

BISHOP'S HATFIELD GIRLS' SCHOOL

Bishop's Hatfield Girls' School was founded in 1960 as Hatfield Girls' Grammar School. In the 1970s, it grew in size and became fully comprehensive. We are now able to admit up to 150 girls from September 2015 and have 684 pupils on roll at the moment, including 134 in the Sixth Form.

Each year group contains girls of every ability and of varied backgrounds and this has become one of the school's strengths and attractions. Girls come from a wide area, including Hatfield, Welwyn Garden City, Welwyn itself, Potters Bar and some of the outlying villages.

In 2009, we were designated a Specialist School for Humanities. We place Literacy at the centre of all we do, acknowledging that the skills of communication (speaking, listening, reading and writing) are fundamental to learning and progress in all subjects and beyond the classroom.

In January 2012, we achieved academy status.

There are currently 49 full and part-time members of the teaching staff. Our support staff (38 full and part-time members) are invaluable in the running of the school; they include a Business Manager, administrative, finance, site and technical staff, Learning Support Assistants and librarians. Visiting Music teachers provide tuition in a wide range of instruments.

The Senior Leadership Team comprises the Headteacher, two Deputy Headteachers, an Associate Deputy Headteacher and the Business Manager. There are three Heads of School who track the academic progress of pupils in each Key Stage; Heads of Year provide pastoral support and guidance. There are eight Heads of Faculty responsible for the teaching and learning in the faculty areas.

The buildings are situated in very pleasant landscaped grounds and gardens with good playing fields adjacent. Pupils take a pride in their environment and have free access to all non-specialist rooms and areas at all times.

In addition to 20 teaching classrooms there are well equipped specialist rooms including:

- 6 Science laboratories
- 2 Art and Design rooms with a large display area
- Drama Studio
- Music rooms
- Food and Textiles rooms
- 2 Design rooms
- 4 ICT rooms
- Gymnasium
- A Pupil Support Centre

The Sixth Form area is particularly well served by a large common room and good access to ICT facilities.

From the first year at Bishop's Hatfield Girls' School, all pupils experience a broad, balanced and stimulating education, offering a wide range of subjects. Teaching methods take a variety of different forms including whole class teaching, group work, individualised learning, debates and role play.

In **Year 7** the majority of lessons are taught in all-ability form groups except for Mathematics and Science where they are taught in ability bands. The subjects studied in Year 7 are English, Mathematics, Science, French and Spanish or German, Humanities which consists of Geography, History and Religious Education, Computing, Design Technology, Food, Art, Music, Drama, Physical

Education and one lesson per week of Life Skills which includes Citizenship, Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education.

Subjects studied in Year 7 are continued into **Years 8 and 9**. Full setting begins in Mathematics and Science, and groups are banded in English and Languages. Groups are banded for Humanities from Year 9. This enables each girl to learn most effectively at her own pace. Some girls receive extra Literacy support instead of taking a second language, dependant on their individual needs.

In Design Technology, Art and Food in Years 7, 8 and 9, girls are taught in smaller groups of about 20. In **Years 10 and 11** pupils continue to study English, Mathematics, Science, Religious Education, Life Skills and Physical Education. In addition pupils choose from a list of optional GCSE subjects including French, German, Spanish, Geography, History, Drama, Music, Art, Catering, Graphics, Textiles, Physical Education and BTEC in Health and Social Care.

Some pupils also benefit from extra learning support classes. All pupils take public examinations in their core and option subjects at the end of Year 11.

Bishop's Hatfield Girls' School is a full member of the Welwyn Hatfield Post-16 Consortium which has meant we have been able to expand our Sixth Form curriculum offer to include more A Level subjects and BTEC Diploma courses.

In **Years 12 and 13 (Sixth Form)** a wide range of courses is offered. Girls are currently able to choose from Advanced ('A') Level courses in: Art and Design, Business, Biology, Chemistry, English, French, Further Mathematics, Geography, Government and Politics, German, History, Law, Mathematics, Media Studies, Music, Physics, Physical Education, Psychology, Religious Studies, Sociology, Spanish, Textiles and Theatre Studies. BTEC Vocational programmes are offered at Level 3 in Business, Child Care, Dance, Health and Social Care, Performing Arts, and Sport.

We have an extensive programme of after-school Enrichment Clubs and Activities every day except Tuesdays. Girls can choose from over 30 clubs and we encourage all our pupils to participate in at least one activity per week. Enrichment Activities and Clubs also take place during lunchtimes and sometimes during weekends and holidays, eg Duke of Edinburgh Award, World Challenge etc

Examination results are consistently higher than national averages and every year, the majority of Year 13 leavers go on to university.

Professional support and development of staff are given a high priority. We aim to appoint well qualified staff who are committed to maintaining the school's high standards and exceptional ethos. Bishop's Hatfield Girls' School is a professionally fulfilling school in which to work.

Candidates should be aware that this is a non-smoking school.

December 2014