



**Holland Park School**

The best in everyone

Part of United Learning



HOLLAND PARK SCHOOL

Year 6 Offer Holders Prospectus







## WELCOME FROM THE LEADERSHIP TEAM

You only get one shot at education, and this is it. Over the course of these five or seven years, you have the power to shape your future. You are in charge of whether you get the place at the university of your dreams, whether you make it into that college or onto that apprenticeship you've been looking at, and what kind of adult you join the world as. All the students at Holland Park School are united by one thing: being all ferociously determined and ambitious to succeed. What you need from us is a school that provides you with excellent lessons, rigorous homework, and clear, regular feedback that tells you how you are doing, where you're going wrong and what you need to do to get better. And that's not just what you need, it's what you deserve. Our team, along with all the teachers and members of staff in school, want to make that a reality for you, and it is achievable if all of us do our bit. Your 'bit' is simple: you need to turn up to school every day (yes, every day) with smart uniform and all the equipment you need to be ready for learning and set up for success. You need to work hard, get your homework done, try your best in your lessons and in your exams, and follow the instructions you are given – they all come with your success in mind. You need to enjoy it: enjoy the programme of trips and visits we have planned for you, enjoy the inspiring and creative lessons your teachers will dot throughout the year for you, and enjoy the extracurricular activities, sports clubs, school productions, and inter-house competitions that make school a place of joy as well as a place of learning. You get one shot at education: let's make it a success.



## PREPARING TO JOIN HOLLAND PARK SCHOOL

Please ensure that you complete the registration process through Applicaa, otherwise we will not be able to provide you with the further information needed to ensure a smooth transition to secondary school.

### **Transition Programme**

There are three key events which take place in the Summer Term: Open Morning, Leadership Meetings, and a Taster Day.

#### **Open Morning: Tuesday, 29th April: 9am – 10.30am**

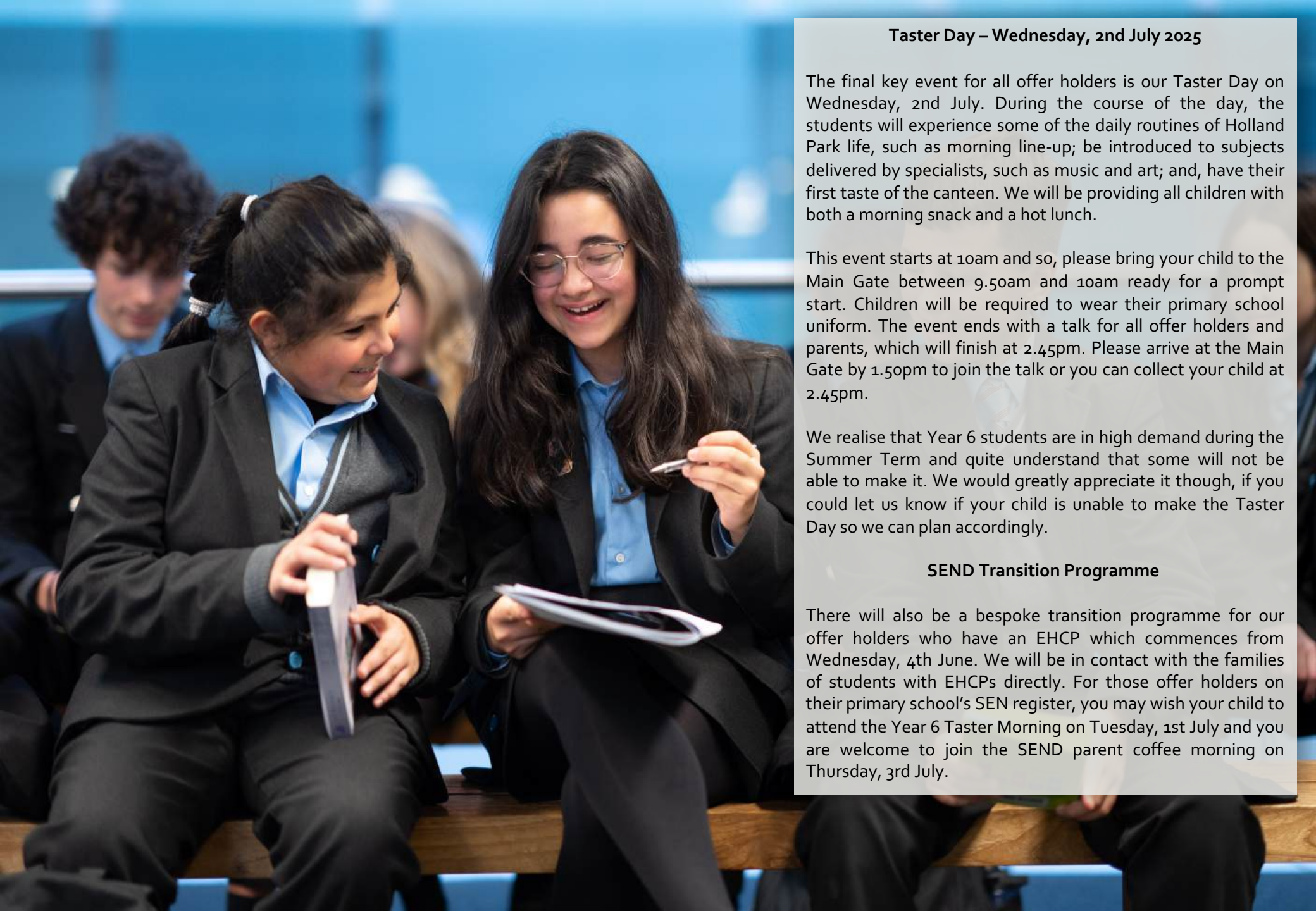
This is an opportunity for parents and offer holders to tour the school; drop-in to classes; and meet some of our current Years 7 & 8, who will act as tour guides. This event lasts approximately one hour, and during this time you will also have a chance to meet members of the Senior Leadership Team.

### **Leadership Meetings**

We think it is important that every offer holder, and their parents, has a chance to discuss their start to Holland Park School with a member of our Senior Leadership Team or their future Head of Year. This is an opportunity to understand the ethos and character of our school and to ask any questions both general and particular to your needs. It is also our chance to get to know your child before they start in September.

The meetings will take place on either Wednesday, 4th June from 4pm – 7pm or Saturday, 7th June from 9am to Midday. Once you have completed the registration process, you will be sent the link to a form through which you can sign-up. Given the importance of these meetings, attendance is compulsory for at least one parent and the offer holder.





### **Taster Day – Wednesday, 2nd July 2025**

The final key event for all offer holders is our Taster Day on Wednesday, 2nd July. During the course of the day, the students will experience some of the daily routines of Holland Park life, such as morning line-up; be introduced to subjects delivered by specialists, such as music and art; and, have their first taste of the canteen. We will be providing all children with both a morning snack and a hot lunch.

This event starts at 10am and so, please bring your child to the Main Gate between 9.50am and 10am ready for a prompt start. Children will be required to wear their primary school uniform. The event ends with a talk for all offer holders and parents, which will finish at 2.45pm. Please arrive at the Main Gate by 1.50pm to join the talk or you can collect your child at 2.45pm.

We realise that Year 6 students are in high demand during the Summer Term and quite understand that some will not be able to make it. We would greatly appreciate it though, if you could let us know if your child is unable to make the Taster Day so we can plan accordingly.

### **SEND Transition Programme**

There will also be a bespoke transition programme for our offer holders who have an EHCP which commences from Wednesday, 4th June. We will be in contact with the families of students with EHCPs directly. For those offer holders on their primary school's SEN register, you may wish your child to attend the Year 6 Taster Morning on Tuesday, 1st July and you are welcome to join the SEND parent coffee morning on Thursday, 3rd July.



## Uniform

Our uniform plays a valuable and significant role in contributing to the school's ethos. Girls must wear the Holland Park girls' jacket, skirt, or trousers with a blue blouse (tucked in, with only the top button undone) and may opt for a cardigan or jumper. Boys must wear the Holland Park boys' jacket and trousers (worn at the waist), a blue shirt (tucked in with the top button fastened), and a tie, with an optional jumper. Both boys and girls must wear black, unpatterned socks and plain black formal shoes (no kickers, boots, trainers, or Velcro fittings). A plain black, navy, or school-branded outdoor coat, backpack, and scarf are permitted, with plain black or white headscarves allowed for religious purposes. No jewellery, make-up, nail varnish, or unnatural hair colours are allowed.

## Purchasing Uniform

There are a few different routes to procuring your Holland Park Uniform: online through our provider Stevensons; at our uniform show on the weekend of 7th and 8th June at school – sign up details will be circulated closer to the time; or, by attending our Nearly New uniform shop every Tuesday from 2.30pm to 3.30pm. There is also a hardship fund available for those who may require financial assistance, simply complete this form and we will be in touch directly. Following the Taster Day, the Holland Park sorting hat will begin its work placing each student into a house: **Argyll**, **Holly**, **Moray** and **Wycombe**. If you already have a sibling at Holland Park School, you will be automatically placed in the same house. At this stage, you will be able to order your PE top – the colour of which matches your house! To accommodate this graduated approach, Stevensons have kindly offered to waive delivery costs for this item.











## STARTING AT HOLLAND PARK SCHOOL

The term dates for 2025–2026 are available on our website: **Term Dates**. The first day of secondary school will be **Wednesday, 3rd September**, when new Year 7 students will take part in a final induction programme, as detailed below.

### School Day Structure

Students are expected to be on-site no later than **08:25**.

- **08:30 – 08:55** | Tutor/Assembly
- **08:55 – 09:45** | Period 1
- **09:45 – 10:35** | Period 2
- **10:35 – 10:55** | Break
- **10:55 – 11:45** | Period 3
- **11:45 – 12:35** | Period 4
- **12:35 – 13:20** | Lunch
- **13:20 – 14:10** | Period 5
- **14:10 – 15:00** | Period 6
- **15:00 – 15:15** | Tutor

This is the current structure of the school day, though some minor adjustments may be made before the start of the new academic year.





## INDUCTION PROGRAMME

Year 7 students will have a whole day in school before other students return. This is to provide them with an opportunity to:

- Meet their Form Tutor and other key staff who will be important in making their time at HPS a success
- Receive their timetable and have some introductory lessons
- Learn how to navigate their way around our (rather large but beautiful) building
- Meet new friends and become comfortable in the new school environment



## BANDING TESTS AND GROUPINGS

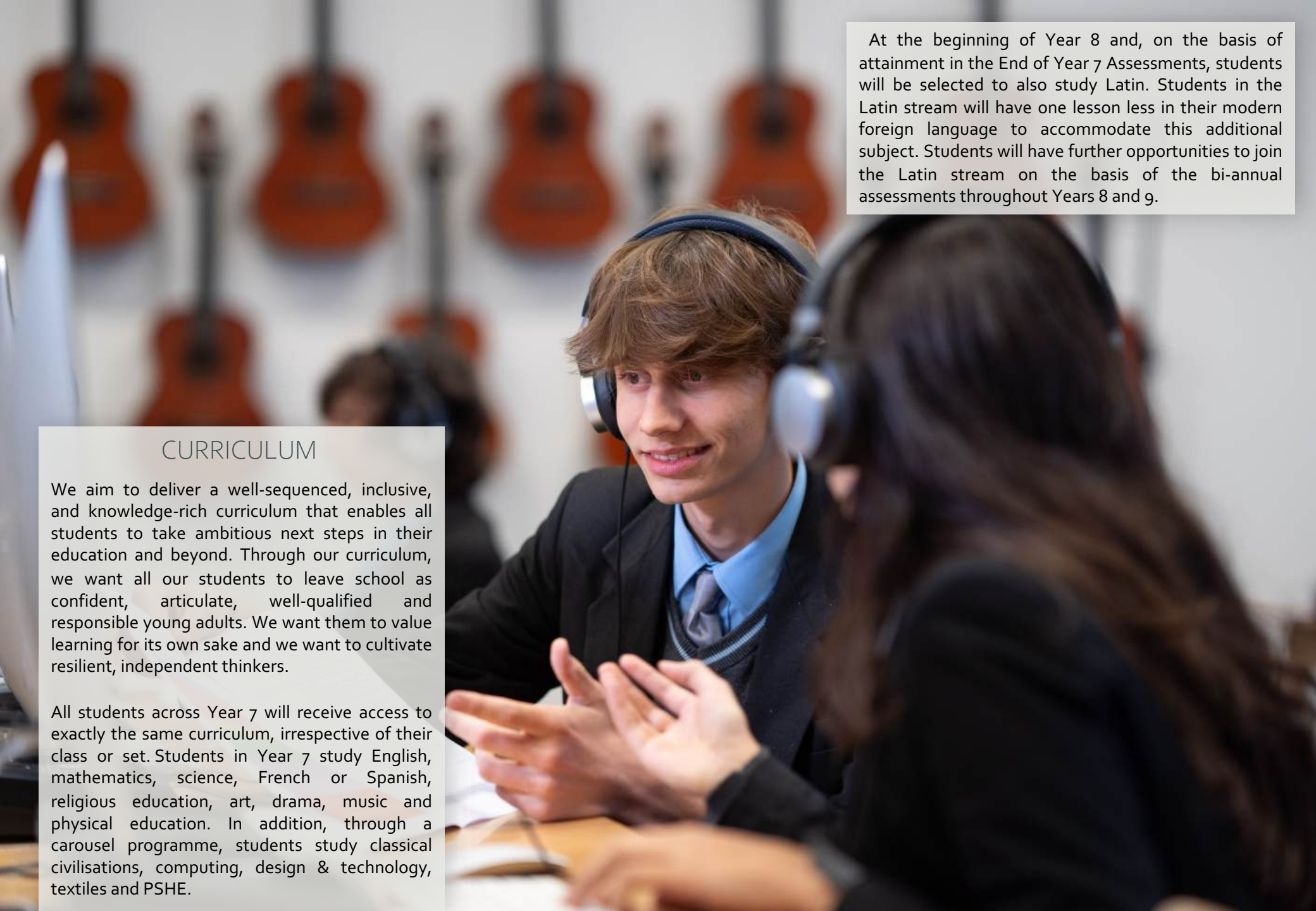
Holland Park School is a comprehensive school. This means the school is committed to educating students across the range of ability in our local area. As we are also an oversubscribed school, the banding test helps us to ensure all abilities are represented fairly in number in our intake - we take an equal number of students from all four quartiles of ability. However, the banding test is not used to determine the classes and sets Year 7 students are placed in and plays no role in our students' experience once they have enrolled at Holland Park School.

Instead, Year 7 students begin at Holland Park School in mixed ability classes in all subjects for the first half term. During this time, students will be with their form group for English and the humanities. This approach allows students to gradually adjust to the different demands of secondary school, at the same time as forging strong relationships within their form group.

During Autumn 1, Year 7 students will undertake a series of in-class, skills focused assessments which will be used to place students into the appropriate, attainment-based sets for English, Maths, Science, and the humanities. Students will move into their attainment-based sets from Autumn 2 and will remain in the same classes for the remainder of Year 7.







At the beginning of Year 8 and, on the basis of attainment in the End of Year 7 Assessments, students will be selected to also study Latin. Students in the Latin stream will have one lesson less in their modern foreign language to accommodate this additional subject. Students will have further opportunities to join the Latin stream on the basis of the bi-annual assessments throughout Years 8 and 9.

## CURRICULUM

We aim to deliver a well-sequenced, inclusive, and knowledge-rich curriculum that enables all students to take ambitious next steps in their education and beyond. Through our curriculum, we want all our students to leave school as confident, articulate, well-qualified and responsible young adults. We want them to value learning for its own sake and we want to cultivate resilient, independent thinkers.

All students across Year 7 will receive access to exactly the same curriculum, irrespective of their class or set. Students in Year 7 study English, mathematics, science, French or Spanish, religious education, art, drama, music and physical education. In addition, through a carousel programme, students study classical civilisations, computing, design & technology, textiles and PSHE.



## EXTRA-CURRICULAR

Holland Park School is proud of its extra curricular offering which caters for our full student body, and encourages all students to participate in a range of pursuits. The school year is punctuated by a few key events including the School Production – this year *The Addams Family* – in early December; music recitals at the end of each term; Duke of Edinburgh expeditions from April to June; and, of course, sporting fixtures throughout the year. Set out below is an outline of some of the extra curricula pursuits available to Year 7 students:

**Performing & Creative Arts:** Art, Choir, Orchestra, Robotics, Shakespeare Company, Vocalised

**Super curricula:** Biodiversity, Chess, Coding, Debating, Diversity, First Story, Film making, Hellenic studies, Law & Politics, Poetry, Puzzles, Science, UKMT, World Languages

**Sports & Fitness:** Basketball, Cricket, Duke of Edinburgh, Football, Handball, Netball, Rugby, Running, Strength & Conditioning, Tennis, Volleyball

**Gaming:** Dungeons & Dragons, Table Top, Warhammer

In addition, we also have a homework club which runs daily in one of our computer suites.

All extra curricula clubs run from 3.15pm to 4.30pm.

## INDIVIDUAL MUSIC LESSONS

Students also have the opportunity to learn an instrument whilst at Holland Park, and we give our new Year 7s first refusal. Instruments which students can learn include the acoustic guitar, drums, flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, trombone and piano. Students can also undertake vocal lessons.





A young boy in a school uniform is playing table football. He is wearing a dark blazer over a light blue shirt and a dark sweater. He is looking down at the table with a focused expression, his right arm raised as if about to move a piece. The table football is blue and white with red and blue players. In the background, other students in school uniforms are visible, and there are trees with autumn foliage.

## THE HOUSE SYSTEM

Before students start at Holland Park School, they are 'sorted' into one of our four Houses: **Argyll**, **Holly**, **Moray** and **Wycombe**. The House will form an essential part of each student's community at the school and provide a source of enjoyment, comradery and healthy competition. Each House is led by a Head of House and two House Representatives from each year group, elected in the first half of the Autumn Term.

Several House competitions take place each term, all giving students a chance to earn points towards the House Shield, awarded at the end of the school year. The House calendar really does provide something for everyone to be involved in, no matter what their interests are. These competitions range from a Rubiks Cube contest, House Basketball tournament, Colour 'fun run' and Inter-House Football. Charity Week takes place during Spring 1, where all Houses contribute to the chosen School Charity fundraising week by getting involved in activities such as Culture Day, an Arts and Crafts Fair and a Bakesale.



## ACHIEVEMENTS AND REWARDS

Achievement is the single most important function of any school, and Holland Park School is no different. Our mission is ambition for everyone: we want all students to aim and achieve as highly as they possibly can academically, whether in internal assessments, GCSEs or A-Levels; we want all students to achieve in the development of their character, through the qualities they develop and display and the traits of respect, enthusiasm, confidence and creativity they nurture in themselves; and we want all students to achieve beyond the confines of the curriculum by taking advantage of enrichment opportunities, going on trips and visits, and aiming for 100% attendance to make the most of every day. We recognise achievement in a number of ways, but the primary form of recognition is through achievement points.

Students will be awarded achievement points for excelling in any of the nine categories listed on the right; Any instance of achievement is worth one point – for example you cannot earn five achievement points from one piece of work (no matter how extraordinary it is!); Achievement points for attendance will be added by the admin team if a student achieves 100% attendance for the week; Accumulation of achievement points will be tracked throughout the year, and tutors can use Arbor to see students' achievement points and offer shout-outs and praise during afternoon tutor time.







## EDUCATION WITH CHARACTER

Everything we do at Holland Park School is guided by our ambition for everyone. Our aim to bring out the best in everyone is not just about the best possible academic achievements, we also support our students to develop character, compassion and service. Our three core values are respect: be kind, show good manners, value our school; integrity: do the right thing, even when no one is watching; and aspiration: work hard, aim high, be creative. Next year we are launching the Holland Park School Character Charter. Details of which can be found below:

Each year all students will:

- Be encouraged to take part in at least one co-curricular club, within or outside of school, attending for the duration of the club (or for a minimum of one term across several clubs).
- Represent their house / tutor group / class in individual and team activities.
- Share their views on the school through student leadership structures.
- Reflect on their aspirations and personal development goals with an adult in the school.
- Hear from an inspirational speaker or coach.

In Key Stage 3, all students will:

- Have the opportunity to represent the school in a sporting, cultural or academic event.
- Have the opportunity to perform in a class production to an audience.
- Watch a theater production.
- Volunteer time to serve the local community.
- Have the opportunity to stay away from home and bond with classmates on a residential trip.
- Have the opportunity to demonstrate leadership.
- Deliver a presentation to an audience.
- Celebrate people, cultures and cuisines from a foreign country.
- Visit a Russell Group university.



## INTERVIEW WITH STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM

Ms Bott, Assistant Principal, interviewed our Student Leadership Team members from Year 7 and 8 and asked them to tell us a bit more about their experience of school and transition:

**What is your favourite thing about Holland Park School and is there anything you found daunting about arriving at the school and What advice would you give to Year 6s who are heading towards transition day?**

### OLIVIA (YEAR 7)

"There are lots of opportunities and things to put yourself forward for. For example, this student Leadership Team, House Reps, House competitions, sports games, art competitions - just so much! It was quite scary moving from a primary school where I knew everyone (almost!) to a big secondary school where I didn't know many people. You soon realise that everyone is in the same boat and doesn't know that many people. I tried to be nice to everyone and soon found myself lots of new friends. "

### PAU (YEAR 7)

"There are loads of sports clubs which I enjoy. I think there is something that everyone will love as there is so much on offer. I was scared that it was a very big - 8 classes per year which seemed huge."







### NADINE (YEAR 8)

"All the extra curricular activities. There is so much more to the school than just the academic side and it provides something for everyone. Since I lived in a different country, I came to the school not knowing anyone which was pretty scary. What I tried to do was be the first one to be sociable. I would recommend not being scared of talking to new people. I have made lots of friends and this has made my time here so happy."

### KIT (YEAR 8)

"Being able to see my friends every day and hang out with them. I also love to learn. My favourite lessons are English, Geography and R.E. The lessons are interactive and fun. I found it quite scary that there were so many students here, in comparison to my primary school, and that most of them were older. However, when I arrived, I realised that most of what you do is with your own year group and older students were helpful on the staircases."





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