

NOTRE  
DAME  
SCHOOL



THINKING SPACE  
GROWING SPACE  
BREATHING SPACE



# THINKING SPACE

Academic rigour quite rightly sits at the heart of teaching and learning at Notre Dame. All students are supported and encouraged to pursue their highest aspirations.



# GROWING SPACE

Everyone is different, with unique talents. Our aim at Notre Dame is to help every single student discover new interests so they get the maximum enjoyment and reward from their school years.



# BREATHING SPACE

We live in a society where examination focus from a very young age can detract from time spent building character and vital life skills. At Notre Dame we focus first on happiness, and all else follows.







# WELCOME

At Notre Dame School we are unashamedly holistic. Our students, from 2 to 18, are at the centre of everything we do, and their physical and mental well-being is every bit as important as their wonderful academic, sporting and creative achievements.

For more than 400 years, pastoral care has been embedded at the heart of our whole approach to education. This is not at the

expense of academic rigour. Rather, it forms the bedrock on which academic excellence is built: happy, comfortable and secure children and young women make confident and successful learners, who feel safe to venture beyond their comfort zone and try new approaches, and who understand that mistakes and failures are an important step in learning.

At Notre Dame, the focus is on **Happiness** and **Success** – in that order. We are profoundly

committed to this educational philosophy and through it we fulfil our aim of providing an exemplary **all-round education**. The academic, creative, physical, moral, and intellectual challenges expected in all good schools, complete with state-of-the-art facilities, are balanced with fun and laughter and a trusting and compassionate atmosphere, which enables everyone within our community to become the best possible version of themselves.

Notre Dame is an independent Catholic day school set in 26 acres of beautiful, rural Surrey parkland. We warmly welcome families of all faiths and none.

## Heads of School



**Anna King**  
MEd, MA (Cantab), PGCE, FRGS  
Senior School Headmistress

**Amélie Morgan**  
MA, BA (Hons), PGCE  
Prep School Headmistress

# "EXCELLENT"

Latest ISI Inspection Report

## ■ EARLY YEARS

For girls aged 2-5  
and boys aged 2-4  
Pre-School Nursery  
and Reception

## ■ PREP INFANTS

For girls aged 5-7  
Years 1 and 2

## ■ PREP JUNIORS

For girls aged 7-11  
Years 3 to 6

## ■ SENIOR SCHOOL

For girls aged 11-16  
Years 7 to 11

## ■ SIXTH FORM - ND6

For girls aged 16-18  
Years 12 and 13



# THINKING SPACE

Academic rigour quite rightly sits at the heart of teaching and learning at Notre Dame. All students are supported and encouraged to pursue their highest aspirations.



We have a range of dynamic strategies which together assure the delivery of a highly personalised education for each individual student throughout the school, from the Nursery to the Sixth Form. All staff are supported in continually striving to improve and enrich the academic experience.

Our students have extremely positive attitudes to work, and our continuous quality scrutiny indicates that teaching and learning is of a high quality across the school. There is careful attention to individual progress by teachers, middle and senior leaders and the headteachers. Small class sizes across the school and supportive and responsive staff mean that lots of teacher input and guidance is available.

Throughout the year, Notre Dame runs an extensive range of academic enrichment events, challenges and opportunities across both the Prep and Senior Schools. These include competitions, visits, workshops, language exchanges, theatre trips, author visits, lectures, university visits and industry taster days.

**A Notre Dame Teacher** provides lessons that are creative, enjoyable, engaging and inspiring, using a diverse range of learning activities to share their subject expertise. Teachers carefully plan lessons with clear learning objectives and have an in-depth knowledge of their pupils' level of progress and capability, setting work that is stretching and challenging whilst also supporting individual needs.

**A Notre Dame Pupil** is an active and committed partner in their learning and is equipped with the skills to assess and reflect on their own targets and progress, so at all times they know the steps they need to take to progress to the next level of their studies. All are expected to rise to the challenge of learning and working independently.

**A Notre Dame Parent** is encouraged to be a part of the school community and to take an active interest in their child's learning. They are kept informed of their child's development through detailed reports, and can access diaries, information and homework tasks using the school's virtual learning environment, 'Firefly'.

**"Pupils develop high levels of knowledge, understanding and skills... This was observed across all areas of learning, in line with the school's aim to offer pupils a holistic education and reflects the high quality of teaching throughout the school."**

*Latest ISI Inspection Report*



# OUR EXTENSIVE LEARNING SPACES

- Early Years Hub
- Prep Drama Studio, Art Room and Music Room
- Prep Science Laboratory and ICT Suite
- Prep Library
- Senior Library
- Sixth Form Study Centre
- Senior School Science Hub with 6 x Laboratories and Prep Rooms
- 2 x Senior Drama Studios
- Senior Food Science Room
- Senior Art and Textiles Studios
- Senior Music Technology Studio and Recording Studio
- 3 x Senior ICT Suites
- Interactive Whiteboards throughout



# ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE IN THE PREP SCHOOL

Prep School pupils benefit from a vibrant, bespoke humanities curriculum to develop thinking skills, moral foundation and knowledge. Meticulously planned and delivered English and mathematics programmes are yielding excellent outcomes for our pupils in both of these crucial subjects.

In English, we follow specialist programmes that teach writing alongside reading. In mathematics, we use a 'Mastery' approach, which enables pupils to develop a deeper understanding of concepts and methods, as well as embedding pupils' self-confidence in their own judgement and problem-solving capability.

Children are taught by specialist teachers for a number of subjects, including music, art, drama, dance, Spanish, ICT and PE. We are fortunate to have dedicated teaching spaces for dance, music, drama, ICT and art, as well as a fully equipped Prep science laboratory.

Above all, because we use small-group teaching for core subjects, the children have confidence, and bespoke learning activities enable rapid and happy progress.

# ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE IN THE SENIOR SCHOOL

**Every student deserves the best academic experience.**

That means empowered and creative staff who have the highest aspirations for every one of their students. In turn, students are able to enjoy the challenge and excitement of learning, secure in the knowledge that their teachers understand their individual needs, build on their strengths and support them in recognising that difficulties and mistakes are an important step in successful learning. Every lesson is rigorously planned and continuous quality scrutiny by senior leaders ensures the best educational practice.

The quality of assessment, tracking and feedback profoundly impacts student outcomes. Our focus on assessment and collaborative marking includes students in the process and gives them greater ownership over their own academic progress.

Our data-tracking system allows us to measure progress against individual baselined flightpaths. This facilitates lesson planning that ensures students are appropriately challenged, and it enables effective and timely intervention both to praise excellent progress and to avoid under-achievement. This rigorous approach is critical for girls at every ability and achievement level, enabling each girl to achieve her best possible personal outcome.

We are very proud that girls at GCSE and A Level have achieved exceptional 'Value Added' – thus achieving higher grades in their public examinations than would be expected based on national baseline data.

# THE NOTRE DAME RECIPE FOR HAPPINESS AND SUCCESS

**An emphasis on learning rather than attaining:** too many children are restricted by fear of failure, especially girls, and they need the support to know that clever thinking, wild ideas and imagination are as important as finding the right answer. Wisdom comes from encountering failure, untangling complex issues and making judgements through rational and moral critical thinking tempered by human warmth and kindness.

**A commitment to collaboration:** recognising ability and effort allows children to develop self-belief, and to recognise relative strengths and weaknesses. Children need to know that they have a valuable place in life and that their contribution is valued. Success follows easily when children feel that they belong, that they have a share in working alongside others and that their talents and gifts are recognised, useful and valued.





# GROWING SPACE

Everyone is different, with unique talents. Our aim at Notre Dame is to help every single student discover new interests so they get the maximum enjoyment and reward from their school years.



**We have superb on-site sports facilities and all our pupils from 2 to 18 have the opportunity to participate in a wide range of sporting activities.** The quality of our facilities means that we are privileged to host numerous competitive sporting events with local schools, and our *Sport For All* policy means that everyone gets a chance to showcase their talents. Pupils from age two upwards are encouraged to sing and play instruments in concerts and events in our wonderfully acoustic chapel and perform in our fully equipped 370-seat professional theatre. Friendly inter-house drama, music, sport and academic competitions abound.

Creativity is embedded in the teaching of all subjects at Notre Dame, and art, music, drama and sport offer particular scope for personal expression, exploration, inspiration and growth. All students are encouraged to cultivate a passion for at least one of these areas, which in turn nurtures commitment and dedication, as well as a tremendous sense of team work, recognition and achievement. Pupils are hugely supportive of one another and are always excited to celebrate each other's successes.

The Prep and Senior School each offer more than 50 extra-curricular clubs covering a huge range of activities, from chemistry, creative writing and debating to baking, gymnastics and Young Enterprise. There are ample opportunities to be involved in charitable work and community service.

As well as a multitude of day and residential trips, Senior girls are proud to achieve Bronze, Silver and Gold Duke of Edinburgh awards, and pupils of all ages are able to enjoy our extensive outdoor space, including our wonderful Forest School facilities. We find that outdoor adventures lead to happy, fully engaged, interested, inquisitive pupils who bubble with excitement and enthusiasm.

**"Lucky prep and senior pupils get full use of school sports facilities, which include a new floodlit all-weather hockey pitch and four netball courts; 25m indoor heated pool; full-size sports hall; and 26 acres of grounds."**

*Latest Good Schools Guide Report*





## OUR GROWING SPACES

- Extensive grounds extending to 26 acres
- Professional Theatre seating 370
- 10 x Music Practice Rooms
- Dance Studio
- Acoustic Chapel
- Lytton Parlour - small concert venue
- Year 11 Common Room
- Sixth Form Centre, Kitchen, Conservatory & Garden
- Forest School for all ages - 2 to 18
- Reflection Garden
- Nursery Play & Outdoor Learning Zone
- Prep Adventure Playground, Tree House & Ball Court
- Senior School Outdoor Table Tennis & Picnic Areas



The superb range of sports facilities and the professional theatre are shared equally by the Nursery, Prep and Senior Schools



## OUR ON-SITE SPORTS SPACES

- All-Weather Floodlit Astro Hockey Pitch
- 4 x All-Weather Floodlit Tennis Courts
- 4 x All-Weather Floodlit Netball Courts
- 50m All-Weather Sprint/Warm-Up Track
- 200m Running Track
- New Field Sports Hub
- 1 x Flat Cross-Country Track
- 1 x Woodland Cross-Country Track
- 25m Indoor Heated Swimming Pool
- Full-Size Sports Hall
- Gymnasium
- Fully Equipped Exercise Gym
- Long-Jump Pit





# BREATHING SPACE

We live in a society where examination focus from a very young age can detract from time spent building character and vital life skills. At Notre Dame we focus first on happiness, and all else follows.



**Notre Dame School sits within 26 acres of beautiful, rural parkland.**

It makes for a glorious, peaceful and safe environment in which to go to school. But the 'Breathing Space' we speak of at Notre Dame is about so much more than physical space. It is about the very essence of our community: integrity, kindness, compassion and, above all else, an educational philosophy that focusses on happiness and success, in that order, for every student, in every lesson, every day.

Our objective at Notre Dame is to give every student a balanced perspective and outlook. Well-being and independence are built on a sense of self that is positive, realistic, resilient and secure. It relies on emotional intelligence and self-awareness, which is developed by internal conviction and the mindset to give things a go.

This focus is not an add-on at Notre Dame, nor is it jumping on the latest bandwagon. The school radiates a caring attitude which has been embedded within our ethos for more than 400 years.

Across our entire school community we have formalised and wide-reaching strategies in place to promote well-being and resilience, and ultimately happiness, self-confidence and a wider spiritual awareness. In the Nursery and Prep School this is delivered through *Project Florecer*, and in the Senior School through a bespoke programme called *The Lestonnac Approach*.

**"Pupils have an exceptionally well-developed moral code, and understand that they are responsible for their own behaviour and for the well-being of others."**

*Latest Good Schools Guide Report*





## PREP SCHOOL PROJECT FLORECER

**Project Florecer, with the moto 'Love, Learn Flourish', builds and promotes our culture and vision amongst our entire Prep School and Nursery community with one fundamental aim: to ensure that our children at Notre Dame flourish. The principles are:**

- To be proud of Notre Dame Prep School and Nursery and to play our part in growing a happy, compassionate community with a great sense of fun and spirit!
- To ensure everyone feels valued and respected
- To be resilient when we do not succeed, to have courage to try again and to nurture this mindset throughout the whole community
- To accept that change may be needed and engage positively
- To embrace a 'mastery' approach to teaching and learning where key skills and concepts are taught and understood thoroughly before moving on, and encourage deep learning and thinking
- To ensure children have regular opportunities to extend themselves using a variety of techniques that encourage high-level reasoning and quick thinking skills
- To create challenging and stimulating teaching and learning environments
- To continue to improve our own articulation and communication; whether this is public speaking or clear, honest and detailed reporting for parents
- To remember we are educating for life – not just our own – with a preference for social justice



## SENIOR SCHOOL LESTONNAC APPROACH

**This programme, developed exclusively for our Senior School community, enables resilience and well-being in our girls through well-established practices and initiatives that frame every interaction in both learning and pastoral contexts. These include strategies for overcoming obstacles; fostering a 'bounce back' attitude to disappointment; and ultimately nurturing intrinsically self-motivated, adaptable young people. We are always looking for innovative ways to revisit, reinforce and review our consistently thorough practices in support of our commitment to accompany young people in their journey towards building their lives for today, tomorrow and into the future as confident, successful young women.**



## LESTONNAC STRATEGIES AND INITIATIVES

- Multi-layered pastoral support structure
- Big Sisters, Peer Mentoring and Buddy system for new students
- School Counsellor and ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support Assistant)
- Student Voice surveys and Girls On Board surveys – monitoring mental health and supporting girls in understanding interactions with peers
- PSHE workshops on topics such as diversity, self-esteem, worry and anxiety, friendship and relationships, fostering a bounce-back attitude
- Mindfulness/Reflection Days and Reflection Room
- Monthly pastoral talks for parents on topics such as on-line safety, mental health and supporting revision
- Qualified external advisors and motivational speakers
- Transition and taster days supporting the movement between Key Stages
- Clear boundaries and fair discipline
- Positive achievement and reward system
- Creative Learning focus
- Detailed and clear target setting and individual personal goal setting
- Constructive marking of work, self-reflection and learning from mistakes
- Drop-in support sessions for all subjects
- Revision, planning and organisational strategy support and masterclasses
- Staff mentoring for all students at GCSE and A Level
- University UCAS application support programme
- Careers Fair and individual career interviews/ career planning
- A safe, healthy and secure environment

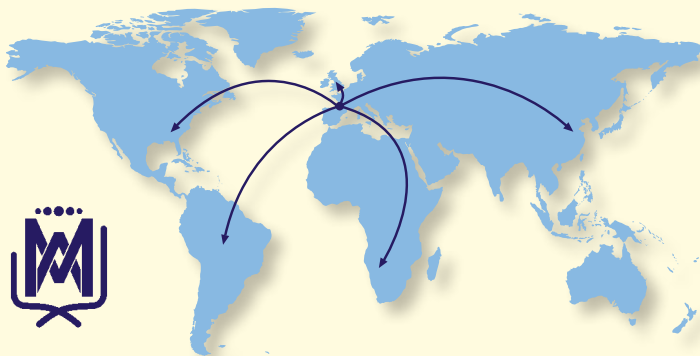




# MORE THAN 400 YEARS EDUCATING WORLDWIDE

## RICH HERITAGE, MODERN OUTLOOK

The Company of Mary Our Lady was founded in Bordeaux in 1607 to educate girls of all faiths, and is the oldest recognised educational order in the world. Today, there are more than 300 CoMOL schools, educational foundations and projects across 26 countries. Notre Dame School in Cobham is the only one in the UK.



*An educational project that started in Bordeaux more than 400 years ago has now spread throughout the world, including Notre Dame here in the UK*

Our Foundress was Saint Jeanne de Lestonnac, a mother of five children and a progressive and dedicated educator. She grew up in an intellectual and cultured family and was exposed to many different religious and philosophical perspectives. Her own educational approach, that still looks fresh and modern more than 400 years later, was greatly influenced by her uncle, Michel de Montaigne, a renowned humanist philosopher; his belief was that all children deserved to understand the world through experience and learning, in order to develop lives of integrity and purpose.

At Notre Dame we continue to strive to live up to St Jeanne's indomitable spirit and drive, and we remain committed to our mission statement of 'Accompanying young people in their efforts to build their lives for today and tomorrow'. This mission, along with St Jeanne's principles of compassion, tolerance and integrity, still provide a highly relevant educational framework that we share with our sister schools all over the world, in many different environments. Our deeply embedded ethos encourages our children to aspire to be the best they can be in all their endeavours, so that they can live full, authentic lives and make a positive difference in the world.

**"Pupils develop high levels of knowledge, understanding and skills... This was observed across all areas of learning, in line with the school's aim to offer pupils a holistic education and reflects the high quality of teaching throughout the school."**

*Latest ISI Inspection Report*



**"No one is educated in isolation; it is the whole community that educates."**

*St Jeanne de Lestonnac – Foundress*







# NOTRE DAME EARLY YEARS

TERM TIME  
ONLY AND  
YEAR-ROUND  
PROVISION

## MAKING THE RIGHT START

**The Early Years at Notre Dame encompasses Nursery and Reception within a spacious, bright and secure purpose-built facility.**

We provide a warm and caring environment in which girls and boys can safely grow and develop through fun play and stimulating experiences, whilst building a feeling of belonging and being valued.

Notre Dame Early Years has its own dedicated play and learning spaces, including access to all of the school's sports facilities, swimming pool, forest school and theatre. Our extensive outdoor space allows the use of ride-on cars and bikes, sand and water play as well as giving us the opportunity to offer a wide variety of exciting learning activities.

All children, even the youngest, have lessons with specialist teachers for music, PE and dance, and enjoy library visits with the Prep School librarian. The older Nursery children (in the year before Reception) also benefit from Spanish, swimming, football and rugby. These specialist lessons enrich the children's learning and make the transition into Reception seamless. Reception girls have the addition of drama lessons in the theatre, again with specialist staff.

We aim to make the transition from home to Early Years to full-time school as smooth and happy as possible for the whole family. Boys leave us at the end of Nursery, and we support them in their transition at age 4 to other local schools.

To support our working families, the Pre-School Nursery and Reception are open **YEAR ROUND** for 2-5 year olds for 48 weeks a year from 7.30am – 6.00pm Monday to Friday.

Families are able to opt for Term Time Only or Term Time Plus (which enables them to book individual days during the school holidays or full school holidays). These options are available to all our Pre-School Nursery and Reception families.

**“Pupils display genuine kindness and respect for one another. Pupils in the EYFS know how to work together and solve problems.”**

*Latest ISI Inspection Report*

The enhanced Early Years Curriculum will be covered during term-time. During the school holidays, the Nursery staff will offer an exciting and stimulating range of specially designed topic-based activities. Children will also continue to use all the school facilities including the Forest School, swimming pool and sports pitches. The learning offered will be age- and stage-appropriate consolidation – this will ensure that the children continue their development but that no child misses out if they do not attend Nursery during the holidays.



Early Years  
Provision is available  
from 7.30am to 6pm,  
48 weeks of  
the year.



## AGE 2-5

**Notre Dame Early Years provides an ideal environment in which girls and boys can flourish and develop socially and physically as well as educationally.**

In the first five years of life, children tackle hugely complex challenges. Fluency, agility, dexterity and problem-solving strategies are already becoming well developed.

**Dedicated, well-qualified and nurturing educators strive to create a home-from-home atmosphere, ensuring each child is treated as their own, with care, love and compassion in a well-maintained, safe and secure environment.**

From the very beginning, excitement, motivation, initiative and achievement are seen to be essential elements of a successful education.

**The confidence that grows from exploring new ideas and discovering new skills equips these very young children with a zest for learning which they carry into later years.**

When children make the transition from Nursery to Reception, they are completely prepared for the first steps along the more formally structured educational path.







# NOTRE DAME INFANTS

## INSPIRING A LOVE OF LEARNING

**Notre Dame Prep School is a very happy place, with a wonderful sense of community and a great sense of fun and spirit.**

We have high expectations of our pupils, encouraging them to excel in all areas of school life. We do not, however, want pupils to feel the pressure of those expectations and we work hard to allow our children to be children by providing them with a truly rounded, exciting and challenging Prep education.

We are committed to the pastoral needs of our pupils. All children have a voice and all successes, no matter how small, are celebrated. We strive to educate our children to be good people with strong moral values and encourage all members of the community to stretch out a hand of kindness to others. Most importantly, our pupils look forward to coming to school and have a genuine love of learning.

A love of reading at Notre Dame begins with our *Read Write Inc.* phonics programme. We teach *Read Write Inc.* through to Year 2, by which time our children will be competent and confident readers with a love for all different types of text. All children visit the Library every week to choose a new story or non-fiction book and listen to stories with our Librarian.

Notre Dame teaches maths using the 'Mastery' approach to learning. *Mastery in Maths* is an engaging and accessible style of mathematics teaching, inspired by high-performing countries such as China and Singapore. This approach is designed to enhance understanding and enjoyment, as well as raise attainment for every child. This begins with the *Busy Ants* programme in the Infants.

**"The breadth of the curriculum provides numerous opportunities for the pupils to achieve very well in all subjects."**

*Latest ISI Inspection Report*



## AGE 5-7

**Approaching the challenges of the curriculum – Literacy, Numeracy and Creativity.**

### **Years 1 and 2**

**Throughout Years 1 and 2, we encourage the joy of learning that children naturally have at this age.**

We help the children maintain a healthy, active life through regular exercise, locally sourced, freshly prepared food and a carefully focused programme of academic learning, drama, music and sport. At this age children learn to function independently, while also developing strong friendships and discovering new interests through the many opportunities presented to them.

**At the beginning of Year 1, Notre Dame pupils are introduced to the initial stage of the National Curriculum, although we have developed a much more rigorous, searching and valuable version which develops thinking skills, independent work and good collaborative working skills. The benefits are clearly visible in our age-standardized test results each year.**

In addition to the core subjects of English, mathematics, science, religious education and ICT, the curriculum in the Infants includes Spanish, humanities, art and design, technology, drama, music, PE, dance and swimming.

**Pupils can begin French lessons as an optional extra during Year 1 (Spanish is already timetabled in). French lessons continue as an optional extra through to Year 6, in preparation for opportunities to learn Italian, German and Latin higher up the school.**





# NOTRE DAME JUNIORS

## BUILDING ON SOLID FOUNDATIONS

The discovery of self is especially important during Years 3-6 and we aim to draw out individual talents and develop personal strengths. This is undertaken in the classroom and at play, and supported with a wide range of extra-curricular clubs and workshops.

Our enhanced version of the National Curriculum is designed to provide a truly rounded, exciting and challenging preparatory education and firmly embed the love of learning. The girls learn how to get the best from themselves and others and grow to become kind, polite and caring members of the Notre Dame community and positive role models for the lower school.

We continue to innovate with new and inspiring learning opportunities. *Project Floreer; Love, Learn, Flourish* is just such an example, as it encourages girls to grow in confidence, resilience and independence, whilst embedding these core values within the wider school community. We are especially proud of our strengths in drama, art, music and languages, and we punch well above our weight in inter-school sporting competitions. These pursuits are at the very heart of self-expression and are enthusiastically carried through to the Senior School.

Prep Juniors encompasses Years 3 to 6, during which time girls continue to develop their love of learning through our enhanced version of the National Curriculum.



## AGE 7-11

Year 3 is a common entry point for external pupils, although space allowing we welcome new pupils throughout the school where possible.

### Years 3 to 6

Girls follow the National Curriculum, covering: English, mathematics, science, Spanish, ICT, design technology, art and design, music, physical education, religious education and a humanities project called TASK - an innovative curriculum that ties together the development of thinking, activities and participation with skills and knowledge. Teaching groups are kept small for optimal learning.

During these years, girls interested in music and/or dance/drama will be encouraged to further their ability and take part in music, dance or drama exams, often progressing to Grade 4, 5 or beyond.

Nearly all Year 6 girls progress seamlessly to our Senior School, many with Academic, Art, Drama, Music or Sports Scholarships proudly under their belts. Because our Prep girls are not required to sit our 11+ entrance test, Years 5 and 6 at Notre Dame are learning years, not years spent revising for a single exam. Therefore, our girls are excellently prepared for the Senior School during the Junior years and are fully equipped to take on their next challenge.

In Year 6, girls progressing to Notre Dame Senior School, together with external candidates applying for Year 7 entry, take part in a Challenge Day in the Autumn Term, a Celebration Evening in the Spring and other exciting activities in preparation for life in the Senior School.





# NOTRE DAME SENIOR SCHOOL

## HAPPINESS AND SUCCESS

**Notre Dame Senior School is a busy and happy community brimming with the perfect combination of focussed energy and relaxed authenticity.**

Our educational philosophy is underpinned by The Lestonnac Approach – our innovative programme supporting and enabling girls both in the classroom and beyond, through fostering resilience, individuality and independence within a safe and compassionate environment. We know that getting this right, for every girl, in every lesson, every day, makes all the difference.

When we aim first for happiness, security and confidence, we build the foundations for academic success. We are quite rightly proud of our **Academic Value Added** which places Notre Dame in the top tranche of all schools nationally. Enthusiastic, creative and highly qualified subject specialists deliver a challenging and wide-ranging curriculum. A focus on individualised, collaborative tracking and feedback enables our girls to take responsibility for their own learning and progress, so that they achieve the best possible outcomes.

We are committed to our broad and varied intake and the richness that this gives to our community: there is no 'typical' Notre Dame girl and no fixed path through the school. Rather, our girls bring many different qualities, and each creates her own individual journey in pursuit of her personal ambitions. Everyone learns to respect and celebrate diversity and each girl is valued for precisely who she is and not for how well she measures up to an expected norm.

The Senior School provides dozens of enrichment opportunities and trips and more than 50 extra-curricular clubs and activities, including Young Enterprise, DofE and science CREST awards. There is something for everyone and all are encouraged to get involved.

**“They are exceptionally self-disciplined and conscientious about their work, often returning to a piece that they had not done well in order to improve it. Pupils are undeterred by past failures.”**

*Latest ISI Inspection Report*



School opens at 7.30am and supervised after-school study is available daily until 6.30pm



## AGE 11-16

**Entry to the Senior School is through assessment. For Year 7 candidates this is by examination in the November of Year 6. Our entrance test procedure is designed to be as relaxed, reassuring and calm as possible so girls feel confident and can perform to the best of their ability. Students are welcome to apply for entry in other year groups.**

### Years 7 to 9

Broadly following the National Curriculum, the Senior School builds on the foundations learnt in the Prep School. All girls undertake a programme of study covering: English, mathematics, science, theology, computer science, textiles, history, geography, modern foreign languages (including French, Spanish, German), Latin, art, music, drama, food and nutrition, physical education, and PSHE.

### Years 10 and 11

These are the GCSE years. All girls must study English literature, English language, maths, science (either double – physics, chemistry and biology studied resulting in two GCSEs – or triple award – all three subjects studied resulting in three GCSEs), theology and one language from a choice of Spanish, French, German or Latin.

Additional GCSEs include drama, geography, history, physical education, music, additional languages, food and nutrition, art and design, art and design (textiles), computer science, and Latin. Further mathematics is also offered. Generally, all girls will take either 10 or 11 GCSEs. In the summer term of each year, all girls sit end-of-year exams.

During the GCSE years, girls will begin to formulate their plans for further study at Notre Dame's Sixth Form Centre, ND6. Along with plentiful advice on careers education, girls will be guided through A Level subject choices by department heads and other specialist teaching staff.

Year 11 girls will sit mock GCSE exams in December. Formal GCSE exams are taken at the end of Year 11 (usually in May and June), and the results are published in August. By this stage, A Levels should have been chosen, with thought given to possible university courses, and potential career plans.





# NOTRE DAME SIXTH FORM

## PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE

**Notre Dame Sixth Form is a wonderfully vibrant community where there is plenty of hard work as well as a lot of laughter and a great sense of belonging.**

At Notre Dame, we understand the challenges, the preoccupations and the pressures of modern life, and know how to support and guide our girls through these crucial formative years. Students and teachers form strong, supportive relationships and each girl is known extremely well as an individual. In combination with the small, tutorial-style classes, this means that each girl's teaching and learning can be tailored very specifically to her personal needs and interests, so that she is excellently supported both academically and pastorally.

We understand the importance of the highest level of achievement at A Level in opening the doors to good universities and future careers. Girls at Notre Dame have demonstrated exceptional performance in public examinations and consistently outperform the national average. Moreover, we are very proud that girls in our Sixth Form have shown exceptional 'Value Added' - thus achieving higher grades in their A Level examinations than would be expected based on national baseline data.

Our Sixth Formers can choose from a wide variety of A Level subjects (more than 25) and our goal is to support them in getting to the destination of their choice, wherever or whatever that might be.

Girls who make the decision to join Notre Dame Sixth Form can expect to leave us as independent learners and active members of the community, confident in the pursuit of their chosen goals. Whether the girls leave us for university, further education, adventure or employment, they will be empowered with choices and will be able to fulfil any role with purpose, direction and a great sense of fun.

**"The School is highly successful in meeting its aim of preparing young people for their role as responsible citizens of the wider world."**

*Latest ISI Inspection Report*



**Entry to Sixth Form at Notre Dame is based upon GCSE exam results. Full details are provided in our dedicated Sixth Form Prospectus.**



**AGE 16-18**

### **Years 12 and 13**

**Our thriving ND6 Centre is separate enough to allow independence and responsibility, but still part of the school with all the advantages of a structured environment and teacher interaction.**

All Sixth Form girls will have chosen their three subjects to study at A Level prior to arrival. However, it is sometimes possible to revise these choices, based upon GCSE examination results.

**Girls typically take four A Levels if they are studying Further Maths.**

Sixth Formers at Notre Dame are able to take the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) and are also encouraged to participate in sport, the Duke of Edinburgh Award and Young Enterprise.

**Progress is tracked against baseline data so we can be sure that every girl is working to her potential. Parents are kept informed every half term of progress, and are encouraged to be actively involved in their daughter's learning.**

Throughout the Sixth Form, Notre Dame's specialists are on hand to help girls through the UCAS process. Towards the end of Year 12, girls will begin to prepare their personal statements for university entry, and will have begun to research university courses relevant to their interests or areas of academic excellence, under the expert guidance of experienced Sixth Form tutors.

**By the end of the Autumn Term in Year 13, all girls will have completed their personal statements, visited several universities, and decided upon their first and second choice destinations.**

By the beginning of the Summer Term in Year 13, girls have usually received a minimum of three and maximum of five offers of places at university.

**A Level exams take place usually immediately following half term in the Summer Term (depending on subject) and the results are generally published in mid August.**





# NOTRE DAME SCHOOL

Notre Dame is very accessible: two minutes from the A3; within 10 minutes of Walton, Weybridge, Cobham and Esher; 20 minutes from Guildford, Putney, Woking and Surbiton; 25 minutes from Wimbledon and Clapham.

We run a comprehensive range of coach routes covering a wide area, including routes from South West London, Woking and Leatherhead. New routes are planned, including from Dorking, Guildford, Ripley, Epsom and Chertsey. We offer single and return journeys. See our website for details.

- |                                     |                              |                                  |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 All-Weather Tennis/Netball Courts | 14 Prep Science, Art and ICT | 27 Senior Classes                |
| 2 All-Weather Hockey/Football Pitch | 15 Playing Field             | 28 Indoor Swimming Pool          |
| 3 All-Weather Running Track         | 16 Pre-Prep & Prep Classes   | 29 Gymnasium                     |
| 4 Cross-Country Course              | 17 Dance Studio              | 30 Fitness Studio                |
| 5 Pavilion                          | 18 Chapel                    | 31 ND6 Sixth Form Centre         |
| 6 Sports Hall                       | 19 Coffee Bar                | 32 Food, Art & Textiles          |
| 7 Tree House                        | 20 Dining Hub                | 33 Music Studios                 |
| 8 Summer House                      | 21 Drama Studio #1           | 34 Estates Compound              |
| 9 Adventure Playground              | 22 Montaine Theatre          | 35 New Arts Centre (proposed)    |
| 10 Secure Nursery Playzone          | 23 Science Laboratories      | 36 Track & Field Sports          |
| 11 Early Years                      | 24 LRC and Library           | 37 Forest School                 |
| 12 Woodland Learning Space          | 25 Senior Classes            | 38 Woodland Cross-Country Course |
| 13 Prep Library & Music Studio      | 26 Drama Studio #2           |                                  |

## ALWAYS LOOKING AHEAD

At Notre Dame we have a dynamic and evolving range of impactful and exciting initiatives and projects extending throughout our entire school, all underpinned by our inclusive ethos: our flagship programme that enables every student to take their favourite subjects **'Above and Beyond The Curriculum'**; an extensive new co-curricular programme; greatly enhanced sports provision, including the appointment of Heads of Netball, Swimming and Hockey (from Hockey GB) and partnerships with Chelsea FC (Football) and Rajasthan Royals (Cricket); a **Sport For All** programme, offering around 20 different sports including the likes of

archery, yoga and dance; an active and growing **Eco Project** shining a light into every corner of our school, and sign up to 'Let's Go Zero 2030'; a re-fit of our music rooms and music technology; a new IT strategy including the introduction of one-to-one devices for Senior students and a complete upgrade of our entire IT infrastructure to make sure we are future-proof; renewal of our **Wellbeing Award for Schools**; and a new architectural development plan aimed at further developing our estate in the coming years, with refurbishment and new-build projects proposed. *It's all happening at Notre Dame – watch this space!*



**We would be delighted to welcome you to Notre Dame School for a visit.** Please see [notredame.co.uk](http://notredame.co.uk) for details of our Open Events, or contact Admissions to arrange a visit: 01932 869993 / [admissions@notredame.co.uk](mailto:admissions@notredame.co.uk)





NOTRE  
DAME  
SCHOOL



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A Foundation of the  
Company of Mary Our Lady

