

WALTHAMSTOW HALL

Holly Bush Lane, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 3UL

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INTRODUCTION TO THE SENIOR SCHOOL FOR APPLICANTS

Walthamstow Hall is a selective, academic, day school for girls in the heart of Sevenoaks. It was founded in 1838 as an inter-denominational boarding school for the daughters of Christian missionaries and retains its broadly Christian ethos. It has always been an aim of the school to promote an intelligent understanding of the Christian faith and the school welcomes girls of all faiths. The school enjoys a fine setting with extensive views of the North Downs and Weald. Our friendly and talented staff are at the heart of our success.

The main Senior School building (1882) includes teaching suites for Languages and Humanities and a Careers Library. The School is well-equipped with ICT facilities, including iPads and laptops for staff and class use. There is a well-resourced Library and Theatre (refurbished 2013) as well as additional performance spaces; Elwes Drama Studio (2009); Downton Music Room (2010), and a dedicated Percussion Room (2015). There has also been significant investment to expand and enhance teaching rooms as the school has grown; a new suite of Maths rooms was opened in 2009. In 2004 the Science block was completely refurbished with support from the Wolfson Foundation.

In 2006 the Governing Body announced the Mulberry Development Plan which has included refurbishment of the Assembly Hall; new Design & Technology Rooms (2010); the 'Hub' visitor/student entrance and exhibition space (2012) and at the Junior School site an additional dedicated Dining Hall (2014). The £2.5m pool complex built in 2007 was linked to a new Sports Hall and Centre, which opened in 2015, completing the last phase of Mulberry.

The School has a new state-of-the-Art £5m+ Sixth Form Centre, which was opened in December 2017.

There is regular capital investment in ICT development and there is a clear commitment to the professional development of all staff. Facilities were described as 'outstanding' in the recent inspection.

Miss Stephanie Ferro, the Headmistress, took up her post in January 2018 from The Lady Eleanor Holles School, having worked in Senior Leadership in a number of distinguished schools including Wimbledon High School and Redland High School.

There are approximately 600 pupils in the school 3 - 18. The Junior School (3 - 11 years) is on a separate site. The majority of girls from our Junior School join us at 11+, along with pupils from 20 or so other feeder schools locally. At 11+ there is a three form entry, going to four forms in Year 9. We also have entry at 13+ and 16+, and retention into Sixth Form is strong.

The school encourages high standards in academic work and personal relationships at all levels. There is a notable success at gaining places at medical schools and leading universities, including Oxford and Cambridge. Public examination results are consistently excellent at IGCSE/GCSE, A Level and Pre-U. In 2017, I/GCSE passes at grades A*-B = 97%, and at A Level/Pre-U A*-B = 79% (22% A* grades). On average, girls take 10+ I/GCSEs and 3.9 A level/Pre-U subjects. The 2013 ISI report said "Results in I/GCSE have been higher than both worldwide and UK norms." The school has a strong House system and extra-curricular programme and girls are also encouraged to develop their wider talents and interests. Each year girls raise funds to support local and international charities and are encouraged to get involved with the local community and wider world through projects like the Voluntary Services Unit and the Kusasa project in South Africa.

Walthamstow Hall has its own enhanced salary scale based on DfE scales. Accommodation may be available. Daughters of Walthamstow Hall teaching and support staff may benefit from a proportionate fee reduction at the school from commencement of employment and throughout the school. This is up to a maximum of 65% of the age appropriate fees, including any other concessions. Full details are available from the Bursar's Office. The School has a separate fees concession arrangement with Tonbridge School for sons of teaching staff (13-18 years) and at Prep level with New Beacon School, Sevenoaks. Full details of these schemes are available from the Bursar's Office on request.

We require all staff and volunteers in Regulated Activity to be DBS checked prior to confirmation of appointment and we are committed to providing a safe environment for the children in our care.

Candidates invited to interview will be required to bring evidence of identification, eg passport, and evidence of qualifications required for the post, eg degree certificates, PGCE/QTS documents. Candidates who require adjustments to be made to interview arrangements will be given the opportunity to request special arrangements when invited to interview.

More information, including the School's Staff Recruitment Policy, is available on our website:
www.walthamstow-hall.co.uk

***“Walthamstow Hall educates girls with academic potential
to lead confident, challenging and fulfilling lives”***

What our 2013 Inspection Report says about us

“Throughout the school, pupils have excellent relationships with their teachers.”

“Pupils receive a high quality education from a very committed team of staff.”

“Teachers know and understand them extremely well.”

“The curriculum throughout the school provides an excellent range of subjects and is adaptable to meet individual requirements.”

“At all stages, the personal development of pupils is excellent.” They are “confident and articulate young people with a well-developed understanding of right and wrong and a high degree of emotional maturity. They treat each other with tolerance and respect.”

“Pupils are extremely well-educated – achieve excellent levels of knowledge, understanding and skills. They are highly articulate and confident in expressing their ideas. They are able to think logically and creatively.”

“High quality careers education and advice.”

“Excellent resources are used and managed well to support learning.”

“Staff give generously of their time.”

“Pupils’ attitudes to learning are excellent at all stages.” They are “eager and committed learners.”

“The school successfully attracts and retains high quality staff.”

“Opportunities to participate in a rich panoply of artistic, musical, dramatic, speaking, creative and academic clubs abound and support curriculum interest.”

“Pupils’ spiritual development, social and cultural development is excellent.”

“Extremely high standards of behaviour stem from the school’s ethos.”

“Members of staff have high expectations and pupils respect the agreed rules.”

The quality of Governance and Leadership and Management were rated excellent.

“The school has established strong links with parents, which reflect its constructive and collaborative relationship with them.”

Walthamstow Hall is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, and applicants must be willing to undergo child protection screening appropriate to the post, including checks with past employers and the Disclosure and Barring Service.