



Watford Grammar School for Girls



PROSPECTUS
2020 Entry



Welcome to the prospectus for Watford Grammar School for Girls.

“What makes Watford Grammar School for Girls outstanding is the focus on each girl as an individual and an almost relentless drive to ensure that everyone achieves their very best.” OFSTED

At Watford Grammar School for Girls, we recognise how significant the choice of secondary school is in every child's life. This prospectus is designed to encapsulate the spirit of our school and to highlight just a few of the many factors that ensure that each girl receives an outstanding educational experience.

As recognised by Ofsted, by past and present pupils and by generations of families, Watford Girls is a unique environment. We value our traditions, cherished for more than 300 years in the heart of Watford, and we offer a curriculum that is both dynamic and academic. On Page 5 you will find a summary of the Aims, Ethos, Values and Vision that underpin the culture of our school, with the focus always on excellence, service, community and a love of learning.

The words and photographs cannot truly do justice to the passion and joy you will find in the classrooms and corridors, and so I invite you to visit us on our Open Evening so that you can most clearly judge if this is the right school for your daughter.

Miss Sylvia Tai
Headmistress



Welcome from Sadina - Year 8

Dear Year 6,

Welcome to Watford Grammar School for Girls. I am delighted you are considering coming to this school. I believe that during my time here I have grown in the nurturing, communal atmosphere set up by the dedicated teachers and my supportive peers. The working environment within lessons is crafted for each student to push every individual to their full potential. The school provides a plethora of extra-curricular activities for whatever your passion is. There is something for everyone here, whether it's First Aid Club or badminton. At the start of the year I didn't know anyone else but now I have so many amazing friends.

Your time at WGGGS will teach you new skills and will allow you to meet amazing people and make unforgettable memories. All the teachers here fully understand and cater for the needs of the girls and are with you for every step of the journey, as they all want the best for you. I know this may be a daunting time but this year flew by for me, as I'm sure it will for you, so make every moment count.

Best wishes,

Sadina

Welcome from the Head Girl Team

Dear Year 6,

So you are in your last year of primary school and everything is about to change, from your friends to your school and it can all seem pretty scary, right? Well that is exactly why our school is the perfect place to be!

We have all gone through the exciting and nerve racking experience of Year 7, we are in total agreement that Watford Grammar School for Girls is a place where you are safe and looked after, where everybody is given a warm welcome and encouraged to get fully involved with the life of the school. From the many various sports and music and academic clubs on offer, to the 'excellence' award stickers handed out for all your amazing work, no student will go unrecognised!

The school's motto 'seperate parati', means 'go forward with preparation', this is truly honoured, as in Year 7 all of you will be given the keys to a successful journey through secondary school, with in-depth lessons by committed teachers and the opportunity to be a form leader or a member of the school council.

I hope you're excited about what is to come, because we cannot wait to see what you are capable of and to help you achieve your best and reach new heights!

Tito, Sahaana, Grace, Emily, Lily and Taia

The History of Watford Grammar School for Girls

In 1704 Elizabeth Fuller founded a free school, which for its age was unusual both for being entirely free and for educating girls as well as boys; the school follows closely her example of service and dedication to this day. For 178 years Elizabeth Fuller's scholars, boys and girls, were taught under the same roof, but after a brief removal to new buildings on Derby Road, the boys and girls went their separate ways in 1907, when we took up residence in the aptly named Lady's Close. The site has been much added to and developed over the years, but the generosity, selflessness and academic endeavour of the Founder has never been overshadowed. Her portrait presides over us in every assembly and we celebrate our Foundation every year on the day she decreed over 310 years ago. Earliest records celebrate the achievements of the girls for their hard work and aspiration, attributes the current pupils display in abundance. In recent years the Girls and Boys schools have shared a greater range of activities and come closer together. What remains distinctive about the Girls' School is that it strives for excellence within a caring and dynamic community, something our formidable Founder no doubt would have approved of.



Aims, Ethos, Values and Vision

The Ethos of the school is based firmly on our record of academic success. We encourage all girls to strive for the highest standards in all they do. We value hard work, scholarship, ambition and reading, and believe that these should remain part of each girl's life as she develops a life-long love of learning. We aim to ensure that Teaching and Learning are consistently excellent and that the curriculum is broad, balanced and forward-looking, allowing pupils opportunities to determine their own futures and fulfil their potential.

Service to others is at the heart of the school. We strongly encourage girls to participate actively in all areas of school life, such as music, sport, community service and other enrichment opportunities, and to respect the traditions of our school. Emphasis is placed upon contributing to the school and helping the local, national and international community in as many ways as possible.

We value the diversity of our school: pupils and staff share a wide variety of religious, ethnic and cultural backgrounds and we regard all of our pupils as being of equal worth and concern. The school is what we would like society to be: a collection of considerate, motivated, hard-working and happy people who are capable of living and working together harmoniously, while recognising and respecting each other's differences. Great emphasis is placed upon courtesy, respect, care and tolerance of others.

We aim to develop the leadership skills of all pupils, whilst ensuring that they learn to work as part of a team. The school ethos is focussed on growth, encouraged always by the maxim "I can do it and I will do it!" Our vision is to prepare each girl for her future, ensuring that she gains confidence, resilience and personal responsibility, which will enable her to pursue her own personal, academic and professional goals for the benefit of herself and others.



The Curriculum

We provide an exciting curriculum, which offers all students the opportunity to play a full and active part in all aspects of school life, which develops their technological, scientific, linguistic and creative skills. It is a highly academic curriculum, which offers both breadth and balance, preparing students for the next step in their lives, be it further up the school or into higher education and work. We have a talented staff of specialists in their field, whose overarching aim is to marry academic success with a lasting love of learning, using thinking skills to enable students to engage positively with the world in which they live.

Students with particular aptitudes, abilities and needs are identified from Year 7 and the provision to support more and less able students is organised by the individual departments and overseen by the Learning Support Department.

The Governing Body has an Education Committee to which the Headmistress and Deputy Headmistress regularly report.

• Key Stage 3

The Key Stage 3 Core Curriculum is applied and adapted in English, Mathematics and Science to meet the needs of the students to prepare them for GCSEs.

All students follow a programme of lessons in Art, Classics, Drama, Library skills, Music, Physical Education, History, Geography, Religious Studies and Computing/Technology. Students are allocated one Modern Foreign Language (French, German or Spanish) in Year 7.

In Years 8 and 9 the vast majority of students are offered a choice of studying an additional Modern Foreign Language or Latin.

Homework is set by each subject according to a weekly timetable.

Personal and Citizenship Education (PACE), including Relationships and Sex Education, is a timetabled lesson. Elements of citizenship are also addressed through assemblies and other areas of the curriculum.

Our busy programme of extended curricular clubs includes a number of sporting and musical activities; students are encouraged to participate in at least three such activities per week. There should be something for everyone!



• Key Stage 4

All students will follow a compulsory core of subjects:

- English Language
- English Literature
- Mathematics
- Combined Science, or three separate sciences
- Modern Foreign Language (French, German, or Spanish) or Latin
- One of the humanities: Geography, History, Religious Studies or Classical Civilization

Students then have a free choice of an additional two subjects.

Non-examination subjects include:

- PACE (Personal and Citizenship Education): this includes Health and Sex and Relationships Education, Careers and Work Based Learning as well as Citizenship. The latter is also addressed in other areas of the curriculum.
- Religious Studies
- Physical Education

All students are still offered a large choice of activities in the extended curriculum and encouraged to continue to participate in at least one.

Homework is set weekly by each subject. Students organise their own time and work to meet the deadlines.

• Key Stage 5

The Sixth Form at Watford Grammar School for Girls is where the students reap the rewards of their previous five years of hard work and dedication: not only do they get to specialise in the subjects they are really passionate about, they will also get the opportunity to use and develop their skills, to prepare for the demands of the 'A' Level examinations and the journey to the exciting world of higher education and professional life.

We offer a broad range of academic 'A' Levels, with some subjects being shared with Watford Grammar School for Boys. We also provide a wide and enriching selection of extended curricular activities, including the FORUM programme which deals with preparation for applying to universities and employment, life skills and wellbeing, in addition to the EPQ (Extended Project Qualification), sports, arts and music.

To find out more please view our Sixth Form prospectus [HERE](#).

"The choice of languages is really good with great trips."
Asbah - Year 8

"There are lots of great opportunities to do sport."
Amaya - Year 7



Extended Curriculum

• Clubs & Societies

Joining clubs and societies can be such an exciting and valuable part of every child's education and we encourage it. We offer a wide variety at lunchtime and after school and we do recommend that all Year 7 students take part in at least three clubs a week to broaden their interests and more importantly, to meet new people and make friends.

"There are loads of extra-curricular activities so it is easy to follow your passion"

Gemma - Year 9

"There's a club for everyone, every lunchtime."

Gemma & Khadijah - Year 8



• Trips

Every year there is a wide scope of trips for all year groups, ranging from evening visits to some of the best theatre in the world and expeditions overseas. Many are based upon the curriculum to support and enrich work in the classroom, with others being designed to develop confidence and encourage girls to try new experiences and move out of their comfort zone. When we speak to former students who come back to visit us or to our Year 13 students, just as they are poised to leave the school, it is these trips which often form the basis of their fondest memories of school life.

"The Year 7 trip to Bude was amazing and we learnt to look after ourselves without our parents."

Tiyana, Bianca, Simran & Jaanki
- Year 8



Pastoral Care and Student Welfare

• Pastoral Care

The foundation of everything we seek to achieve is the effective pastoral care of our students, upon which wellbeing and academic success are built. We want students to be happy, healthy, safe and to make progress and to this end all members of staff, teaching and non-teaching, work as a team. The focus of all school policy and action is the student: we commit ourselves to fostering her intellectual and emotional growth; the development of her skills and interests and the recognition and celebration of her progress, from the moment she enters the school as a Year 7 student, to the moment she leaves, at the end of either Year 11 or Year 13.

• Pastoral Organisation

Even before a Year 7 student walks into the building on the first day of her Watford Grammar School for Girls career, she will have been given a tutor who she will have met the previous July, along with all the other members of her form group. The form tutor is at the centre of her school life, ensuring that she is happy and able to flourish in a supportive and academic environment and preparing her for adult life, by asking her to take on a variety of different responsibilities. The Year 7 forms are based in Hyde House, which does ease the transition from a smaller primary environment into this large, vibrant and bustling secondary school: at break and lunch, they also have sole access to the beautiful Lady's Close garden which provides a place of peace and tranquillity. Students will stay in the same form group from Year 7 to the end of Year 11 and in the Sixth Form the form groups will be reorganised to broaden the students' social vistas and also integrate the many students coming to us from other secondary schools.

The team of tutors is led by a Head of Year who will and as a general principle, the year team will stay with the year group as they progress up the school: this ensures that there is continuity of care for every student in a strong and supportive social group. We value our relationships with parents and carers, as we see ourselves as working in partnership with home and we ensure that we keep you informed as to what your daughter is doing and how she is doing, on a regular basis.

We liaise with the appropriate support agencies such as the Local Authority's Children's Services and School Attendance Improvement Officer, Chessbrook Education Support Centre and the Educational Psychology Service, ensuring that we are able to give effective support to children and families when it is required.



Charity & Service

Charity and service to others is an important focus of school life, with all students encouraged to help the local, national and international community, in as many ways as possible. Every year we raise between £15,000 and £20,000 for a wide range of charities, through a variety of events: we have had cake sales, interform limbo dancing and karaoke and the weekly Knit and Knatter Club who have knitted blankets for babies in Rwanda in addition to raising money to buy packs to support new mothers. In all that we do, we encourage students to reflect upon the world in which they live and how best they can help to make a difference to someone other than themselves and their immediate family.

As a school we play an active part in the life of the Watford Community. The Year 12 Community Christmas Party is a long established and much cherished tradition; the girls plan and host a festive party for over 80 of our more venerable and senior community members, organising refreshments, decorations, presents and entertainment in addition to a visit by Father Christmas and his elves! Another eagerly anticipated event is the Harvest Festival. Year 13 students promote and advertise the event within the school with a lively, colourful and musical assembly and then distribute the harvest gifts throughout the community, where they are most needed.

Students at Key Stage 4 volunteer to be Young People of the Year Befrienders (YOPEY), being trained to engage with and relate to people with dementia who are supported in care homes. Every year both students and residents get a tremendous amount from these visits, being able to share their life experiences despite the age gap. A particular delight is when the students meet with someone who has been a pupil at our school, enabling them to learn more about our past.

"Everyone helps each other when they're stuck."

Savannah - Year 7





View our Further Information document here

www.watfordgrammarschoolforgirls.org.uk

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