awareness of others and increased self-esteem. This all helps our students to be confident and successful as they move on to further education and employment.



“Fulham Cross is a very friendly environment. It is a small school, so teachers can focus on the individual needs of students and I really appreciate all the time they put in before and after school to support our learning.”

Year 9 Student

High Expectations and Excellent Behaviour in a Caring Community

“Pupils work harmoniously together in lessons. Relationships between staff and pupils are extremely positive. The atmosphere in lessons is calm, supportive and reflective. Pupils take great pride in their work and are keen to explain how the teacher and other pupils give them valuable feedback. As a result, pupils make rapid progress across subject areas and this is celebrated throughout the academy community.”

OFSTED

“The academy has a clear code of conduct and established routines to which all staff and pupils adhere. Pupils commented that the academy rules were to protect them, ensure their emotional well-being and encourage a healthy lifestyle.”

OFSTED

Empower Ethos

Our EMPOWER ethos underpins all that we do at Fulham Cross and students are fully introduced to this as soon as they arrive in Year 7. Our aim is to recognise and reward girls who meet the expectations that we have and this is done through a variety of means including EMPOWER postcards, achievement points, reward activities and the more formal EMPOWER Awards evenings. Our expectations of behaviour in school and in the wider community are clear and we take every opportunity to celebrate the positive actions of our students.

If issues arise, these are dealt with fairly, sensitively and consistently and we work with parents/carers to ensure that their daughter/ward is supported to meet the expectations that we have. Bullying is not tolerated at Fulham Cross Girls' School and students are regularly reminded about actions that they can and should take if they feel they have witnessed or experienced bullying, through our PSHEE programme and tutor time sessions. Form Tutors and Progress Tutors and the Learning and Progress Co-ordinator for each year group play a crucial role in ensuring that our girls are safe and happy within school and we build trusting relationships with our students to support this.

Parent/Carer Involvement

Young people need all-round support to get the most from their education. We actively encourage parent/carers involvement through formal parents' evenings, regular communication with home and informal coffee mornings, where parents/carers can meet with members of the Senior Leadership Team to discuss any issues or suggestions to take the school forward. Every girl has a student planner which helps with day-to-day contact between home and school and ways to contact key staff such as Form Tutors and the Learning and Progress Co-ordinator are highlighted to parents/carers throughout the year. Regular newsletters and updates can be found on our website: www.fulhamcross.net and via our twitter account @fulhamcross. Parent Directors represent the views of parents/carers on the Governing Body and details can be found on the school website. Our newly formed Parents and Carers' Council has provided an opportunity for us to work together more closely and new families are welcome to join the group as soon as they join the school community.



Moving Up to Secondary School

The move from primary to secondary school is a big step for all students and Fulham Cross Girls' School has developed outstanding support for this transition. There is a dedicated Transition Learning Mentor whose role is fully allocated to working with students as they transfer from Year 6 to Year 7. Many Year 6 students will already be familiar with the Fulham Cross Girls' School Transition Learning Mentor as activities are run for local primary schools throughout the year, including Secondary Taster experiences and Transition Workshops. Year 8 students

have the opportunity to apply to be a 'Big Sister' as part of the programme to encourage peer to peer support through the transition phase and this support is very well received by Year 7 students. The Learning and Progress Co-ordinator for Year 7 is only allocated to this year group and, together with the tutor team and the Transition Learning Mentor, is able to ensure that girls successfully transfer from primary school to secondary school. Clubs and activities for Year 7 students form part of the school Enrichment programme and contribute to the outstanding transition support at Fulham Cross



“I felt a little nervous before I started at Fulham Cross but I shouldn't have worried. Everyone here is so friendly and helpful to the new girls and there is so much to do here. I would say to Year 6 girls not to be worried. This is a great school!” **Year 7 Student**





Student and Parent Councils

Fulham Cross Girls' School aims to EMPOWER students to speak up and contribute to all aspects of school life. This is achieved through the student-elected School Council, who represent their peers at regular meetings with senior leaders to explore key issues relating to the EMPOWER charter. Encouraging students to take responsibilities is a vital part of preparing them for later life and the school council has representatives from all year groups. The Student Senior Leadership Team (SSLT) is designed to 'mirror' the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) of the school, providing opportunities for the older

girls to work closely with Assistant and Deputy Headteachers on specific aspects of EMPOWER and these girls take on responsibilities representing the school at key functions and supporting staff in running clubs and activities.

In addition to the opportunity to apply for positions of responsibility, students are also asked to provide feedback about their lessons, the level of challenge they experience, home learning and their general experiences around the school as we believe that this encourages young people to become active citizens who have a voice not only in school but in the wider community.

Our newly formed Parent and Carers' Council has developed from our regular coffee mornings, designed to ensure that our parents/carers have the opportunity to communicate with senior staff on a regular basis. In its first year, the Parent and Carers' Council has focused on fundraising, supporting school events and working with staff to develop our, already close, working relationships. Representatives from the Parent and Carers' Council also support incoming families through their presence at induction and open events and actively encourage parents/carers to get involved.

“It is a privilege to represent my class at School Council meetings because I get to put forward our views and this can sometimes result in changes being made to things that are important to us.”

Year 8 student

Applying to Fulham Cross Girls' School

If you are interested in finding out more, please come to one of our open sessions or contact the school to make an appointment to visit. Details can be found on our website www.fulhamcross.net. Fulham Cross Girls' School accepts girls aged 11-16 from the local area. Applications are made through the Pan London system and more information about admissions to the school is available via Hammersmith and Fulham School Admissions Team (9am-5pm) on

020 7745 6432/6433/6434,

or email your enquiry to:

school.admissions@lbhf.gov.uk

School starts at 8.40am and finishes at 3.10pm (Years 7, 8 and 9) and 4.00pm (Years 10 and 11). It is an expectation that all students have outstanding attendance and punctuality. Permission is not given for holidays during term time. Fulham Cross Girls' School uniform is compulsory and girls are encouraged to take a pride in their appearance at all times.

APPLY

Hammersmith and Fulham School Admissions team (9am-5pm) on **020 7745 6432/6433/6434,** or email your enquiry to: **school.admissions@lbhf.gov.uk**







FULHAM CROSS GIRLS' SCHOOL

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FULHAM COLLEGE ACADEMY TRUST

A FEDERATION OF FULHAM CROSS GIRLS' SCHOOL

FULHAM COLLEGE BOYS' SCHOOL & FULHAM ENTERPRISE STUDIO



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