



STREATHAM  
& CLAPHAM  
HIGH SCHOOL

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GDST  
GIRLS' DAY SCHOOL TRUST

# Upper Third

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**Curriculum**

OVERVIEW



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# INTRODUCTION



Mr Weatherhead  
Deputy Head (Academic)

We are very much looking forward to getting to know you when you start in September. The following pages are a guide to your curriculum with brief descriptions of what you can expect in each subject. You will probably be familiar with the vast majority of subjects but not necessarily all of them. Even the familiar subjects may seem different, as we have more specialist rooms and equipment than you are likely to have used before. You will also have specialist teachers for each subject and be moving around school as part of your academic journey.

Our aim is to get to know you and find your talents and interests to nurture and develop during your time with us, whilst also encouraging you to explore subjects you may not have experienced before. It's all about having a go!

As you explore the curriculum there are many ways you can get more involved in subjects that interest you or about which you're curious to know more.

*This summer, we'd like you to start exploring some of the topics that intrigue you. You'll notice many subjects have suggested reading or other ways to dive into the topic. We recommend that you pick two or three books from areas you know you're keen and pick another that is totally new to you!*

# ART

*Art is creative and exciting and will give you opportunities to learn new skills and to experiment with different materials.*



*Miss Baker, Head of Art, with U3 girls in SCHS Art studio*

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Each fortnight you'll have **three Art lessons**. You will learn a wide variety of ways to draw and paint and you will extend your skills, exploring many new methods. You will experiment with printmaking and stop-frame animation, as well as explore and analyse the work of other artists. By the end of the year you will have developed your observational techniques and will know a great deal about tone, texture and mark-making.

Your progress will be assessed with fortnightly homework, written work about other artists and their pieces and an observational drawing test at the end of the year.

## **If you have a passion for Art...**

This summer you may wish to read *Art: A Children's Encyclopaedia* by David Taylor because it has loads of information about many exciting artists and their work.

When you join us in September you can also join a lunchtime Art Club.

# CAREERS & FUTURES

You'll have **one lesson** each fortnight from a specialist teacher as well as meet various guest speakers from the professional world.

Unlike most traditional school subjects, Careers & Futures allows you to focus on the professional life you want to create for yourself whilst giving you an insight into the constantly evolving outside world.

You'll develop skills in understanding future employment opportunities that might be relevant for you as well as further develop your decision-making skills which will help you transition more confidently through your later school years.

We'll help you be more self-aware about how you work and learn. You'll feel confident about the academic and co-curricular trajectory you choose as well as ultimately your career choices and experiences.

You'll have the chance to research all of the job roles of the staff working within our school community and work in teams to create video presentations about their roles in an interview format.

By the end of the year you will have mastered the skill of presenting yourself for face-to-face interviews and creating interactive presentations you can use in a professional environment. There is fun working in teams and competing on a deadline but there is no assessment. You will complete and retain a Record of Achievement which will continue throughout your school career.

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*'We live in a society where recent developments in technology mean opportunities to understand one's strengths and interests and to network is undeniable.'*

Mrs Cooper  
Head of Careers & Futures



**If you have a passion for Careers & Futures...**

Read *Girls who Changed the World* by Michelle Roehm McCann this summer.

In school there will be a number of Q&A talks that you can help organise.

# COMPUTER SCIENCE

*'It's a very empowering feeling to be able to use computer code to find solutions to problems!'*

Mr Frost  
Head of Digital Learning & Computing



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You'll have **two Computer Science lessons** each fortnight. You'll build on your Maths and problem-solving skills whilst gaining further skills in coding, digital literacy and collaboration in a digital environment. Specifically, you'll learning to code and how to use digital platforms to work on and collaborate with your peers. It is especially fun to code in Python and create images using the Turtle Programming Environment.

You'll be assessed through class tests on forms and coding skills.

## If you have a passion for Computer Science...

A great book to read this summer is: *The Cs Detective: An Algorithmic Tale of Crime, Conspiracy, and Computation* by Jeremy Kubica.

You can be a digital ambassador and attend online programming courses. You can also represent SCHS at events such as GDST Techathon!

# DESIGN TECHNOLOGY (DT)

As an Upper Third girl you'll have **three DT lessons** each fortnight. DT draws learning from lots of other subjects, like Maths, Science and Art and applies it in creative ways.

*'I love being surprised by creative solutions to problems that I wouldn't have considered.'*

Mr Heaton  
Head of DT



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This subject builds both practical skills of making things as well as develops creative problem-solving. Over the course of the year, you'll get to use a laser cutter, learn to use new tools in the workshop and present your creative concepts. You will master lots of new making processes and learn how to manage a creative-design process. You'll be assessed entirely through projects.

## If you have a passion for DT...

This summer, visit the Design Museum or V&A. Have a go at developing your sketching skills and make something at home!

In school, you can also join the lunch-time Robotics Club and take part in the Kinza Engineering group.

# DRAMA

You will have **two Drama lessons** each fortnight. During your lessons you will develop creativity, improve your confidence, enhance your teamwork skills, explore methods of presenting information to an audience and improve your vocal and physical skills.

*'With Drama you can escape from normality and be someone different for a few moments and show your work to everyone.'*

Ms Thane-Woodhams  
Director of Drama



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You'll face the exciting and fun challenges of performing in a group, writing and performing your own scripts, whilst using proper lighting and sound. We'll also look at a number of plays.

By the end of the year you'll have mastered the basic rules of performing for an audience, playing a character and be able to spot strengths and weaknesses in your own and others' performances.

Your assessment in drama is based on a combination of performances, scriptwriting, rehearsing and directing. There might also be some quizzes.

## If you have a passion for Drama...

Read *Daisy Pulls It Off* by Denise Deegan this summer! We performed it as our Lower School Play and it's an absolute joy!

Join the Upper 3 Drama Society, which is run by our Sixth Form and have a go performing in either a whole-school musical or a full-scale play.

# ENGLISH

Language forms the building blocks of everything that we do; which is why you'll have **eight English lessons** each fortnight.

*The study of Language and Literature enables us to become excellent communicators and empathic individuals.*

Miss Feehan  
Head of English



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Through your English lessons you'll develop your reading, writing, speaking and listening skills and read literature from a variety of periods, including famous works by Charles Dickens and William Shakespeare. By the end of the year you will be able to respond critically to a work of literature. Girls particularly love our descriptive and narrative writing unit in which you'll also take part.

You'll be assessed through a combination of critical essays, creative writing assignments and group presentations.

**If you have a passion for English...**

Read *The Giver* by Lois Lowry this summer.

Each week in school you can attend our Magic Toyshop Creative Writing Workshop.

# FRENCH

You'll have **three French lessons** each fortnight.

*It is so wonderful to see pupils putting themselves out of their comfort zones and developing confidence in their ability to communicate with and understand people speaking another language, a life skill that will benefit you in your wider life beyond the classroom!*

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Over the year you'll learn how to understand native French people speaking and be able to write a whole paragraph about yourself in French. By the end of the year, you'll be able to speak using two tenses and will have a strong and varied vocabulary and structures. You'll be able to answer lots of questions about yourself and your home life, family and friends in the language.

You'll have fun singing French songs and creating and performing dialogues in French with your classmates.

You'll be assessed throughout the year with listening, reading, writing and oral paper tests.

## If you have a passion for French...

Read *Le Petit Prince* by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry – it's a firm favourite amongst French speakers!

Take part in residential trips to French-speaking countries and explore homestays.

# GEOGRAPHY

You'll have **two Geography lessons** each fortnight.

*'Understanding globalisation, our role in climate change, and relations between different countries will help you better comprehend the rapidly changing world in which we live.'*

Mr Doddridge  
Head of Geography



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Through your lessons, you'll learn about the physical world and lifeforms. You'll explore how we affect these and how the natural environment affects us. We'll look at our place (as individuals) on a planet that has taken 4.5 billion years to form!

By the end of the year, you'll have mastered map skills and the geography of UK and the world through physical, human and environmental topics. You'll also study the importance of stewardship.

You'll get to visit (virtually) some of the Wonders of the World, and, hopefully, in the coming year we'll visit some other locations that are a bit more local.

You'll be assessed through projects, quizzes, research and your end-of year exam paper.

## If you have a passion for Geography...

Read *The Ordnance Survey Puzzle Tour of Britain*: Take a puzzle journey around Britain – you'll learn about Britain and maps!

In school you can join lunchtime debating and Eco Group clubs.

# HISTORY

You'll have **three History lessons** each fortnight.

Studying history is really important to help us understand the world we live in today. And there are lots of fun stories too! Throughout the year you will interrogate historical sources and develop your analytical skills. Your curiosity will grow and you'll become a more confident historical writer. One of the highlights in this course is exploring global histories, including West African Kingdoms.

*'I enjoy learning about how and why societies were so different compared with our own.'*

Mr Lee

Head of History, Government & Politics



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You'll be assessed through essays and quizzes.

**If you have a passion for History...**

A great book to read this summer is *Black and British: A Short, Essential History* by David Olusoga.

Also, watch as many historical documentaries as you can!

# 机会 JĪHUÌ

You'll have **two Jīhuì lessons** each fortnight.

This subject explores the world in which you live. It helps you to make sense of things like relationships, body image and much more.

We are also interested in what you want to study, it is one of the few areas where we can ask what you think you would like to know!

*We are delighted to have Jīhuì on our curriculum. It is mostly closely aligned with PSHE in other schools. For us, it is much more: quite simply it means: an opportunity.*

*But in more philosophical ways it means:*

***To give it a go, to open a door.***

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Throughout the year, you'll working with peers and celebrate who you are. In these lessons you'll have time to think really deeply about issues which we face daily.

Assessment is through project work.

# LATIN

Each fortnight you will have **three Latin lessons**.

Latin helps you to build on the language and logic skills that you already have. You will explore how the Romans lived through learning the language that they spoke!

*'I love seeing how Latin has shaped so many European languages like French and Spanish.'*

Ms Walker  
Head of Latin



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We will learn how to decipher the different types of word in a Latin sentence. By the end of the year, you will be able to translate entire stories in Latin! Not only will you learn to write, read and speak this language that is the cornerstone of so much English vocabulary but you will experience a Roman dinner party and gladiatorial combat!

You will be quizzed regularly on vocabulary and facts that you have learned.

## If you have a passion for Latin...

This summer check out The Percy Jackson and Roman Mysteries book series.

In school you can join **Metis**, our Classics club, in which we take on a variety of projects from acting out Greek plays to building mini Colosseums!

# MANDARIN

You will have **three Mandarin lessons** each fortnight.

You'll explore the culture of Chinese-speaking countries and areas and learn a new language with six thousand years of history! You'll further develop your communication skills, linguistic/grammatical comprehension skills as well as deepen empathy and emotional intelligence.

*'I love the subject as it is so wonderful to see pupils being fascinated by new cultural experiences and developing confidence in their ability to communicate with and understand people speaking in a completely different language, which is a life skill that will benefit them in their wider lives and beyond the classroom.'*



Mrs Ren  
Head of Mandarin

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You'll learn Chinese calligraphy (how to write Chinese characters) and how to master four different tones in Mandarin. You will also learn to sing 'Happy Birthday' in Chinese to your friends and performing role-play in Mandarin. We'll also celebrate the Chinese New Year with fun activities and play interactive language games on our iPads.

You will be assessed throughout the year with listening, reading, writing and oral paper tests, including language and culture.

## If you have a passion for Mandarin...

Read *Exploring China - A Children's Guide To Chinese Culture* - it gives you a broad introduction about Chinese culture with fun activities.

In school there are a range of co-curricular options including a trip to China and visits to our sister school in China. There are opportunities for homestay and trips to Chinatown and British Museum China Gallery as well as a host of Chinese New Year culture activities.

# MATHEMATICS

You will have **eight Maths lessons** each fortnight.

Our aim is to inspire confidence, encourage curiosity and risk-taking, so you discover the best of yourself within the subject. You will enhance your analytical skills and strengthen your problem-solving skills. We have many projects, such as the Napier's rods, the divisible test, and the Fibonacci sequences presentation awaiting you – they are challenging and interesting. Ninja Numeracy Skills Challenge, Junior UK Maths Challenge and in-house quizzes are all great fun!

*'I simply love working with numbers,  
I find it really fun and the real-life  
applications of Mathematics  
are endless.'*

Mrs Kirby  
Head of Mathematics



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By the end of the year you will have developed and enhanced your mathematical knowledge, understanding and application.

You will be assessed by half-termly tests followed by an end-of-year examination.

## If you have a passion for Maths...

Read *How Long Is a Piece of String?* by Robert Eastaway and Jeremy Wyndham.

In school you can join our Junior Maths Society, where you can go and explore Maths at any level. If you are brave, lead your team to challenge the other teams to a Mental Maths Challenge!

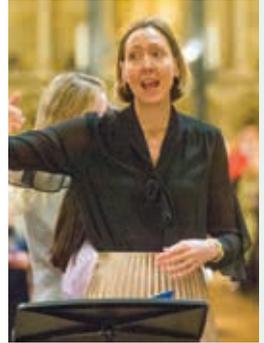
# MUSIC

You will have **two Music lessons** each fortnight.

We listen to music every day and the more we learn about it, the more we can enjoy it, whilst also finding out about other cultures.

*'Music teaches you about everything – you learn about sociology, history and geography and is the only activity that you can do that uses both sides of your brain at the same time!'*

Mrs May  
Director of Music



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You will learn to compose and write music, and you will learn to perform with groups regularly. You'll also learn how to use specialist music technology and how to play different instruments. By the end of the year, you will have composed melodies in major and minor keys, performed Indonesian Gamelan and Indian Raga pieces and learnt about the elements of music and opera.

You will be assessed mostly through group performances and also by composing melodies.



## If you have a passion for Music...

This summer, watch some of the BBC Proms concerts on the TV, or even go to one of them at the Albert Hall!

In school you can take part in Metrophonics (our Choir for U3 to U4), Swing Band, Orchestra, Djembe Club, Ukulele Club, Theory Club, Flute Group.

# PHYSICAL EDUCATION (PE)

You will have **four PE lessons** over a fortnight.

You'll learn skills in netball, hockey, athletics, cross-country, cricket and fitness.

You will build on and embed the physical development and any skills you've learned previously and become more confident and expert in techniques, and apply them across different sport and physical activities.

You'll develop the confidence and interest to get involved in exercise, sport and activities in the co-curricular clubs and in lessons while understanding the long-term health benefits of physical activity.

In Netball, Hockey and Cricket you'll learn range of tactics and strategies to overcome opponents in direct competition through team and individual games in lessons. By the Lent Term, you'll play competitive matches in lessons and in clubs too.

You will also develop key components of fitness such as cardiovascular endurance, speed, agility, and will be encouraged to develop these to aid transfer across all sports.

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*Sport provides  
challenging situations to  
increase your resilience  
and to help you feel  
fearless in your learning  
across the board.*



## If you have a passion for PE...

Two great books to read are: *Strong Is The New Pretty – A Celebration of Girls Being Themselves* by Kate T. Parker and *Women in Sport – 50 Fearless Athletes Who Played to Win*. Written and illustrated by Rachel Igotofsky.

In school, there are clubs and teams for every sport you can join!

# PHILOSOPHY, RELIGION & ETHICS (PRE)

You will have **three PRE lessons** every fortnight.

PRE is a window into the lives and beliefs of our world and our community.

We will help you develop your skills in debate, justifying opinions and using evidence in your writing. Together we'll stretch your philosophical thinking with deep questions of life and meaning. By the end of the year, you will have mastered the ability to compare different religions, explain the symbolism of religious rituals and justify your own beliefs.

*The point of studying PRE, is not only to learn about the beliefs of others, but to examine and question what it is we already believe as individuals. It is about personal, intellectual, and spiritual growth, and that's why it's always exciting.*

Mr Punt  
Head of PRE



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You'll be assessed through practice questions throughout the year to help you improve, followed by end of topic tests.

## If you have a passion for PRE...

For religious themes in fiction, read *Skellig* by David Almond and *Buddha Boy* by Kathe Koja.

In school you can explore big questions further through Kinza groups such as Islamic Art Through the Ages or Weird Science.

# SCIENCE

You will have **seven Science lessons** in a fortnight.

You'll learn about a range of topics such as Forces and Motion, Cells, Elements and Chemical Reactions. We'll explore how science relates to the world around us and you will have the opportunity to develop your practical, group work and investigative skills. You'll also learn how to use a Bunsen burner and see who can get the loudest squeaky pop in the hydrogen test!

During Science Week, you will work competitively in your houses on a number of fun challenges.

By the end of the year you will have mastered the elements of the periodic table, be able to identify the features of a cell using a microscope, and measure some everyday forces using a Newtonmeter.

*I love how so many aspects of science relate to the world around us. As a physicist, I am fascinated by Astronomy and love to read about the developments in this field.*

Miss Fitzgibbon  
Head of Science

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You will be assessed through various online quizzes on Collins Connect, and at the end of each topic, you will do a test.

## If you have a passion for Science...

Read *A Short History of Nearly Everything* by Bill Bryson.

In school you can take part in Science Society and also the CREST awards during Kinza.



# SUMMER READING & ACTIVITY OPTIONS

*Art: A Children's Encyclopaedia* by David Taylor

*Girls who Changed the World* by Michelle Roehm McCann

*The Cs Detective: An Algorithmic Tale of Crime, Conspiracy, and Computation*  
by Jeremy Kubica

*Daisy Pulls It Off* by Denise Deegan

*The Giver* by Lois Lowry

*Le Petit Prince* by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry

*The Ordnance Survey Puzzle Tour of Britain*

*Black and British: A Short, Essential History* by David Olusoga

*Exploring China - A Children's Guide To Chinese Culture*

*How Long Is a Piece of String?* by Robert Eastaway and Jeremy Wyndham

*Strong Is The New Pretty – A Celebration of Girls Being Themselves*  
by Kate T. Parker

*Women in Sport – 50 Fearless Athletes Who Played to Win,*  
written and illustrated by Rachel Iqnotofsky.

*Skellig* by David Almond

*Buddha Boy* by Kathe Koja

*A Short History of Nearly Everything* by Bill Bryson

[Visit the Design Museum or V&A](#)

[Read the Percy Jackson and Roman Mysteries book series](#)

[Watch some of the BBC Proms concerts on the TV, or even go to one of them at the Royal Albert Hall](#)

In keeping with our commitment to reduce our carbon footprint, this publication has been carbon balanced in partnership with World Land Trust.



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