



Tormead



From the Headmistress

Thank you for enquiring about Tormead, one of the country's leading independent day schools for girls. We are all very proud of our school and its ethos of encouraging each individual pupil to develop her talents to the full. We aim to instil in every girl a lifelong love of learning and the confidence to develop and express independent thought. Our academic expectations are high, and we value our students' impressive record of examination successes and university places. We are

equally proud of their many other cultural and sporting achievements, and of their varied contributions to the life of the wider community.

Tormead was founded in 1905 as an interdenominational school; we welcome girls of all faiths and those of none. We value individuality, celebrate diversity and encourage girls to be themselves, whilst emphasising equally the value of tolerance, teamwork and collective responsibility. We work closely with parents to enable each girl to leave Tormead at ease with herself, and ready to face with confidence the challenges of higher education and beyond.

This prospectus will introduce you to life at Tormead but it can only provide a glimpse of the opportunities available. I should like to invite you to one of our open days so that you may meet our staff and pupils, and take a tour around our facilities. If you are unable to come to an open day our Registrar will be pleased to arrange an alternative visit to the School. She can be contacted on 01483 796040.

I look forward to welcoming you and your daughter to Tormead.



Mrs Sue Marks



The School



Tormead is an independent day school for girls aged 4 to 18. Founded in 1905, it occupies a pleasant leafy site within easy walking distance of London Road station and the centre of Guildford. The original Victorian buildings have been extended and updated over the years to provide well-designed, modern facilities which benefit from state of the art Information and Communications Technology. Recent additions include two new teaching buildings in the Junior Department and, in the Senior School, a new science block, specialist textiles and design technology rooms, a modern languages computer room and a brand new centre for the performing arts.

Sports facilities include a modern, well-equipped sports hall and Tormead is one of the few schools in the country to have a sprung gymnasium floor. Pupils also make full use of high quality sports facilities close to the school, such as the four swimming pool complex and athletics stadium at Guildford Spectrum and the Urnfield playing fields across the Epsom Road.

Tormead School is highly successful in achieving its aim to create a caring and supportive environment where each pupil is encouraged to develop her talents to the full.

Staff provide outstanding support and guidance for the well-being and development of their pupils, in both sections of the School.

Independent Schools Inspectorate Report March 2007







Juniors

The Junior Department, situated just across the road from the Senior School, is very much a part of the School as a whole, sharing its ethos, outlook, priorities and aspirations. The main points of entry are at age 4 and age 7 although places sometimes become available at other

ages. Priority is given to girls from the Junior Department in the allocation of Senior School places at age 11, and almost all Junior Department girls 'come over the road' to the Senior School in Year 7.

Senior School facilities such as the Sports Hall are in



Juniors

regular use by Junior Department girls and a number of staff teach in both sections of the school. Older girls very much enjoy the opportunities to become involved in activities with our younger pupils.

Pupils achieve high standards in relation to their abilities in the Junior Department. ...

Pupils ... are enthusiastic learners and concentrate well in an atmosphere that is always friendly, relaxed and purposeful.

Independent School Inspectorate Report March 2007





The excellent care, support and guidance build up pupils' confidence and awareness of others.

Pupils appreciate the help and guidance given by staff, articulated by one pupil as 'like 5-star hotel service'.

Independent Schools Inspectorate Report March 2007





Seniors

In Year 6 girls from other preparatory and primary schools join those from our own Junior Department in sitting the 11+ entrance examinations and, on entrance to the Senior School in Year 7, numbers in the year are approximately doubled. Girls are placed in four mixed ability forms of around 24 pupils each and most subjects are taught in these form groups throughout the first three years. Mathematics and French are taught in sets selected

by ability and there are smaller groups for practical subjects.

Responsibility and leadership are encouraged in a variety of ways. Every form elects its own form captain and deputy each term. These girls represent their form's views in forums such as the School Council and the Catering Committee, as well as taking responsibility for various administrative tasks. Each girl is a member of one



Seniors

of our four Houses (Livingstone, Nelson, Nightingale and Wellington) through which she is able to mix with girls of different ages whilst taking part in various inter-House events and competitions. As girls become older they take on responsibility for younger pupils in the 'Aunts' system or by becoming a Lower School Leader.

Pupils develop outstandingly well and are very well prepared for later life.

Independent Schools Inspectorate Report March 2007







Sixth Form

Life in the Sixth Form begins with an activity-based residential induction weekend. This is an important opportunity for students to get to know each other and their tutors better. The weekend involves motivational and bonding sessions as well as challenges such as rock climbing, gorge walking, canoeing and caving.

Sixth Form students at Tormead enjoy greater independence and self-direction than younger students, to help them develop the motivation and skills necessary for successful study at university and entry into the workforce. The Sixth Form Centre has a large common room with kitchen area, where the students are able to relax between lessons; girls may choose to 'sign out' of school when they are free and walk the short distance to the centre of Guildford. Facilities for independent study include a dedicated computer room and an area of the Senior Library which is exclusively for the use of Sixth Formers.

During the Lower Sixth year girls study five subjects at AS Level including General Studies which is taught through a series of workshops and lectures from in-house and visiting specialists. The number of subjects is normally reduced in the Upper Sixth year to four subjects (including General Studies) at A2, where the workload is heavier. Girls are placed in tutor groups of up to 12 students and they spend two years with their tutor. The tutor will carefully monitor each girl's academic progress, discuss any problems with her in the Upper Sixth year, and work with her closely on her university applications under the guidance of the Head of Sixth Form.

The girls are encouraged to maintain and develop broad interests beyond their academic studies: a programme of short courses runs one afternoon per week during the Autumn and Spring terms, shared with the Royal Grammar School and Guildford High School, offering a wide variety of subjects from ballroom dancing to beginners' Russian. The Young Enterprise Scheme and Schools Without Walls programme provide further new opportunities and girls also become more involved with the community through volunteer work with such local organisations as Disability Challengers. Since 2003 three Tormead Sixth Formers have received the Diana, Princess of Wales Award for service to the community.



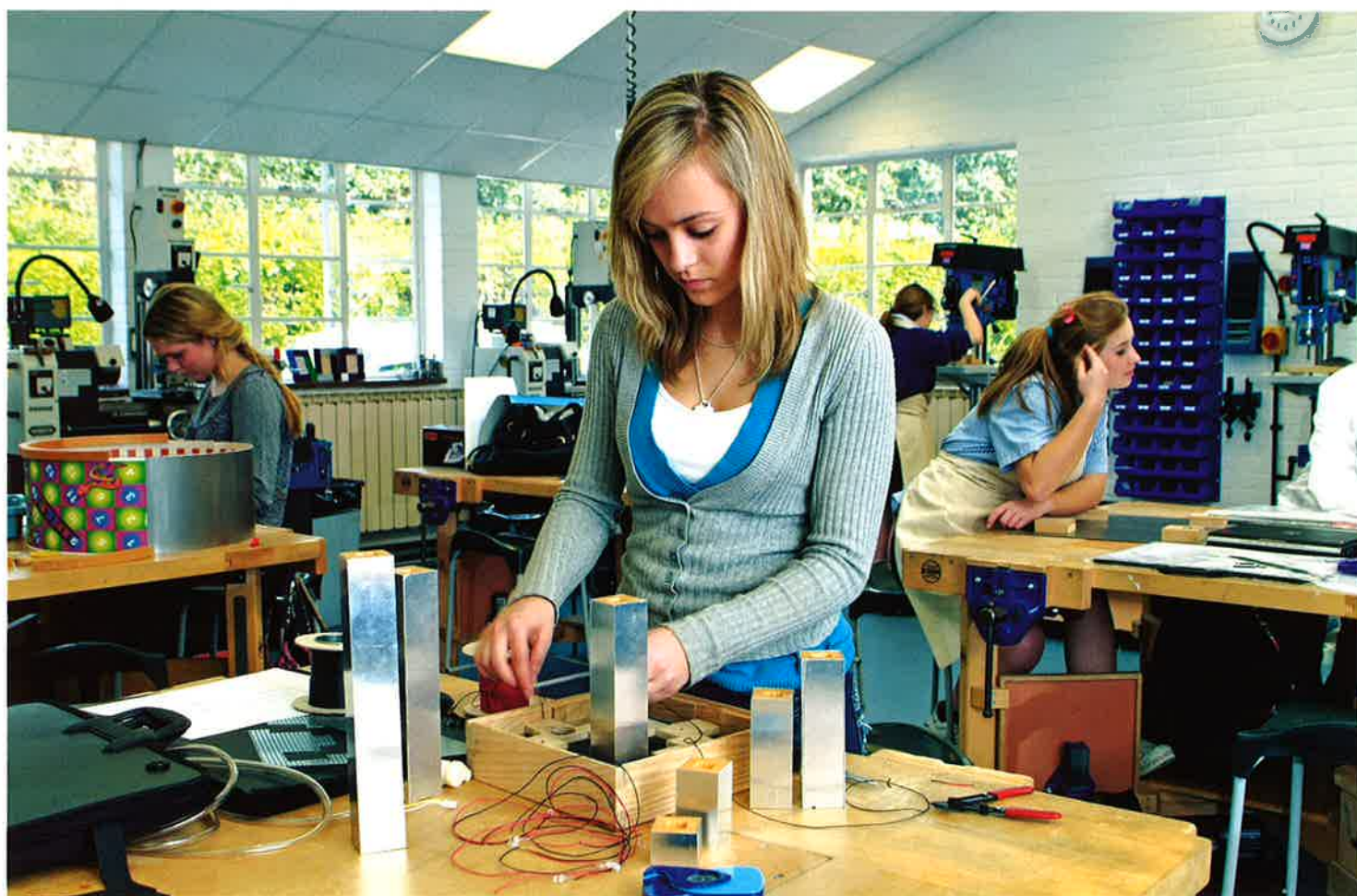
Sixth Form

Sixth Formers have an important role to play in the daily life of the School. The Head Girl's team organise and chair the School Council which gives pupils a voice in the running of the School. House captains, games captains, senior prefects and academic mentors all play an important role in helping to plan and run many of the clubs, activities and sports practices for the younger girls. The Charity Committee is run by sixth formers who, each year, in consultation with the whole School, choose one or more causes to support and encourage fundraising.

*Pupils' excellent study **skills** enable them to produce their own high quality notes and to organise their work well; they are good at selecting relevant material and highlighting key points, which prepares them well for university.*

Pupils show a high level of responsibility for their own behaviour and participate keenly in the life of their community.

Independent Schools Inspectorate Report March 2007



Sport



Tormead has an excellent reputation for sport and our teams regularly achieve success at local, county, regional and national level. Gymnastics, hockey, netball, swimming and biathlon are particular strengths. On-site facilities including floodlit netball courts and the modern gymnasium and sports hall are supplemented by the use

of nearby off-site facilities such as the swimming pool complex and athletics stadium at Spectrum, and local all-weather hockey pitches.

The School recognises the value of taking teams overseas to widen their competitive and cultural experiences. Gymnasts and hockey players compete in annual fixtures



Sport



with the British School of Brussels; the senior hockey and netball teams toured Barbados in 2002 and the hockey teams returned for a second visit in 2006.

The School operates a 'sport for all' approach to extra-curricular sport, where development squads are run in tandem with competition squads to ensure that every girl has access to expert coaching, and fixtures are organised for 'C' and 'D' teams wherever possible.

Sport and physical exercise remain part of the curriculum

throughout the School but, from age 15 onwards, girls may choose from an increasingly wide range of options including ice skating, rugby and rock climbing.

*The School has a well-deserved national reputation in gymnastics...
it achieves sustained success in other sports at regional
and national level.*

Independent Schools Inspectorate Report March 2007





The Arts



Art is a part of the curriculum for all girls until Year 9. At GCSE Art and Design is a popular choice and girls consistently achieve outstandingly high grades. Individuals are encouraged to form a highly personal and disciplined approach to their work, achieving their full potential whether their strengths lie in drawing, painting, graphics or three-dimensional design.

The Sixth Form AS and A Level courses enable girls to develop their creative flair further and also ensure that

they achieve a high standard of analytical and contextual written work. At A Level girls produce ambitious and sophisticated artworks in the well-resourced department. Each year Tormead students are offered places at some of the country's most prestigious art, fashion and design colleges.

The School provides well for aesthetic and creative endeavour, especially in art, design technology and music.

Independent School's Inspectorate Report March 2007



The Arts



Like Art, music plays a major part in the wider life of the School through timetabled lessons including the option to study for GCSE and A Level, and a wealth of extra curricular opportunities. From their earliest days in the Junior Department girls are encouraged to sing in choirs and to learn to play at least one instrument.

Approximately 75% of girls in the Junior Department and 40% of girls in the Senior School have individual instrumental lessons and they are encouraged to sit Associated Board examinations up to Grade 8 level. Our girls greatly enjoy playing or singing in larger groups and they can choose from four orchestras (two in the Junior Department), four choirs (two in the Junior Department), various ensembles and chamber groups and the highly acclaimed Jazz Band which plays at local events and tours biennially in Europe during the summer holidays.

A varied programme of informal and formal concerts

takes place throughout the school year; on special occasions parents and old girls are invited to perform with the girls.

Several Tormead students have been girl choristers at Guildford Cathedral and a former student recently attended the prestigious international summer school in Tanglewood, New Jersey prior to taking up her place to read music at Cambridge.

Music is taught in modern, purpose built facilities; Senior School pupils benefit from the JCS building, a performing arts centre opened in September 2007, whilst Junior Department girls study in the Shackleton House music room, built in 2005.

Considerable success in individual examinations supports high standards in musical activities such as the Sax Quartet and Jazz Band, who play with stylistic awareness and flair.

Independent Schools Inspectorate Report March 2007





As with music and art, drama is part of the core curriculum up to Year 9 and may be studied at GCSE; Theatre Studies is a popular choice at A Level. Girls in the Senior School have the option to visit numerous professional productions on the London stage.

Drama also flourishes in extra curricular lessons and clubs. The Junior Department stages regular productions and in the Senior School there are two main productions

a year, enabling all age groups to perform. Joint productions are staged from time to time with boys from the Royal Grammar School. Recent productions have included 'A Midsummer Night's Dream', 'Our House', 'Tom's Midnight Garden' and 'Oliver Twist'.

Group speech and drama lessons are available in the Junior Department, both individual and group lessons are available in the Senior School and many girls take the





London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art (LAMDA) examinations. Each year several girls attain the coveted gold medal in acting or the speaking of verse and prose. Debating is a popular activity amongst girls in the Senior School. Younger pupils practise their rhetoric in competitions with local schools; by the time they reach the Sixth Form teams are participating in national competitions such as the Observer Mace. In recent years, girls from

Tormead have consistently won through to debate at the Oxford Union in the finals of the National Schools' competition.

Pupils reason and argue cogently, and think for themselves, both orally and on paper.

Elizabethan School of Drama and Music, 1999



Pastoral Care

At Tormead we recognise that girls learn best when they are happy and feel known and valued as individuals. In the Junior Department small classes ensure that the Form Teacher has time for every girl and can be in close contact with parents should any concerns arise.

In the Senior School the Form Tutors and Heads of Lower School (Years 7-9), Upper School (Years 10 and 11) and Sixth Form carefully monitor the progress and welfare of every girl. This structure is underpinned by a well-developed Personal, Social and Health Education

(‘PSHE’) programme which is delivered jointly by teams of specialist teachers and Form Tutors.

*Pastoral care underpins the core values of the School.
Staff provide outstanding support and guidance for the well-being
and development of their pupils, in both sections of the School.
Links with parents and the community are outstanding ...
A strong ethos of respect and consideration means that the School has
little need for formal rules.*

Independent Schools Inspectorate Report March 2002



Extra Curricular



A wide range of clubs and societies meets during the lunch hours and after school to extend the girls' intellectual and social development. In addition to sport, music, drama and debating the girls can choose from a list of activities appropriate to their age. In recent years this list has included Art Club, Ballet, Card Making, Charity Committee, Chess, Christian Union, Computing, Creative Writing, EcoSchools, Film Making, Gardening, Modern Languages Club, Music Theory, Photography, Puzzle Club, Rag Rug Making, 'RS goes to the Movies', Tornews,

(the girls' own termly newspaper) and Young Enterprise.

From Year 5 upwards the curriculum is enriched by a series of annual residential visits (some in the UK and some overseas) which take place during the summer term. These trips help to develop girls' teamwork and resourcefulness as well as extending oral foreign language skills, fieldwork techniques and cultural understanding.

From Year 9 onwards girls are eligible to join the bronze level of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme; many progress to silver and eventually achieve their gold award



Extra Curricular

before they leave the School. In recent years significant numbers of Sixth Formers have been selected to join British Schools' Exploring Society expeditions, involving six weeks of project work and adventure in remote areas of the world such as arctic Norway, the Amazon or central Africa. Tormead is one of only 23 schools in the country to have been awarded star school status by BSES.

Tormead students aged 15 and older also have the opportunity to participate in four-week long overseas expeditions in association with World Challenge.

Expeditions have taken place to Costa Rica and Bolivia and the next is planned for China. The challenge for the girls (and the staff who accompany them) begins long before the journey starts, with a 15-20 month programme of training, fundraising and research that provides the maximum educational impact.

The range and organisation of extra curricular activities are outstanding across the age range.

Independent School Inspector Report 2017/18





Photograph by Zelda Tan

