

Excellent planning
and open-ended
questioning
lead pupils
to display
very positive
attitudes towards
their learning and
a high degree
of motivation.

Independent Schools Inspectorate Report

AT A GLANCE



- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| Excellent academic achievement | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Individual, tailored pastoral care | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Highly qualified and experienced staff | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| National and international trips for all ages | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Programmes designed to help girls excel | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Stately home, thoroughly modern facilities | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Excellence in Music, Drama, Art and Sport | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Huge array of extra-curricular opportunities | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

NOTRE
DAME
SCHOOL



PROSPECTUS

WE ARE DELIGHTED TO WELCOME YOU TO NOTRE DAME

All that is best in modern society works on the sound principles of intelligence, initiative, compassion and mutual co-operation. These are the qualities you will find embedded in the ethos of Notre Dame School.

We are committed to encouraging the individuality of every pupil and developing her faith and sense of service to the community. The pastoral role of the Sisters complements the work of the teaching staff in providing a wonderfully effective support to the girls. This harmony between academic endeavour and pastoral care is one of the school's great strengths, creating a happy environment in which every girl can thrive and achieve.

When you visit Notre Dame, you will find a vibrant and successful independent school which is constantly evolving and developing the quality and scope of its facilities. We are immensely proud of our peaceful grounds, fully-equipped Learning Resources Centre, capacious sports hall, nonagonal 380-seat Theatre, health and fitness studio, contemporary Sixth Form block and indoor heated swimming pool, complete with modern facilities. These, together with our healthy eating initiatives and vibrant cafeteria-style dining room, ensure our busy students have all the opportunities for a balanced lifestyle.

Based on its solid foundations, the school has ambitious yet realistic plans for the future to ensure that the success our pupils achieve today is maintained and enhanced for those who follow.

To arrange a visit, please contact the Registrar on 01932 869990.



David Plummer

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WE'RE ON TWITTER. FOLLOW US FOR REGULAR DAILY TWEETS ON @NOTREDAMECOBHAM



NOTRE DAME SCHOOL



FROM 2 TO 18: YOUR DAUGHTER'S EDUCATION PLAN

In this prospectus we are endeavouring to give an authentic flavour of what Notre Dame School has to offer your daughter. We also welcome boys aged 2-4 in BlueBelles Nursery, part of our Early Years Department.

Notre Dame School is an independent Roman Catholic day school for approximately 700 girls aged 2-18.

Set in 17 acres of beautiful, rural parkland, our school is part of a world-wide educational organisation, founded in Bordeaux in the 17th century by Saint Jeanne de Lestonnac. The Company of Mary Our Lady is the oldest recognised educational order, devoted to the teaching of girls and a belief in the unique contribution they make to society.

We welcome families, of all faiths, who wish their daughters to grow spiritually, academically and socially in a dynamic, challenging yet caring environment.

Our rural setting ensures tranquillity as well as security, beauty as well as freedom, opportunities for risk taking and adventure. From Forest School to wildlife explorers, places for reflection and quiet to full on competition, Notre Dame School has it all.

The School comprises:

- **Early Years**
For boys and girls aged 2-4
- **Pre-Prep**
For girls aged 4-7
- **Prep**
For girls aged 7-11
- **Senior**
For girls aged 11-16
- **Sixth Form**
For girls aged 16-18

Please see our website, www.notredame.co.uk, for details of the next open day.

THE START OF YOUR CHILD'S JOURNEY

BlueBelles Nursery at Notre Dame prepares the children well for their future learning and development. After two years, most of our children progress to Pre-Prep, enabling us to take a long-term view of each child's education.

Our children have their own classrooms and outdoor play areas but, as part of a whole school, they have access to a range of facilities and specialist teaching staff for music. The older children are also taught Spanish by a specialist teacher, have a weekly library session with the school librarian and enjoy swimming in the school pool with our swimming teacher. All these activities take place within the 17 acres of beautiful school grounds, including a Forest School area.

OUR AIMS

- To provide a warm, caring environment in which children can safely grow and develop.
- To plan a range of experiences which will challenge and motivate young children.
- To promote the development of the individual, yet encourage her/him to co-operate as a member of a larger group.
- To make the transition from home to the Early Years to full-time school as smooth and problem-free as possible.



Sally Palmer

Sally Palmer, Head of Early Years
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"Without doubt, BlueBelles was the best place for my daughter to make a start to her schooling life. It's been brilliant!"



Pupils are confident, caring and keen to celebrate the success of others. Pupils of all ages have outstandingly well-developed personal qualities.

Independent Schools Inspectorate Report

AGE 2-4

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

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

At Notre Dame School we are dedicated to opening pupils' eyes to the joy of learning, developing to the full their natural enthusiasm and thirst for knowledge.

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 they make the transition from the Early Years Department, they are completely prepared for the first steps along the more formally structured educational path.

The Early Years Department provides an ideal environment in which girls and boys aged 2 to 4 can flourish and develop socially and physically as well as educationally.

We are blessed with very well-qualified and nurturing staff who create a home-from-home atmosphere, always ensuring each child is treated as their own, with care, love and compassion in a secure environment.

NOTRE DAME
BlueBelles
Nursery





NOTRE DAME
RUNS A BREAKFAST
CLUB FROM 8AM
EVERY MORNING,
AND AFTERCARE
FOR PREP GIRLS
UNTIL 6PM EVERY
EVENING

THE LOVE OF LEARNING

The feeling of 'belonging' and being valued is a vital attribute we want every girl to possess throughout her time with us at Notre Dame. Even the briefest of visits will highlight the success of the school's philosophy and the tremendously positive atmosphere it engenders.

A ROUNDED EDUCATION

In addition to the core subjects of English, Mathematics, Science, Religious Education and ICT, the curriculum in Pre-Prep includes Spanish, Humanities, Art & Design, Technology, Drama, Music, PE, Ballet and Swimming.

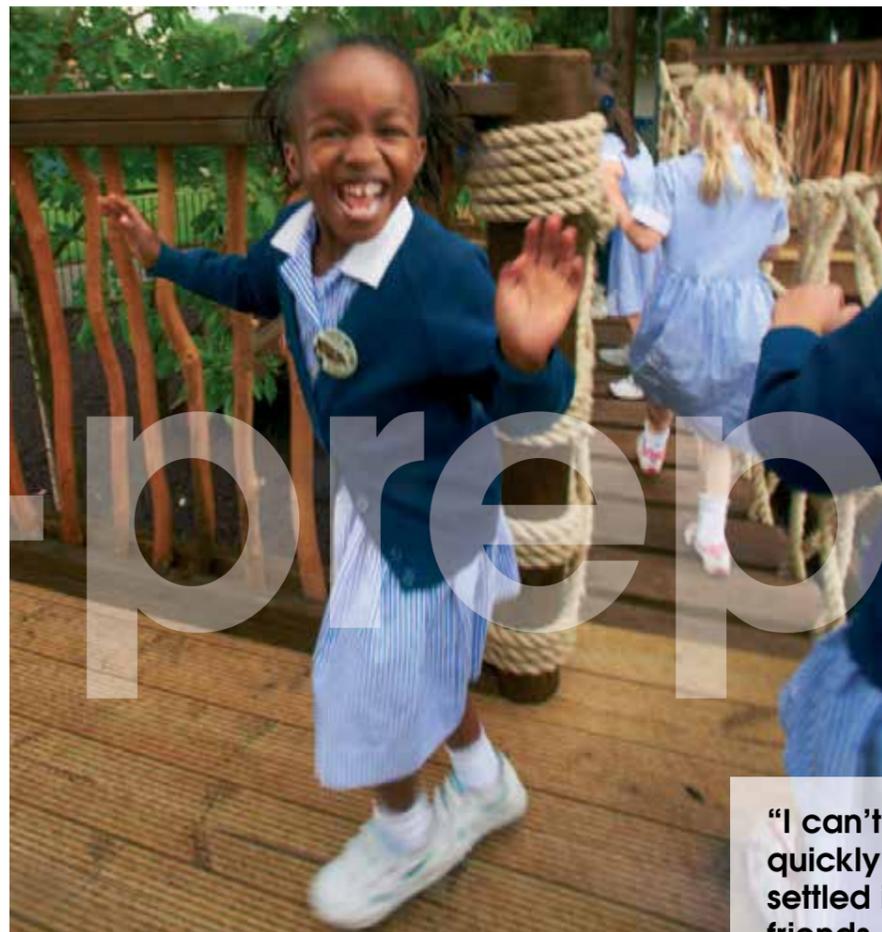
PUTTING PEOPLE FIRST

Notre Dame School is a people-orientated environment. We believe that personal motivation, faith, sincerely delivered pastoral care and an atmosphere of mutual co-operation provide the springboard to success and achievement for our pupils.

WE ARE INCLUSIVE

Pupils, parents, the Sisters and staff all have the opportunity to participate fully in the life of the school. Within this culture of putting people first, we invest substantially in the equipment and classroom resources that will best serve the demands of a modern education, as we hope the images of the school in this prospectus serve to illustrate.

The girls are also provided with many varied and exciting opportunities in our extra-curricular programme.



"I can't believe how quickly my daughter settled in and made friends. We have been really impressed with the family feel and the welcome we all received."



 **AGE 5-6**

The school's role is central to meeting the practical requirements of the curriculum – literacy, numeracy and creativity.

At the beginning of Year 1, Notre Dame girls are introduced to the initial stage of the National Curriculum, although we have developed a much more rigorous, searching and valuable version which has seen far better results in internal tests compared with the SATS which many state-school pupils sit at the end of Year 2.

During Years 1 and 2, we encourage the joy of learning that little ones naturally have at this age. We help the girls maintain a healthy, active life through regular exercise, fresh food and a carefully focussed programme of academic learning, drama, music and sport. At this age girls learn to function independently, whilst also developing strong friendships and discovering new interests.

Girls can begin French lessons as an optional extra during the Reception year (Spanish is already timetabled in), which is the year during which they will be five years old. French lessons continue as an optional extra through to Year 6, preparing them for further opportunities to learn Italian, German and Latin higher up the school.



BUILDING ON SOLID FOUNDATIONS

The discovery of self is especially important during the Prep School years. We draw out individual talents, develop personal strengths and positively address weaknesses. This is undertaken both in class and in a wide range of internal clubs and extra-curricular workshops.

The Prep Department at Notre Dame explores every facet of academic life and the school is especially proud of its strengths in drama, art, music, sport and languages. These are subjects at the very core of self-expression and you will find them enthusiastically carried through to the Senior School, where they are taken to an even higher level.

The curriculum has breadth, depth and relevance. It is an enhanced version of the National Curriculum, designed to provide a truly rounded, challenging preparatory education. The girls learn how to get the best from themselves and grow in motivation to excel, enjoy and achieve. The development of learning skills continues to be an important theme, as pupils tackle more advanced work. Knowing how to learn will forever remain one of life's most valuable lessons.

Social, sporting and leisure interests are also encouraged to blossom in an atmosphere of mutual co-operation. A comprehensive range of extra-curricular activities is offered, including: ballet, golf, French, badminton, enthusiasts' swimming, orchestra, jazz, dance, yoga, fencing, Scrabble, chess, choirs, speech and drama, craft, tennis and art appreciation.



Merinda D'Aprano

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"I've grown in confidence so much since joining Notre Dame and now I'm ready for 'big' school."



AGE 7-11

Girls begin Year 3 in the academic year when they will be seven years old. Notre Dame takes on a new intake into Year 3, generally rising from two classes to three. Class sizes average anywhere between 15 and 20 girls.

Continuing on from the work begun in Pre-Prep, girls follow an enhanced version of the National Curriculum, covering: English, Mathematics, Science, Spanish, Information and Communication Technology, Design Technology, Art and Design, Music, Physical Education, Religious Education and a humanities project called TASK

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

In Year 5 (age 10), girls will be prepared in Maths, English and Verbal Reasoning for their senior school entry exams.

NOTRE DAME SCHOOL





"I'm loving my time at Notre Dame. There's so much space, and so much to do, and I really like my 'big sister'..."



 **AGE**
7-11

In the January of Year 6, at age 10/11, all girls will sit their entry exams for senior school. At Notre Dame, the vast majority of our girls naturally progress from Prep to Senior where the continuity of single-umbrella pastoral care and familiar surroundings enables them to quickly settle and acclimatise to senior school life.

Our entrance test procedure is designed to be as reassuring and calm as possible so girls feel confident and can perform to the best of their ability.

During Year 6, all the girls progressing to Notre Dame Senior School take part in Senior School Taster Days and other joint activities with their senior counterparts.



NOTRE DAME PREP... AT A GLANCE

- An environment which educates, including 17 acres of park lands, sports pitches, swimming pool, forest school area, treehouse, and dedicated specialist teaching rooms.
- A vibrant, bespoke humanities curriculum to develop thinking skills, moral foundation and knowledge.
- A wide range of co-curricular activities to enhance the educational experience.
- Highly qualified teaching staff including subject specialists for music, PE, drama, Spanish, swimming, upper junior science, and dance.
- A friendly, vibrant, mixed-ability community of happy girls.



Excellent leadership and management are reflected in the pupils' outstanding overall achievement and personal development. The hallmark of the management is that nothing is left to chance, with meticulous attention to detail. Teamwork is of a high order.

Independent Schools Inspectorate Report

A GREAT PLACE TO STUDY, LEARN AND DEVELOP

Our objective is to give every girl a balanced perspective, based on motivation, achievement, enjoyment and high personal expectations. We recognise and nurture strengths, identify and resolve weaknesses, and encourage individuality and independence.

From their first day in the Senior School, well-motivated girls are challenged by a wide-ranging curriculum, delivered by highly qualified subject specialists. Enthusiasm is the hallmark of lessons at Notre Dame, whether for science or arts subjects, technology, humanities or mathematics. Confidence is fostered by small teaching groups, so that academic rigour can be encouraged and enjoyed by all.

We are not like other schools. Yes, we focus on achievement; our girls need academic success to be able to take the lead in the world of tomorrow. But that is not all we do, and that is where Notre Dame is different. We believe in giving our students the opportunities to find their strengths, their talents. That means we don't specialise in a narrow range of subjects, and that we give as much focus to sport, art, music, design and drama as we do to science, languages, maths, the humanities and English, and as we do to leadership opportunities, community service, supporting others and building confidence.

It is our mission to recognise and nurture individual potential in all areas of endeavour. Inherent in all we do is our ethos; that we are all important, special, and valued. We are a community, and we are, together, accompanying our young women in their efforts to build their lives for today and tomorrow.



Anna King

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"As a fairly new family to the school I have to thank you and congratulate you on your fantastic pastoral care and kindness."



Excellent planning, open-ended questioning and a dynamic pace... lead pupils to display very positive attitudes towards their learning and a high degree of motivation.

Independent Schools Inspectorate Report

NOTRE DAME SCHOOL



AGE 11-16

Entry to the Senior School at Notre Dame is via examination, which is taken in the January prior to the year of entry.

Key Stage 3 – Years 7 to 9
Broadly following the National Curriculum, the Senior School builds on the foundations learnt in the Prep School. Girls work in a range of groupings through the curriculum, as it is good to learn how to work in a variety of settings and with different students.

All girls undertake a programme of study covering: English, Mathematics, Science, Theology, Information and Communication Technology (ICT), Design Technology, History, Geography, Modern Foreign Languages (including French, Spanish, German), Latin, Art and Design, Music, Drama, Food and Nutrition, Physical Education, PSHE, Careers Education.

Key Stage 4 – Years 10 and 11
These are the GCSE years. All girls must study English Literature, English Language, Maths, Science (either double or triple award), Theology and one Modern Foreign language from a choice of Spanish, French or German. Additional GCSEs include Drama, Geography, History, Physical Education, Music, additional Languages, Food and Nutrition, Textiles, Art, Design and Technology, ICT, and Latin. Generally, all girls will take either 10 or 11 GCSEs.





EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

At Notre Dame, there's a feast of extra interests to be pursued. With more than 300 sister schools throughout the world, we offer unparalleled opportunities to experience life and language in other countries during exchange visits.

Pupils' achievements in drama, music and art are substantial and there are excellent opportunities to be involved in sport, charitable work, outdoor activities and community service.

Sports tournaments, inter-house competitions, school plays, music concerts and theatre visits all encourage full commitment from the girls. There is a wide range of clubs and societies, covering interests as diverse as science, aerobics, chess, dance, orchestra, singing, badminton, netball, cookery, the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, Young Enterprise and many more. We have even taken drama productions to the Edinburgh Fringe, with great success.

The resources to help us achieve the consistent success recorded by our pupils are modern and extensive. However, we never deviate from our basic philosophy that, above all, it is people who count.



 **AGE**
11-16

In the Summer Term of each year, usually immediately after half term, all girls sit end-of-year exams in all of the subjects which they are studying.

During the GCSE years, girls will begin to formulate their plans for further study at Notre Dame's Sixth Form Centre, ND6, and will be guided through subject choice by subject heads and other specialist teaching staff.

Year 11 girls will sit mock GCSE exams in December.

GCSE exams are taken at the end of Year 11 (usually in June), and the results published in August. By this stage, A Levels should have been chosen, with thought given to possible university courses, and possible career plans that these courses could lead on to.



SCHOOL OPENS AT 7.30AM AND AFTERCARE IS AVAILABLE DAILY UNTIL 6.30PM



THE 'HELP NETWORK'

A network of help exists to enable girls to reach their individual goals and tackle issues before they grow into problems. Form Tutors and Year Heads provide pastoral care, advice on subject choice and help with academic or personal difficulties. This work is fully supported by the guiding presence of the Sisters.

The school's 'Big Sister' scheme, in which younger pupils are attached to a Sixth Form mentor, creates a strong bond of care that spans every age group. Peer Mentors are trained and appointed to provide additional support. For the GCSE years, each girl has a personal academic mentor from the senior teaching staff to guide her through her studies.

The girls at Notre Dame Senior School receive a good education, attaining high standards in examinations. Teaching is effective and the girls' attitudes and behaviour are very good indeed.

Independent Schools Inspectorate Report



LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

By providing opportunities for pupils to grow spiritually, intellectually and socially, Notre Dame aims to enhance talents, develop interests and enable the fulfilment of ambitions. It is our firm belief that by respecting the best traditions of the past and meeting the rigorous requirements of the modern world through the provision of extensive, high-quality facilities and effective teaching and learning, we will prepare young women for their role as responsible citizens of the wider world.



AS ONE JOURNEY ENDS, ANOTHER BEGINS AT NOTRE DAME SIXTH FORM

Choosing where to study after Year 11 is one of the most important decisions you will make; it will influence the path you travel in the future and allow you to develop a range of life-long skills. The Sixth Form at Notre Dame is a vibrant learning environment with an exciting range of extra-curricular opportunities, all of which are designed to complement academic study.

Paramount to the girls at Notre Dame is academic success, an area of which we are rightly proud. Selecting the right course of study is vital and our dedicated staff are here to offer support and guidance to help make those choices. Studying four A Levels, combined with General Studies, in the Lower Sixth at Notre Dame enables all students to develop a range of academic skills and to understand the discipline and importance of hard work.

Extra-curricular activities complement the academic rigour at Notre Dame. Girls can be involved in music, drama, sport, the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, Young Enterprise and peer mentoring to name but a few. Opportunities such as being a Senior Prefect, a Nursery Supervisor or house co-ordinator develop skills of responsibility and leadership. These experiences add to the development of the well-rounded individual.

Notre Dame Sixth Form is outstanding: an exciting community where exam results are excellent, facilities are modern and the culture of opportunity and responsibility thrives.

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 or employment, they will be empowered with choices and will be able to fulfil any role with purpose, direction and a sense of fun.



Janine Harber

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PLEASE ASK FOR OUR IN-DEPTH SIXTH FORM PROSPECTUS



AGE 16-18

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

Our thriving ND6 Centre is separate enough to allow independence and responsibility, but still part of the school for all the advantages of a well-monitored environment and teacher interaction.

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

In Year 12, girls will study four subjects at AS Level, with a view to then pursuing three through A2 in Year 13. The results of the summer exams in both years combine to provide the final grades.

Sixth Formers at Notre Dame are able to follow a course in Critical Thinking, to take the Extended Project qualification and are also encouraged to participate in sport, Duke of Edinburgh Award and Young Enterprise.

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.

SIXTH FORM CENTRE



WHY STUDY AT A GIRLS' SCHOOL?

At Notre Dame we are preparing you for life as well as guiding you as you achieve excellent academic results.

Being at a girls' school prepares you to be more resilient and sure of yourself, so you can hold your own in a mixed environment at university and at work, based on a secure foundation where you can build your self-esteem and take risks in your learning. We are experts in supporting girls in their education. Girls and boys are not the same and mature differently; at Notre Dame we have 400 years of experience of working with young women. We understand the challenges, the preoccupations and the pressures and so we can support you with more expertise and experience.

- Girls at girls' schools do better than girls at co-educational independent schools. In 2011, girls from all-girls' schools gained 6.8% more A and A* grades at A Level than girls from mixed schools.
- Girls at all-girls schools are also, according to OFSTED, more likely to avoid stereotypically female careers. 70% more girls take maths, 90% more take physics or chemistry and 80% more take a foreign language if they're at an all-girls school.
- More girls from all-girls' schools go on to higher education than girls from mixed schools.

You can find out more about the advantages of all-girls' education, including more details on the information above, by visiting the GSA website.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

Girls at Notre Dame have demonstrated exceptional performance in public examinations. Moreover, we are very proud that girls in our Sixth Form have shown exceptional 'value added'. This means that they make rapid progress and so, in the past, have achieved higher grades in the final A Level examinations than would be expected based on national data.

Notre Dame Sixth Form is, at its heart, a school, and so the Sixth Form experience is about so much more than gaining good examination results. The achievement of academic success is our priority, and we understand the importance of the highest level of achievement at A Level, not only for its own sake, but also in opening the doors to university and future careers.

The majority of our Sixth Formers aspire to and gain places predominantly at Russell Group universities and the typical offer from these universities will be ABB as a minimum. Our vocationally minded students aim to study at prestigious institutions and have in the past furthered their vocation in Art School, and colleges of catering and land management.

So that no time is wasted at the start of Lower Sixth, we provide tailored preparation work for the summer holidays. This means that purposeful lessons begin right from day one, with no acclimatising or introductions needed.



"There's no doubt I've grown in confidence in the Sixth Form. I feel prepared and ready to go to university."



SIXTH FORM CENTRE **N D** **6**

AGE 16-18

By the end of the Autumn Term in Year 13, all girls will have honed their Personal Statements to perfection, will have visited several universities, and decided upon their first choice and their 'backup plan'. Naturally, throughout this process, the specialist staff at Notre Dame are on hand to point in the right direction.

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.

A2 exams take place usually immediately following half term in the Summer Term (depending on subject) and the results are generally published in mid August. Should the need arise, Notre Dame's specialists are on hand to help girls through the UCAS process.



THE TUTORIAL SYSTEM

Girls in the Sixth Form at Notre Dame are placed in vertical Tutor Groups which allow students from Years 12 and 13 to mix together. The Tutorial System means that our students' pastoral and academic needs are fully supported and, with small numbers in each Tutor Group, students and Tutors form strong relationships.

The Tutors themselves are specialists in their role of Sixth Form Tutor. Their experience in this role means that they can respond to the particular needs of Sixth Form students and our girls know that their Tutor will listen to their concerns, no matter how inconsequential they may seem.

The Tutors are not only a listening ear – they also take a role in reviewing pupils' performance, scrutinizing work and advising on effective study habits. From this point of view, the Sixth Form Tutors are academic mentors as well as pastoral advisors, taking an active interest in all aspects of their tutees' development.

- Art & Design
- Biology
- Business Studies
- Chemistry
- Classical Civilisation
- Design & Tech: Food Tech
- Design & Tech: Textiles
- Drama & Theatre Arts
- Economics
- English Literature
- Geography
- History
- Information Technology
- Italian (GCSE)
- Latin
- Mathematics
- Further Mathematics
- Modern Foreign Languages (French, German, Spanish)
- Music
- Music Technology
- Philosophy & Ethics
- Physical Education
- Physics
- Psychology
- Sociology



A WORLD OF OPPORTUNITY

Being in a school Sixth Form environment provides students with an ideal opportunity to develop new skills and interests. At Notre Dame we have a diverse programme of activities which complements the educational experience and helps our students develop valuable life skills.

Girls in our Sixth Form give their time freely to take advantage of the opportunities beyond the classroom which, in turn, helps to develop an interested, interesting and rounded individual.

LEADERSHIP

Being a Sixth Form student provides real leadership opportunities. For example, the Head Girl team will meet weekly with the Head to consider matters pertaining to the Sixth Form. From the girls in the Lower Sixth are selected our Senior Prefects and our four Heads of House.

COMMUNITY

Sixth Form students contribute to our wide community in a variety of ways: through acting as mentors to younger students within the school; there is the opportunity for paid employment in the Prep School; students provide community service to the residents of Whiteley Village; and students are given the opportunity to work with pupils in Company of Mary Our Lady sister schools.

MUSIC AND DRAMA

Many of our Sixth Formers will have already benefited from our exceptional provision and facilities in Music and Drama as they have come through the school. Girls can continue to participate in these activities, which include roles in the school play and the direction of the end of term Talent Show as well as performing in the various music and choral events through the year.

SPORT

We want girls to continue to play some competitive sport in the Sixth Form, so we have a compulsory PE lesson each week. In addition, Sixth Formers have access to our fitness suite to exercise in a non-competitive environment. Girls will be supported to pursue excellence in their chosen sport and we provide a series of fixtures with local schools throughout the year. Additionally, Sixth Form girls are offered the opportunity to undertake short courses in sports such as golf, archery, abseiling and rock climbing.

Notre Dame is also unique in our ability to provide paid employment for Sixth Form pupils through their supervision in after-school care for our BlueBelles Nursery children.



"I love the fact that we are given so many opportunities outside the classroom – it's helped me discover new skills and abilities."



RECENT CAPITAL INVESTMENT

Notre Dame has embarked on a multi-million pound investment programme in recent years, not only in attracting top-quality teaching staff, but also in capital expenditure to ensure that the school keeps well ahead of the demands of a thoroughly modern education programme. Our pupils are fully prepared to go out into the world and able to take their place in society, thanks to the opportunities and facilities they enjoyed during their treasured, formative years at Notre Dame. In recent years, this investment programme has seen the completion of:

- Fantastic Multi-Space Learning Resources Centre
- Senior School Library and Networked IT Suites
- Fully Equipped Six-lab Science Block
- Self-Contained BlueBelles Nursery
- Complete Classroom Refurbishment
- Professionally Equipped 380-Seat Theatre
- Specialist Dance and Drama Studios
- 25m Indoor Swimming Pool
- Forest School and Adventure Tree House
- Dining Hub and Coffee Bar
- Dedicated Sixth Form Centre
- All-Weather Sports Facilities

But we've not finished yet...



PLENTY OF HISTORY AND EXPERIENCE

Notre Dame has been in Cobham since 1937, but its roots go back a long, long way. The school is the UK's only Foundation School of the Company of Mary Our Lady, an educational Order founded in Bordeaux in 1607 by Saint Jeanne de Lestonnac.

St Jeanne was an aristocratic French woman who had a remarkably modern vision of the worth of education. She was visionary, caring, headstrong and determined. At the time, although women did not play an influential role in society, she was convinced that education, specifically for young women, was as important to the development of a good, compassionate and wise society through the development of the family, as it was for young men. We take that sentiment for granted now, of course, but this was over 400 years ago, long before emancipation, and long before anybody else realised that women had a vital, equal, role to play in a 'modern' society.

So Saint Jeanne founded the Order, drawing on the strong influence from her uncle, the esteemed philosopher Michel de Montaigne, and before long Company of Mary

Our Lady schools were established all over France, then later Spain, as society began to realise the value and relevance of her message. Her work spread far and wide, through Europe to Africa, Japan, the Philippines and the Americas, and eventually to the UK, here in Cobham. Today there are more than 300 Company of Mary Our Lady schools and centres of education in 28 countries world-wide, with whom Notre Dame maintains strong links.

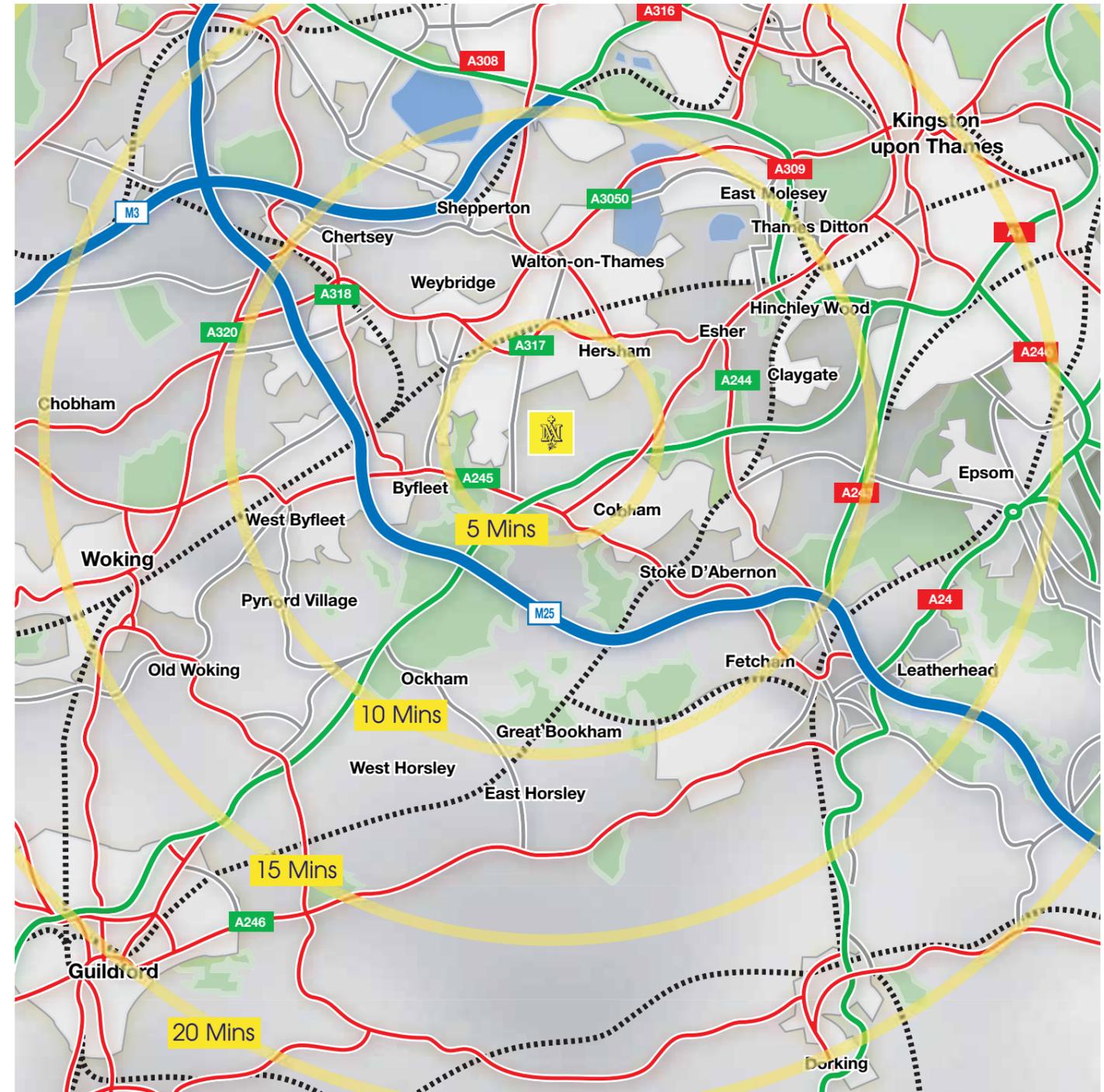
So when we say we understand how to educate girls to enable them to take their place in a modern, vibrant society, we say so with plenty of history to back it up.



WE'RE EASY TO GET TO

Notre Dame is really easy to get to... just two minutes from the A3, less than 10 minutes from Walton, Weybridge, Cobham or Esher, and rarely more than 20 minutes from Guildford. Putney and Wimbledon are just 30 minutes away...

We run a comprehensive selection of coach and minibus routes covering all the local area along with routes on the A3 from/to Guildford, Wimbledon and Putney, and can offer flexible single/return journeys.



Travel times are approximate and based on free-flowing traffic.



Notre Dame School, Burwood House, Convent Lane, Cobham, Surrey KT11 1HA

Pupils are confident,
caring and keen
to celebrate the
success of others...
Excellent leadership
and management
are reflected in the
pupils' outstanding
overall achievement
and personal
development.

Independent Schools Inspectorate Report



NOTRE
DAME
SCHOOL



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