



NORTHWOOD COLLEGE FOR GIRLS GDST

BACKGROUND

Northwood College for Girls is an independent, academically selective day school for approximately 840 girls aged 3-18.

The School was formed after a merger in 2014 between Northwood College and Heathfield School for Girls, GDST. Northwood College was originally founded in 1878 in central London and moved to its present site in a residential part of Northwood in 1893. Heathfield School for Girls was founded in 1900 and joined The Girls' Day School Trust in 1987. The new Northwood College for Girls is part of the GDST family of 24 independent schools and two academies across the UK.

The School believes that education should be about developing a real thirst for learning. Northwood College for Girls aims to foster success, endeavour, creativity, a spirit of enquiry and strength of mind. The School also believes, with a passion, that every day at school should be a fulfilling and enriching experience within a happy, considerate

Northwood College for Girls wants all of its pupils to become decent, kind human beings, with a sense of responsibility and service and a clear moral compass, and that they should be well prepared for the challenges of the twenty-first century.

The School reflects the ethnic diversity of the area, with about three-quarters of the girls coming from an Asian background. A significant number of pupils have English as an additional language, but none require formally timetabled help with their English. Most of our pupils come from professional or business backgrounds with a wide catchment area which encompasses parts of North London, Buckinghamshire and Middlesex. community.





The ability range of the School is above the national average. In 2015, 69% of GCSEs were at A* or A grade and 77% of GCSEs were at A*, A or B. The majority of the pupils go on to attend Russell Group universities to study a plethora of disciplines. Science related courses tend to be the most popular and the School is particularly proud of its Value Added which, at GCSE, puts the School in the top 5% of schools nationally.

The School has first class facilities for learning, providing an environment that enables girls to develop their interests and strengths both inside and outside the classroom. The School and its staff keep up to date with new and innovative teaching methods and modern techniques. The facilities in the Senior School include: two ICT suites, a Performing Arts Centre with Recital Hall, Food and Textiles Rooms, a full size Indoor Sports Hall with Swimming Pool, Dance and Art Studios, and

outdoor sports pitches and Tennis Courts. The School offers a wide range of subjects. In KS3 girls study the core disciplines of English,

Mathematics, Science and other subjects offered include Art, Classics, Computing, Design and Technology, Drama, French, German, Geography, History, Latin, Mandarin, Music, Physical Education, Religious Studies, Spanish and Deep Learning. All of these subjects (except Deep Learning) are available at GCSE. The Sixth Form is housed mainly in the Old Building, which comprises several study areas, a common room, a kitchen area and IT facilities. The School offers additional subjects at GCSE including; Economics, Business Studies and Psychology. Sixth Form students also have the opportunity to pursue the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) to broaden their interests and knowledge into new areas.





THE PASTORAL SYSTEM

Northwood College for Girls is characterised by a caring, welcoming and supportive environment. Staff are supportive of one another and of the pupils. Relationships with pupils are respectful, warm and purposeful. The staff are enthusiastic and really do go that extra mile to support the girls. Northwood College for Girls encourages the pursuit of excellence across all areas of school life and aims to nurture its pupils to attain success across the widest spectrum of activity. The School believes that happy pupils will be successful ones and therefore regards its pastoral system as inextricably linked to its overall academic success. The care that the staff extend to all pupils enables them to make outstanding progress, both academically and in their personal development. Pupils mature into confident, accomplished and well-adjusted young women, prepared for the challenges of university education and their future careers. Each year group has a Head of Year and s/he is tasked with maintaining an overview of each girl's personal development and well-being. The Head of Year works with the Form Tutor and all staff to ensure each girl is progressing as she should and intervening in a timely manner if there are any problems. The School encourages an open, positive dialogue with parents and works in partnership with them to enable their child to excel and develop.

THE GDST NETWORK

GDST schools and academies share an ethos and a proud heritage of girls-only education and girls are a member of a unique network. Membership of the GDST adds value to every one of its Schools, to the benefit of staff and pupils. Girls have the chance to compete and collaborate with their peers in other schools, taking part in GDST-wide events, rallies, performances and activities. These range from art, sport, music and creative writing through to foreign languages and digital technology. Every GDST girl automatically becomes a member of the 67,000-strong Alumnae Network from across all generations, and all schools, which provides a range of resources and social and professional contacts to help them as they make their way into the world. The GDST network is also very powerful in enabling staff to collaborate and share best practice and innovation with sister schools. Staff have a broad range of opportunities to participate in the wide range of training offered by the GDST. Central training and staff development courses include e-safety, science in the creative curriculum, girl-friendly learning, the emotional aspects of teaching & learning, and many more. They also benefit from subject collaboration areas on the GDST intranet, coordinated by subject champions, where they share specialist resources, exchange ideas and develop cross-school links. The GDST also supplies a range of services to their schools to enhance efficiency, share expertise and reduce costs. These include expertise in educational policy and legal issues, HR, ICT, finance, estates, fundraising and communications support.

Further information on the GDST can be found at www.gdst.net.

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