

Nonsuch High School for Girls

Nonsuch School Values



Positivity



Respect



Integrity



Courage



Endeavour



Nonsuch High School for Girls

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Introduction



Welcome to Nonsuch High School for Girls. The school opened in May 1938 and remains a selective school for girls aged between 11 and 19. It was named after the 'unequaled' Palace built 400 years ago by Henry VIII and stands on the edge of Nonsuch Park in 22 acres of grounds. Our historical connections and beautiful surroundings give Nonsuch a very special combination of heritage and progress; we value our past while planning for an even better future.

At Nonsuch, each student is valued as an individual and encouraged to reach her highest level of academic and personal achievement whilst remaining aware and respectful of the needs of others. As one of the top girls' schools in the country our whole community is justifiably proud of a tradition of high aspiration and academic achievement. We take just as much pleasure in the warmth and fun of the atmosphere here and the inspiring range of extra-curricular opportunities available to students. We also celebrate the importance that values, social responsibility and reflection hold within school.

This is a happy place and an environment in which relationships built on understanding and respect are forged. Our ambitions for the girls are wide-ranging but we know that the most lasting future successes will be based upon their developing confidence and an open-minded and creative approach to life and learning.

The Girls' Learning Trust (GLT) was formed on 1 September 2015 and comprises three schools: Nonsuch High School for Girls, Wallington High School for Girls and Carshalton High School for Girls. All three are high performing, successful schools located in the London Borough of Sutton. Our purpose is to empower girls and young women for their future through excellent education. We are proud to be a state-funded, all girls multi academy trust.

We hope you find the prospectus informative, but there is no substitute for the personal experience of visiting the school. We look forward to meeting you and sharing with you our enthusiasm for Nonsuch.

Jennifer Smith

CEO

June 2023

Welcome from the Headteacher



I feel privileged to be leading a school in which the whole school community commits to excellence: the students at Nonsuch work hard to achieve the results they rightly aspire to and they receive unquestionably strong support from teachers, staff and parents.

Our teachers are experts in their fields and committed to bringing out the best in our students.

Not only do girls here achieve academic excellence but they enjoy contributing to the school and wider community. In taking part in sporting, artistic and fund-raising activities they develop their skills of leadership, creativity and awareness of the world around them. We are ambitious for their whole development in preparing them to be perceptive and caring global citizens who are not only prepared for the 21st century but who understand its complexity. In a rapidly evolving world they need to learn to manage uncertainty, make wise choices and develop the skills and desire for life-long learning. The pastoral support at the school by tutors and teachers helps girls and young women to manage themselves and their emotions as they move through adolescence and leave school as emerging adults.

Our curriculum is broad and balanced and supports our students in developing their skills in Maths, Science, the arts, language and literature, sport, computing, technology,

humanities and languages. We encourage young women in fields where they are currently under-represented and in which many of our students excel such as Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics. The humanities, English and languages develop skills of communication and analysis. Our emphasis on public speaking and debating helps our students become articulate communicators and hones their powers of persuasion. Wider society benefits from young people who are emotionally intelligent and intellectually flexible.

This school provides a wealth of enrichment opportunities beyond lessons and is proud of its long-standing House System which underpins the life of the school. It is the feeling of belonging to and having a productive place in a school community that fosters self-confidence and a positive state of mind in young people. Our school values of Positivity, Respect, Integrity, Courage and Endeavour underpin our decisions and form the basis of our expectations and rewards system.

Throughout its 85 years of existence, and now as part of the Girls' Learning Trust, Nonsuch has striven to provide the best educational experience for girls to prepare them for their future life. We are very proud of our school and we invite you to find out more at our Open Evening.

Amy Cavilla
Headteacher



Accommodation

Excellent facilities at Nonsuch support the high quality of teaching and learning across the curriculum. Our sixth form block was further developed in 2020 with an extra study area, computer room and two new classrooms to complement the library and other study area, computer room and two new classrooms to complement the library and other study area on the floors above. Subjects are taught in suites of classrooms and there is Wi-Fi throughout the school.

The Science department teaches in 13 modern laboratories with adjacent prep rooms to support practical work. The modern Technology rooms and airy Art studios provide superb opportunities for students to develop creative skills. Our two drama studios are equipped with versatile portable lighting and staging. Nonsuch is a centre of excellence for Music which is taught in the large suite above the Main Hall.

Facilities include two classrooms, with access to professional composition software and eight Practice Rooms for students to use during lessons, lunchtimes and after school. All students enjoy PE in the huge sports hall, on the all-weather floodlit hockey pitch, extensive playing fields, tennis and netball courts; they also have access to the indoor heated swimming pool within the David Lloyd Health and Fitness Centre located on our campus. Study is encouraged in the library which also has an IT suite to support independent learning.

“We are privileged to have a daughter at Nonsuch High School”

“Student welfare is excellent; our daughter is blossoming in a friendly happy environment”

(Year 7 Parent)

Key Stage 3

(KS3) – Years 7-9



In Key Stage 3 all students follow a broadly based course including the study of one foreign language and Latin. Activities available in Physical Education include athletics, dance, gymnastics, hockey, netball, rounders, volleyball, tennis and swimming. Technology incorporates food, resistant materials and textiles, and is taught in mixed form groups comprising 20 or so students. Sciences are taught as the three separate sciences from Year 8 onwards with specialist teachers. The Sutton agreed syllabus for Religious Studies covers the major faiths. The course also includes elements of personal, social, moral and citizenship education. Parents may withdraw their child from religious education and collective worship if they so wish, though in practice few do so. Details of alternative arrangements are available upon request.

“The facilities here are extremely good and the lessons brought alive by the teachers,”

(Year 7 Student)



KS3 Curriculum

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- Geography
- History
- A Modern Foreign Language
(from French, German and Spanish)
- Latin
- Design and Technology
- Computing
- Art and Design
- Drama
- Music
- Physical Education
- Religious Studies
- Personal, Social and Health
Education (PSHE) including
Relationships and Sex Education (RSE)

Key Stage 4

(KS4) – Years 10-11



In Year 10, students are put into broad tiers of ability for Maths and Sciences only.

At Key Stage 4 all students take the core subjects alongside their chosen GCSE subjects; a detailed booklet and a comprehensive programme of advice for students and parents are provided before options are finalised.

Core GCSE Curriculum:

- English
- English Literature
- Mathematics
- Triple Science
- French, German or Spanish
- Half course in RS and Core PE
- Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) including Relationships and Sex Education (RSE)

“If I could choose a school for my daughter all over again, this is the one I would choose”

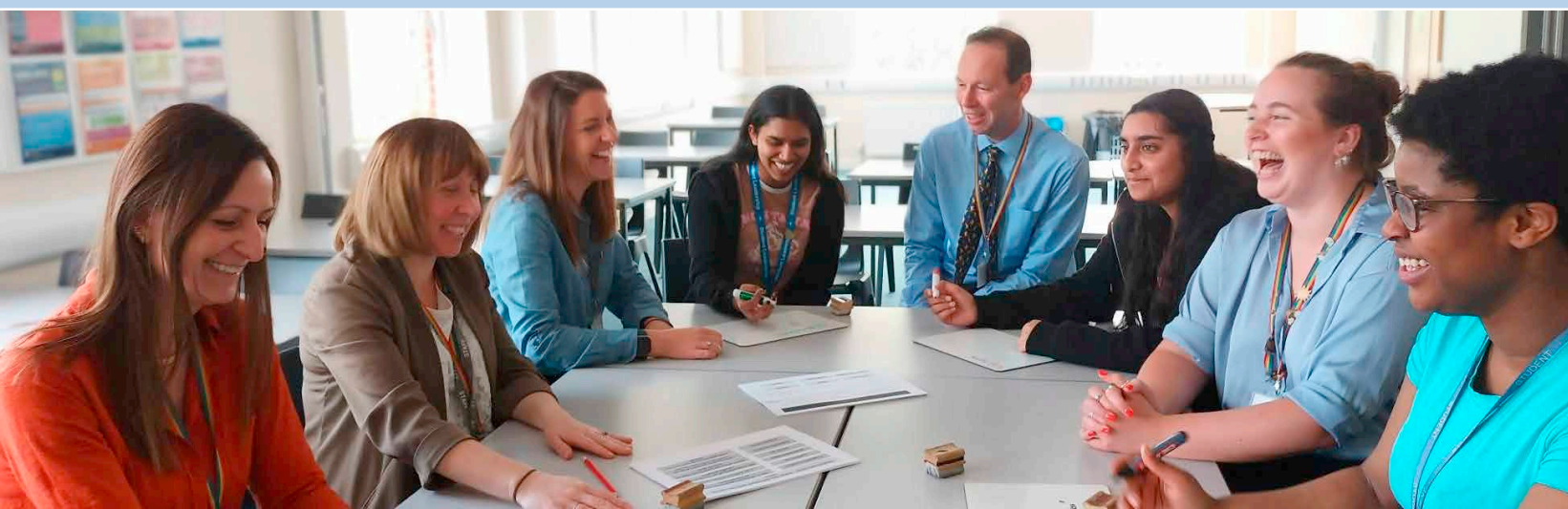
(Year 10 Parent)



Optional GCSE Subjects include:

- History
- Geography
- Astronomy
- Latin
- French
- German
- Spanish
- Computer Science
- Product Design
- Food Preparation and Nutrition
- Fine Art
- Photography
- Textiles
- Music
- Drama
- PE

The Sixth Form



The Sixth Form is a vibrant and intellectually challenging community. Year 11 students are advised individually before selecting their A level subjects. A formal induction programme supports all students – those already at Nonsuch and those joining from other schools – in making the transition between GCSE and study at Sixth Form level. Entry requirements are published annually. Over 95% of our students go on to study university courses. Interview practice is available and students are prepared for the additional entry tests for subjects such as Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Science. The school has a good record with successful Oxbridge applications as well as applications for Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Science and those keen to apply are provided with bespoke guidance and opportunities.

The majority of students choose to study 3 A Levels with a small number opting for 4 most usually including Further Maths. In addition, all students select an elective option from a menu of around 10 options which range from Arts Award or Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) to Dissection, Young Enterprise or a Sports Leaders' award. Students are also encouraged to get involved in one of the school's many clubs and societies.

Subjects available include:

- Art and Design: Fine Art
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- Design and Technology: Product Design
- Drama
- Economics
- English Literature
- Elective Programme
- French
- Geography
- German
- Politics
- History
- Latin
- Mathematics
- Further Mathematics
- Music
- Philosophy and Ethics (Religious Studies)
- Physical Education
- Physics
- Psychology
- Spanish

“I have enjoyed my time at Nonsuch and will miss it when I leave”
(Year 13 Student)



Homework

“We are motivated to work to our full potential”

The aim of homework setting at Nonsuch is to set work that entails: preparation, application or consolidation. Students will develop independence by:

- Preparing for the next steps in the programme of study
- Applying the skills taught in class
- Consolidating knowledge to embed it into their longer-term memory.

Homework is set throughout the school to encourage good study skills, independence and to support the curriculum.

Extra-Curricular Activities



Students benefit from being involved in the wide range of extra-curricular activities on offer. Over 300 students participate in the Duke of Edinburgh award at bronze, silver or gold level and more than 100 girls are part of CCF. There are a large number of weekly lunchtime and afterschool clubs including Astronomy Society, Book folding, Creative writing, Gardening Club, Dance, Debating, Drama, and Programming club catering for the varied interests of the pupils. Pupils can also join in many sporting activities and may be selected to represent the school in teams at a variety of levels. Year 9 may train to be ball girls at the Championships at Queen's Club.

Musicians choose from our two Orchestras, Concert Band, Jazz Band, several Choirs and numerous smaller instrumental groups, all of which perform at our internal concerts and at local and national events. Over 300 students have peripatetic teachers, who cover the full range of orchestral instruments, plus singing, guitar, drums, piano, theory and composition.

Many educational and cultural visits usually take place each year, providing the opportunity for students to travel both in this country and abroad. Trips to the countries of the languages studied at the school are offered annually during the school's Activities Week. Field courses, conferences, theatre and museum visits all support curriculum studies and enable girls to widen their intellectual and artistic horizons.

“Her confidence and initiative to do things have increased. Her teachers are brilliant and motivate her to excel”



School Community

Every individual student is cared for: Heads of Year and Form Tutors support the students throughout their time at Nonsuch. Opportunities for active citizenship abound; a representative from each form attends the School Council, which discusses issues of current importance. Each tutor group forms one of our seven Houses and competitions are organised in sport, music and other popular activities such as the Talent Show. Students can also gain House Points for their work. Sixth Formers appointed as members of the Student

Leadership Team, Arts Team and Sports Team or as prefects, and those elected to the Sixth Form Committee play a vital role in the life of the school as a whole. Students participate in fund-raising events, collections for charity and voluntary social work.

Up to the end of Year 11, all students wear School uniform. Self-discipline is encouraged and students are expected to contribute to the School Community and to show consideration for other people.

All students from Years 7 to 11 remain on the school premises during the lunch-break. They may bring a packed lunch or eat in the school canteen where an excellent, cash-free cafeteria with an emphasis on healthy food operates.

“A lovely environment in which to have spent the last seven years”

Parents, Carers & the School



Parental involvement with the school is much appreciated as an essential part of the welfare and achievement of students. In addition to evenings specifically for guidance, there are Parents' Consultation Evenings for each year. Interim progress reports are written for all students. Parents are elected to the Local Governing Body and play an active role in the governance of the school. We are keen to develop further electronic communication with parents who may consult the school website www.nonsuchschool.org. In addition a regular newsletter is sent by email and many parents follow us on Twitter to read up to the minute good news - Twitter @NonsuchHSG.

We also have a termly meeting with a Parent Focus group with representatives across the year groups to discuss matters of mutual interest. Membership of this group changes annually.

All parents are asked to sign a Home-School agreement known as the "Nonsuch Charter". If there are concerns, parents are consulted as soon as possible. For more serious issues there is a GLT Complaints procedure. This and other policy documents are updated regularly and all, including the GLT Special Educational Needs policy and the report on the school by the Office for Standards in Education (OFSTED) can be found on our website.

Parents are asked each year to contribute to the School Fund, which is used to subsidise extra-curricular activities, school occasions and visits, to purchase extra equipment and to cover subscriptions to magazines, curriculum associations and fees of visiting speakers. A system of covenanting operates which has many benefits for the School.

All parents and friends are encouraged to be active members of the Parent Teacher Association so that they may enjoy the many successful social and fund-raising occasions.

Admission Arrangements

Criteria for entry to Nonsuch are published on our website.

Alumni

Nonsuch Alumni warmly invite all former students to become members and join their meetings and reunion events.



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