THE CAMDEN SCHOOL FOR GIRLS
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Camden School for Girls is a comprehensive school that provides an excellent education for all its students. We are determined to make learning enjoyable, interesting and stimulating so that all our students reach their full potential. As a parent or carer, you will be keen to discover what makes this school unique, and how we will care for your child as she grows towards adulthood, making sure that she reaches her full potential. This booklet will give you that information, and you will also gain a clear understanding of how the school works from our website, from visiting the school and from speaking to students and teachers.
Our school motto, dating from the school’s foundation in 1871, is ‘Onwards and Upwards’. This captures the sense of optimism and determination to succeed that permeates the school. We aim to develop resilience in our students, and the ability to be tenacious in their quest to be the best that they can be in all aspects of their lives.

We are ambitious for every young person in our school, and our commitment to their success is combined with very strong pastoral work to make sure that students feel happy, safe and supported at all times. We enable our students to find their own voices and develop their own opinions by encouraging a broad understanding of the world, a social conscience and a considerate approach to other people. Every student is valued, and we encourage all students to value other people as well. Our aim is to nurture caring, confident, responsible and mature young adults who are ready to go on to the next stage of their education.

I do hope you and your daughter enjoy your visit and take away a strong sense of how this school provides an outstanding education.

Elizabeth Kitcatt
Headteacher
The Camden School for Girls was founded in 1871 by Frances Mary Buss, one of the great pioneers of women’s education. The main school admits girls and has a comprehensive intake. At sixth form level the school has specific GCSE requirements and it also admits boys. The school aims to create a social and physical environment which combines security and care with challenge, stimulus and the highest expectations, where staff and students work together with the understanding and support of parents and carers.

Our vision for the future is to sustain and to promote the school’s ethos, heritage and philosophy within the contexts of public policy, social trends and educational need, ensuring that it can adapt to and meet future challenges.

The aims and values of the school are:

- to maintain and develop the school’s tradition of providing the highest quality of education
- to offer equality of opportunity and care to all students whatever their race, gender, class, creed or special needs.
- to promote a sense of environmental and social responsibility
- to foster a supportive environment where staff and students are valued, motivated and fulfilled
- to be a positive presence within the wider community
- to encourage all students to:
  - develop their individual talents to the full
  - have confidence in themselves and a sense of self-worth
  - work co-operatively with others
  - develop independence of thought
  - value education and enjoy learning
  - practise tolerance and open mindedness
  - show consideration for others and respect their diverse qualities and needs

I hope you will recognise our commitment to our vision, aims and values as you visit the school and explore more information about it on our website.
YOU ARE A GREAT SCHOOL, THANK YOU.
- Parent Survey

INACTION AND PASSIVITY ARE VERY ALIEN TO CAMDEN GIRLS.
- Sixth Form Head Girl 2017
A BROAD CURRICULUM & INSPIRATIONAL TEACHING

The school offers a broad and balanced curriculum which is in accordance with national requirements but has a distinctive character derived from the strengths and traditions of the school. The school has been praised for the moral, spiritual, cultural and social development of its students through the full range of subject teaching, pastoral guidance and the variety of extra-curricular activities on offer. Our teachers are well-qualified specialists who combine excellent subject knowledge with the ability to make learning interesting, challenging and enjoyable.

TEACHERS ENCOURAGE THE STUDENTS TO GO BEYOND THE CURRICULUM.

- Parent Survey 2017
Year seven, eight and nine  
NATIONAL CURRICULUM  
KEY STAGE THREE  

The four classes in each year form teaching groups for some subjects. Smaller groups are created for the teaching of practical subjects. Students who struggle with their learning are given additional assistance by our Learning Support department.  

Subjects taught:  
KEY STAGE THREE  – English and drama, mathematics, science, geography, history, modern foreign languages, theology and philosophy, art, music, design technology (food, resistant materials and textiles), ICT, physical education and personal, social and health education. In modern languages students study French and Spanish in parallel in Year 7. A decision about which language to study from the Spring Term of Year 7 onwards is taken at the end of the Autumn Term of Year 7.  

In Year 8, all students study Classics and at the end of Year 8 students are offered the choice for Year 9 of studying Latin or continuing study of classical civilization. Decisions are made between students, parents and staff. Camden School for Girls is one of the few remaining maintained schools to offer the full range of classical subjects; Classical Civilization, Latin and Ancient Greek.  

THE CURRICULUM IN  
KEY STAGE FOUR  

In Years 10 and 11 students follow a rich programme of core and optional subjects.  

Core subjects:  
We are delighted to be offering triple science as well as double science at GCSE, as part of our core offer, which includes English, mathematics, theology and philosophy, physical education, French or Spanish and personal, health and social education. The vast majority of students take English Literature GCSE as well.  

In the Spring Term Year 9 students are offered 3 choices of GCSE and Vocational courses. Options offered for 2017/2018:  

- Art  
- Classical Civilisation  
- Design and Technology (Textiles or Resistant Materials)  
- Geography  
- Health and Social Care  
- History  
- ICT  
- Computer Studies  
- Latin  
- Music  
- Hairdressing & Beauty Therapy  
- Sociology  
- Academic support  

In addition GCSEs in Ancient Greek and photography are currently offered either before or after school.
DEVELOPING THE INDIVIDUAL

We have a dedicated and experienced pastoral care team with a Head of Year managing a team of four Form Tutors who have daily contact with students. They monitor the wellbeing, attendance, progress and achievement of all students in their group. Whenever possible, students remain with the same Form Tutor and Head of Year throughout their five years in Camden School for Girls. This system provides stability and establishes trust between home and school.

We pride ourselves on excellent standards of achievement but we also want our students to have the skills and motivation to succeed in all areas in their lives, have high self-esteem and be respectful citizens.

VERY HAPPY – THE TEACHERS ARE WONDERFUL.

- Parent Survey 2017
All students follow the school's Code of Behaviour which revolves around developing the individual’s obligations to the community. There are deliberately few rules and our behaviour code was written in collaboration with the students and is a short series of expectations that promote good behaviour.

Our pastoral team is always prepared to do everything possible to ensure that the students make rapid progress both socially and academically.

As one student put it “Looking around our school community, seeing teachers that don’t just teach the syllabus but who guide and advise their students, made me realise what I wanted to do with my life.” Main School Head Girl, 2010.

- Main School Head Girl, 2017

IT IS THIS SISTERHOOD AND KINDNESS BETWEEN STUDENTS THAT MAKES ME DEEPLY GRATEFUL AND INTENSELY PROUD.
A STRONG PARTNERSHIP WITH PARENTS AND CARERS
We value our partnership with parents and carers and are grateful for the contribution they make in supporting the school and their children’s progress. This partnership is at the heart of all we do.

We maintain close and regular contact with parents and carers through the weekly 'Camden Friday News', ParentMail, Daily News Sheet and the school website. All give up to date information and are on the school’s website (www.camdengirls.camden.sch.uk).

All staff are keen to have close contact with parents and carers so that together we can be consistent in encouraging hard work and promoting good behaviour.

Our Bengali home liaison colleague provides help and support during meetings with parents and carers, if necessary. The school provides additional curriculum and pastoral support for students who are eligible for the Pupil Premium. Assistance is provided with the costs of trips and learning materials.

The Camden School Community Association (CASCA) is also committed to bringing parents, carers and staff together to raise money and support the school. It provides opportunities for everyone to work together in organizing a range of community events.

CASCA support has enabled the school to move forward with a range of initiatives, from raising money for a new science laboratory, improving the school’s ICT systems and supporting the Performing Arts. A new project, 60:60, is currently underway, raising funds to help provide new furniture for the school.

- Local Authority Review

STUDENTS CONDUCT THEMSELVES IN AN EXEMPLARY FASHION AROUND THE SCHOOL AND IN LESSONS. THEY ENJOY SCHOOL IMMENSELY AND FEEL VERY SAFE.

W: www.camdengirls.camden.sch.uk
WE LISTEN TO STUDENTS
Camden School for Girls is democratic and energetic, and our students have a true sense of ownership, responsibility and care towards each other and the school.

Our School Council is an elected body of students from across all year groups, led by the Head Girl and her deputies. Together they meet and organize events such as Pink Day (breast cancer awareness), International Women’s Day and raise a significant amount of money for other charities. In addition, the School Council regularly invites visitors into school to talk to students about their lives and work.

School Council meetings provide a forum where students can also discuss and propose resolutions about issues which are important to them. Through the School Council we encourage an interest in politics and the world around us.

Camden IS A PIONEERING SCHOOL.

~ Main School Head Girl 2017

THE EXCELLENCE OF THE CARE, GUIDANCE AND SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS IS A BEDROCK OF THE SCHOOL.

~ Local Authority Review
OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

We believe that students learn as much outside the classroom as in it. We offer a wide variety of extra-curricular activities to all students at lunchtime and after school. We are very proud of our status as a music specialist school and have received the London Music Award in recognition of our excellent provision. The music offer includes two orchestras, chamber music ensembles, three choirs, and a wind band. Other activities include debating, raising environmental awareness, Glee Club, Feminist Club as well as philosophy, Latin language, design technology, and art clubs. Students have access to computers in the library and to other facilities outside school hours for homework and to enable them to pursue their interests. Students are also able to access the school network remotely. The school schedules a rich variety of music and drama performances every year. Past productions include Godspell, A Midsummer Night’s Dream, Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, Grease, and Candide.

Our PE department offers a large selection of activities including trampolining, football, netball, basketball, volleyball, badminton, athletics, and dance. The department has strong links with the Highgate Harriers and Arsenal Football Club and school teams participate in a wide range of borough and London based competitions.

In addition, we offer a number of school trips to inspire students and support the curriculum. Day trips include visits to the Imperial War Museum, Tate Modern, the Tower of London, Neasden Temple, The Jewish Museum London, the Victoria and Albert Museum, and the Science Museum. A programme of residential school journeys is organised annually including the Language Department’s trips to Madrid and Paris, the Geography field trip to Wales, and the PE department’s outward bound trip to Devon.

VERY, VERY GOOD,
THANK YOU!

- Parent Survey 2017
A STIMULATING & WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT

The school has some beautiful Edwardian buildings, including the distinctive Bell Tower at the top of the oldest block on the site. A World War Two bomb demolished a large section of this building and it was replaced by the 1950s accommodation that houses many of our current, excellent facilities, including a spacious and well-lit art studio, a photography studio, dedicated ICT facilities and a stunning, well-stocked library that is beautifully maintained by our full-time school librarian.

Our music facilities are outstanding, and include a generous performance space as well as smaller rooms specifically designed for individual music tuition. The design technology workshops have state of the art equipment. They provide our students with excellent opportunities to design and make in resistant materials, textiles and food.

Many of our classrooms provide generous, comfortable spaces for learning, and we are particularly delighted that our 1960s science laboratories have been extensively

THE ONLY PLACE WHERE I COULD DISCOVER THIS AMBITIOUS PERSON AND BE PROUD OF HER, WHILE STILL KEEPING TO CAMDEN PRINCIPLES OF DEDICATION AND STRONG MORALS.

- Sixth Form Head Girl 2017
refurbished, so that students are now enjoying bright, modern, well-equipped spaces in which to learn.

We have a quiet and welcoming space in which students who require learning support have individual or small group tuition. We are also very pleased that we have received funding to extend the dining hall and foyer areas and to add some much needed larger classrooms and private study space into the sixth form block.

There are very welcoming open spaces around the school and our own gymnasium and games court. We also make use of local sports facilities in order to extend the curriculum. All our visitors notice the exceptionally high quality of the student art work around the school, a feature of which we are especially proud.
MY DAUGHTER IS VERY ENGAGED AND ENTHUSIASTIC - SPEAKS POSITIVELY OF HER EXPERIENCE.

-Parent survey 2017
At Camden School for Girls we aim to raise the aspirations of our students and encourage them to consider a wide range of careers. We want to make sure our students leave the school as independent individuals, ready to take their place in the world. Our careers education is combined with guidance and advice to ensure that all of our students develop the knowledge and skills that they need to make successful choices, manage transitions in learning and move successfully into the world of work. We aim to challenge stereotypes and broaden our students’ horizons about the various career opportunities and pathways that are available to them and learn about skills that are valued in the world of work. Students receive independent careers information, advice and guidance and are encouraged to pursue pathways that best suit their talents, interests and expected level of qualification.

Year 7 and Year 8 careers information is delivered through the PSHE curriculum. All Year 9 students will have a careers interview which supports them in making informed decisions. All Year 10 students complete two weeks of work experience in July which offers them an insight into future careers and enables them to know what options are available to them within their local communities. Year 11 students receive 1:1 independent careers advice and the school hosts a Careers Conference to offer additional guidance on post 16 options.

Students have chosen careers in a wide range of fields including fine dining, medicine, product design, journalism, visual communication, creative media, law and international development.
A t the end of her time in the main school, your daughter may wish to attend our excellent sixth form. We offer a wealth of different A level subjects and we have an outstanding record of successful entry among our students to Russell Group universities, medical school, Cambridge and Oxford, dentistry, veterinary science degrees and Art Colleges. The Sixth Form has its own learning and relaxation space, but sixth formers mix freely with younger students and this is very much one single school.

Some of our students choose to pursue more vocational courses and this area is well served with Further Education colleges. Opportunities are explored thoroughly with students as they make their way through the main school and prepare for their education post-16 and beyond. The school provides exceptional careers and course advice, and supports individual students through each transition, from Key Stage Three to GCSE, and from GCSE to A Level and other post-16 provision.

We have a rich and extensive network of past students who remain in touch with the school and support it in many ways.

CAMDEN HAS GIVEN ME SUCH A REWARDING AND WONDERFUL EXPERIENCE WHICH MAKES ME FEEL SO GRATEFUL WHEN I LOOK BACK AT MY TIME HERE...
...it is a place with such a strong and wonderful community and a spirit that manifests itself in all aspects of everyday life.

- Sixth Form Head Boy 2017