



Guildford County School
SPECIALIST MUSIC COLLEGE



BETTER
NEVER
STOPS



WELCOME

TO GUILDFORD COUNTY SCHOOL

It is a privilege to share with you a flavour of what it is like to be part of our school community. We have a strong reputation for academic success, which is nurtured within a genuinely caring, community atmosphere.

We are proud of our consistently high examination results and the culture of success and improvement that permeates throughout Guildford County School, rated Outstanding by Ofsted in 2017.

Within our values framework, that seeks a generosity of spirit, the nurturing of creativity in all of our endeavours and the celebration of success in all of its forms, it is our vision that we will be seen as leaders in secondary education; as a school where children thrive as resilient learners and are healthy, happy and successful; and as a school where everyone genuinely believes that being Better Never Stops.

Our dedicated staff work in partnership with students, creating an atmosphere of mutual respect and trust, which helps students to achieve their full potential. We provide outstanding learning experiences and the school is renowned for its care and student support.

Guildford County School educates the whole child and we have a wide-ranging programme of co-curricular activities designed to enrich the school experience. As a Specialist Music College, holding the prestigious Music Mark, we have a national reputation for excellence. Music inspires our students, encourages their self-esteem and helps them to work in teams and respect their peers. We take music beyond the classroom to entertain and support the community, highlighting our drive for the highest standards in all aspects of school life.

We look forward to welcoming you to our school and demonstrating how, together, we provide the best opportunities for students to flourish, enjoy learning and achieve success.



Steve Smith, Headteacher





“THIS IS AN OUTSTANDING SCHOOL...
CHILDREN ACHIEVE VERY HIGH
STANDARDS AND MAKE EXCELLENT
PROGRESS FROM THEIR STARTING
POINTS.” Ofsted 2017

PROMOTING EXCELLENCE

Our students enjoy learning and as a school we consistently achieve results significantly above the national average at both GCSE and A Level.

We secure a high level of achievement in traditional academic subjects, together with the arts, technology, sport and newer vocational qualifications. While based upon a traditional curriculum – underpinned by strong literacy and numeracy provision – lessons also emphasise creativity, challenge, independent learning and thinking skills. We are a school that is big enough to offer a broad and balanced curriculum, but small enough to know each child by name.

We understand the significance of the move from primary school to secondary school and we recognise that each student has a mixture of strengths and areas to work on. We place great importance on offering a wide range of activities and ways of learning to all students, so that every child can achieve their best. This approach develops their confidence and abilities individually, whilst also encouraging them to work collaboratively. We ensure that our students are able to learn in an environment that gets the best from them – whether through mixed ability teaching or in sets determined by prior work.

We are proud of our curriculum and of the choices available to students as they move through the school. We strongly recommend that students pursue a broad range of courses as they move into the Upper School, supported by high quality academic guidance from skilled Heads of Year and through specialist and impartial careers information and advice. Our focus on the development of the individual student means that, alongside the traditional GCSE courses, we also offer some students a more personalised curriculum, which can incorporate apprenticeships and college or work placements.

Whatever their choice, we are committed to supporting our students and will work tirelessly to help them to fulfil their individual academic potential and to realise their personal goals.





“TEACHERS USE THEIR
SUBJECT KNOWLEDGE
VERY EFFECTIVELY TO PLAN
LEARNING THAT EXCITES
AND ENGAGES PUPILS.”

Ofsted 2017

A young woman with blonde hair tied back is captured mid-air during a high jump. She is wearing a blue and white athletic uniform and pink sneakers. Her body is arched over a yellow high jump bar, and her arms are raised. The background shows a green field and a red running track.

“CHILDREN WILL THRIVE AS
RESILIENT LEARNERS, BE HEALTHY,
HAPPY AND SUCCESSFUL.”
GUILDFORD COUNTY SCHOOL VISION

APPRECIATING DIFFERENCE AND FOSTERING RESPECT

Each day at Guildford County School we help students to extend their capacity for enjoying learning and provide support when it is needed.

We expect students to take personal responsibility; to manage situations as they arise; to be smart and punctual; to respect their environment; and to participate in the school community. We value consideration for others and encourage respectful relationships; we expect our students to express their views appropriately.

We are proud of the support that we provide to students, which offers security, guidance and opportunity, respecting them all as mature young people. As a school we strive to create a warm and harmonious atmosphere where every individual is given the chance to flourish.

Our Year 7 transition staff visit primary schools, talking to teachers to ensure that we are fully prepared to meet every child's educational needs. We talk to the students themselves to give them the opportunity to discuss any special interests or worries that they may have.

We have a strong, active and well established House System. Every student is assigned a House on joining our school and remains a member throughout their school career. House activities foster an even greater sense of belonging and community under the leadership of House staff and senior students. The House System creates a strong sense of cohesion throughout the school and provides enormous fun, whilst creating a competitive spirit in students of all ages.



“ALL CHILDREN ARE UNANIMOUS IN THEIR PRAISE FOR THE RESPECTFUL AND WARM ATMOSPHERE IN THE SCHOOL.” Ofsted 2017

CREATIVITY, INNOVATION AND COLLABORATION

As a school founded in 1905, we have deep-rooted values and traditions. We are, however, forward-looking and recognise the importance of creativity and innovation in all that we do.

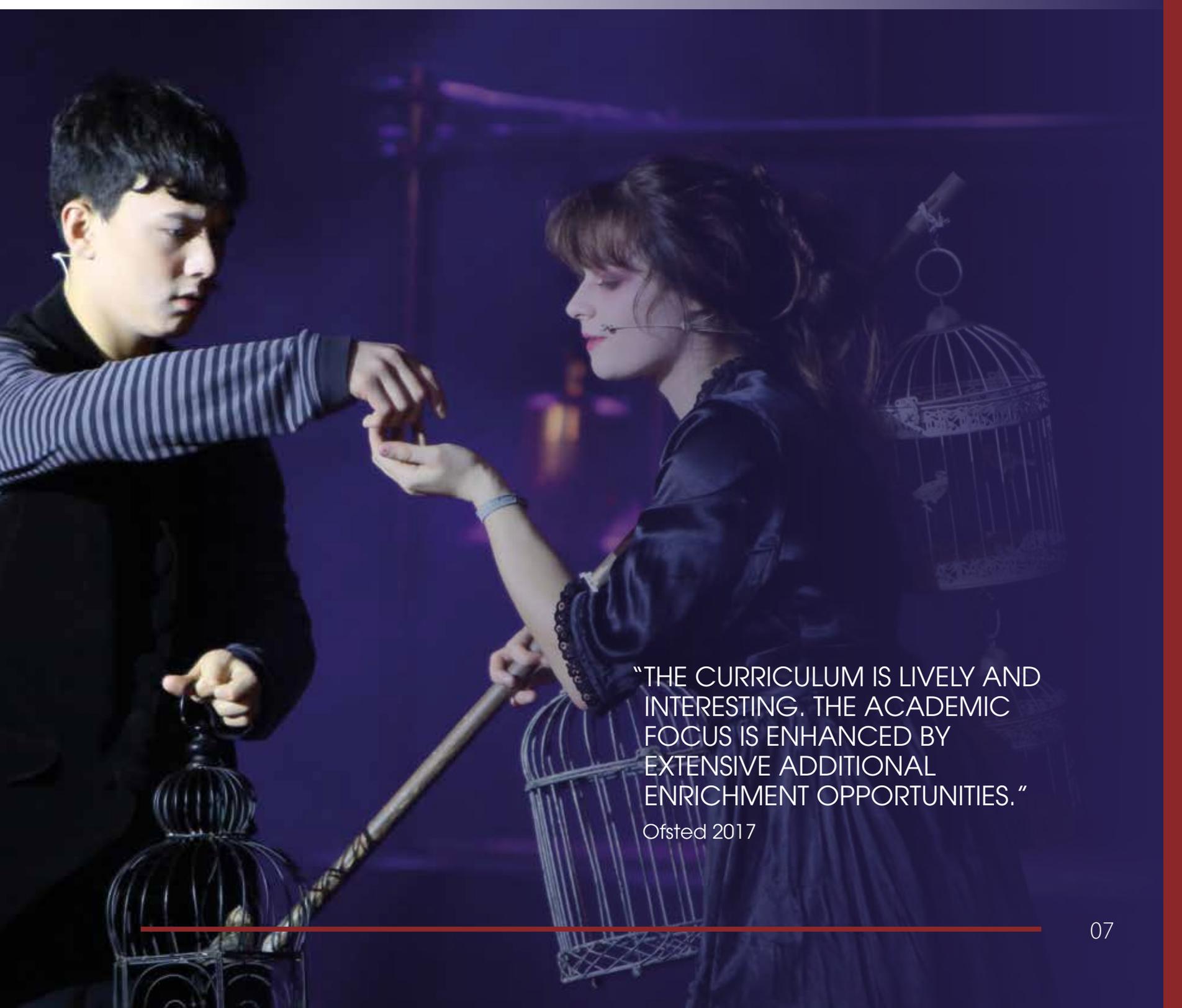
Our approach to learning and teaching is underpinned by the promotion of challenge, enquiry and questioning, which delivers strong student progress. We actively seek discussion and debate and provoke creative thinking, thereby inspiring students to be curious and passionate about their world. We ensure that horizons are extended through foreign travel, field trips, sports tours, conferences and visits to theatres, galleries and museums.

Our wide-ranging co-curricular enrichment programme offers students opportunities to experience new activities – ranging from a substantial programme of choral and instrumental activities, to drama productions, a number of diverse sporting classes and many other clubs.

Our extensive sports facilities at Urnfield and Wodeland Avenue offer a huge range of opportunities for all students, as does our MUGA and new Sports Centre development on the main school site. We have the Gold Sports Mark award, with every year group fielding teams in traditional school sports; individual students who have competed at national level; and an active and encouraging P.E. department which looks after students' minds as well as their bodies. We encourage our students to participate in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, with many going on to complete their Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards during their time at school.

Guildford County is a vibrant school and our Specialist Music Status has enabled us to be innovative and to explore numerous ways to nurture the creative potential and aspirations of all our students.





“THE CURRICULUM IS LIVELY AND INTERESTING. THE ACADEMIC FOCUS IS ENHANCED BY EXTENSIVE ADDITIONAL ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES.”

Ofsted 2017

LEADERSHIP, LEARNING AND SIXTH FORM

We promote leadership by placing value on teams and teamwork. We expect our students to contribute to their tutor groups, classes and other activities and to participate fully in the wider life of the school.

We celebrate the successes of all members of our community and recognise that learning is a skill for life.

Our core values of Generosity, Creativity and Success are embedded in all of our activities. As students progress through the school and into Sixth Form, which most of our students do, they are well prepared to meet the next phase of their academic careers. They are also eager to become valued members of society, able to make a noticeable contribution to their world.

Our Sixth Form is a centre of academic excellence and is amongst the top Sixth Forms nationally. The majority of our students go on to university and further education. As senior students, our Sixth Formers are excellent ambassadors and role models. We encourage them to take on positions of responsibility in order to develop their leadership and mentoring skills. The co-ordination of school, community and charitable projects, such as Charity Week, ensures that students leave us well equipped socially, as well as academically, for the next stage of their lives. Our growing alumni organisation encourages them to keep in touch with us and to share their successes.



APPLYING TO GUILDFORD COUNTY SCHOOL

We hope that this prospectus gives you a flavour of the ethos of our school.

Parents and carers who do not already know our school are always warmly encouraged to visit us and we do plan to host our annual on-site and live open event for prospective parents for Year 7 entry on Thursday 30th September 2021. However, as the guidance around COVID-19 is ever evolving, we encourage you to keep an eye on our website (www.guildfordcounty.co.uk/1593/open-events-1) for up-to-date advice, details and all associated interactive opportunities.



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