



Holland Park School

The best in everyone

Part of United Learning







See our new website for more information:
www.hollandparkschool.co.uk

Still want to know more? Book a tour:
<https://www.hollandparkschool.co.uk/admissions/visit-us>
admissions@hollandparkschool.co.uk



A portrait of Dame Sally Coates, Executive Principal, sitting on a wooden bench outdoors. She has shoulder-length brown hair and is wearing a light blue blazer over a black polka-dot top. The background shows green foliage and a stone wall.

INTRODUCTION | DAME SALLY COATES

Every child only gets one shot at education, and this is it. Over the course of these five or seven years, they have the power to shape their future. These years determine whether they get the place at the university of their dreams, whether they make it into that college or onto that apprenticeship they've been looking at, and what kind of adult they join the world as. It is vital then that you and your child choose a school that has ambition for everyone; a school in which their creativity and confidence can flourish and which encourages the values of respect and kindness which will prepare them for later life. The academic outcomes at Holland Park School remain well above average at both GCSE and A-Level, placing us among the top-performing schools in the Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea. We also place a great deal of emphasis on the wider aspects of education and enrichment we can offer, and we are proud of our offering of more than 60 enrichment clubs and activities, alongside a richly planned programme of trips and visits to enable them to develop cultural capital and leave us as well-rounded, active members of society. This is a unique and extraordinary school: I encourage you to visit us and find out for yourself.

DAME SALLY COATES
EXECUTIVE PRINCIPAL

AMBITION FOR EVERYONE

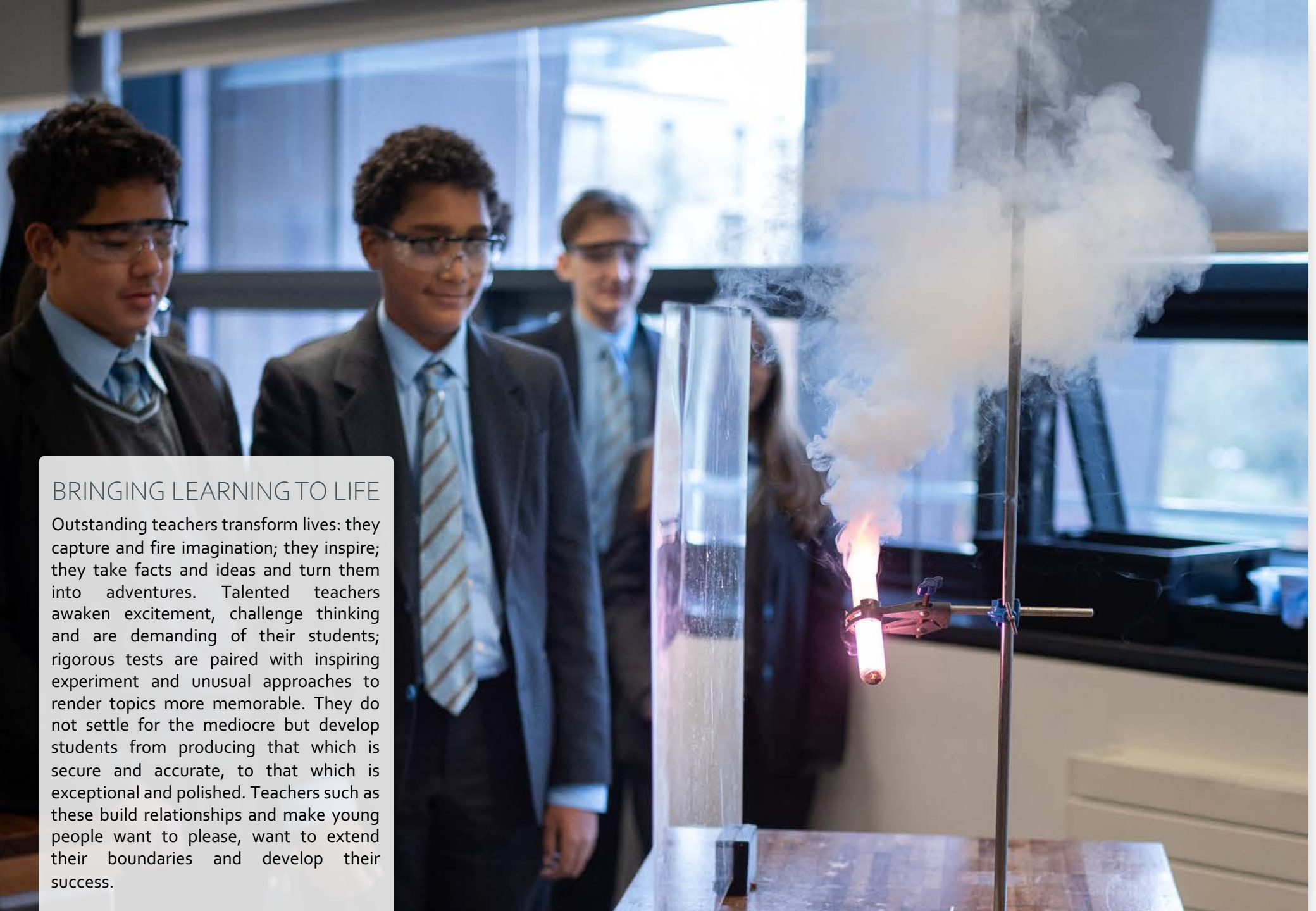
Holland Park School frequently performs amongst the top schools nationally. Students who join us, regardless of prior attainment, make strong academic progress and study a broad and ambitious curriculum across a wide range of subjects. Our motto, 'ambition for everyone', guides our relentless focus on raising standards and achievement for every child, ensuring that students from all backgrounds are supported to reach their full potential. Our 2026 examination results reflect these high expectations. At GCSE, 84% of outcomes were at Grade 4 or above, 69% at Grade 5 or above and 33% at Grade 7 or above. At A Level, 21% of grades were A*, 50% were A*–A, 78% were A*–B and 93% were A*–C. At the very heart of the school lies the study of English, with a passion for reading underpinning academic success across the curriculum. We are founding members of First Story, through which students' work is published in an annual anthology. All students study English Literature GCSE alongside English Language. The school library houses over 5,000 texts, readily available to students, while the reading of ambitious and challenging texts forms an important part of every tutor group's morning routine.





THE HOLLAND PARK VISION

At Holland Park School, our vision is to create an environment where 'ambition for everyone' is at the heart of everything we do. We believe that every student, regardless of their starting point, should have the opportunity, support, and encouragement to reach their highest potential. By upholding our core values of aspiration, integrity, and respect, we aim to cultivate a culture where students are inspired to think big, act with honesty, and treat others with dignity. Our curriculum is designed to be both ambitious and inclusive; framed around the importance of 'powerful knowledge'. Whether pursuing academic excellence or personal development, we provide an environment where students can thrive in all areas of their lives. We understand that qualifications are important, but we also believe that a person's character and creativity is equally essential to their success. Integrity helps guide decision-making and build trust, respect fosters positive relationships, and aspiration drives students to set and achieve their personal goals. We are committed to creating a community where every student feels happy, safe, and valued – where they are encouraged to push the boundaries of what they can achieve. Through the nurturing of both academic knowledge and character, we prepare our students for life beyond school. By embodying the values of aspiration, integrity and respect, we ensure that our students not only succeed in their qualifications but also develop the qualities needed to contribute meaningfully to society and lead fulfilled, successful lives.

A photograph of three male students in school uniforms and safety glasses observing a chemistry experiment. In the foreground, a Bunsen burner is lit and held by a clamp on a metal stand. A large test tube is positioned vertically next to the burner, and a significant amount of white steam or smoke is rising from the burner's flame. The background shows a modern laboratory setting with large windows.

BRINGING LEARNING TO LIFE

Outstanding teachers transform lives: they capture and fire imagination; they inspire; they take facts and ideas and turn them into adventures. Talented teachers awaken excitement, challenge thinking and are demanding of their students; rigorous tests are paired with inspiring experiment and unusual approaches to render topics more memorable. They do not settle for the mediocre but develop students from producing that which is secure and accurate, to that which is exceptional and polished. Teachers such as these build relationships and make young people want to please, want to extend their boundaries and develop their success.

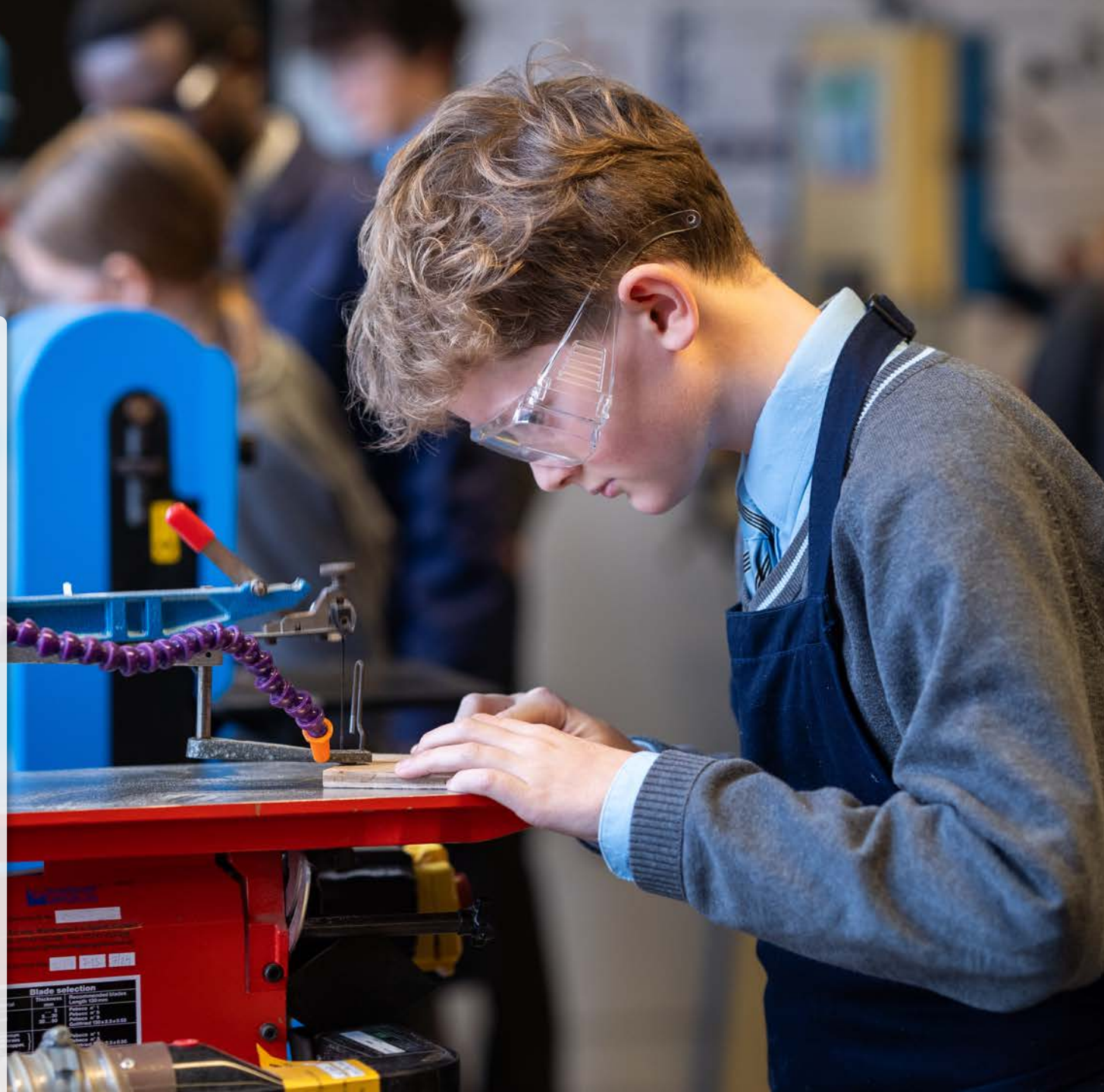
A young boy in a school uniform stands in front of a brick wall with three classical busts, looking up at them with admiration. The wall is covered in ivy at the top. The boy is standing between the middle and right busts, looking up at the middle bust. The busts are on tall, fluted columns. The text is on a white rectangular background in the center-left.

KEEPING CLASSICS ALIVE

Holland Park School is committed to continuing to fostering an appreciation of classical societies and languages. All students start Year 7 studying Classical Civilisations, and assessed aptitude in languages is then used to identify the most able linguists who go on to study Latin throughout Key Stage 3. Latin remains a popular subject choice at GCSE, and for the most committed constitutes a rigorous A-Level option, highly respected by universities as a marker of a determined nature and a studious mind. Several students have gone on to study Classics at high-profile universities, and we have (where interest and teacher availability have allowed) offered Classical Greek GCSE as an afterschool activity.

A BROAD CURRICULUM

Students in Key Stage 3 (Years 7–9) follow a broad and balanced curriculum designed to build strong foundations across a wide range of subjects. The aim is both to inspire curiosity and a love of learning, and to prepare them for the more specialised study of Key Stage 4 (Years 10–11). Learning takes place in outstanding, purpose-built facilities, including high-specification science laboratories, DT workshops, a fully equipped Food Technology kitchen, Art studios, and dedicated Drama and Music spaces. Our computing curriculum places a strong emphasis on coding and responsible, informed use of the internet, while in DT students develop technical skills using 3D printers and CAD software. In addition, the school supports around 60 students each year in achieving a GCSE or A Level qualification in a language they speak outside of school, such as Italian, Russian, Japanese, Arabic, German, or Persian. In 2025, these students achieved exceptional outcomes, with an average grade of 8.3 at GCSE and A* at A Level.



A RICH EDUCATIONAL DIET

Students begin studying GCSEs in Year 10: all students study subjects within the EBacc (English, Maths, Science, MFL and History or Geography) and also have the freedom to elect to study other subjects from a wide range available. This includes Food and Nutrition, Drama, Business Studies, Art, Photography, BTEC Sport, Design & Technology and PE. All students also have the opportunity to garner an additional GCSE qualification by taking GCSE RE in Year 10: the incredible strength of our team of teachers makes this more than possible, and ensures our students finish Year 11 with more qualifications than is common nationally. Additional GCSEs are often available as after-school activities: Further Maths GCSE and Classical Greek GCSE.



A MUSICAL VOICE

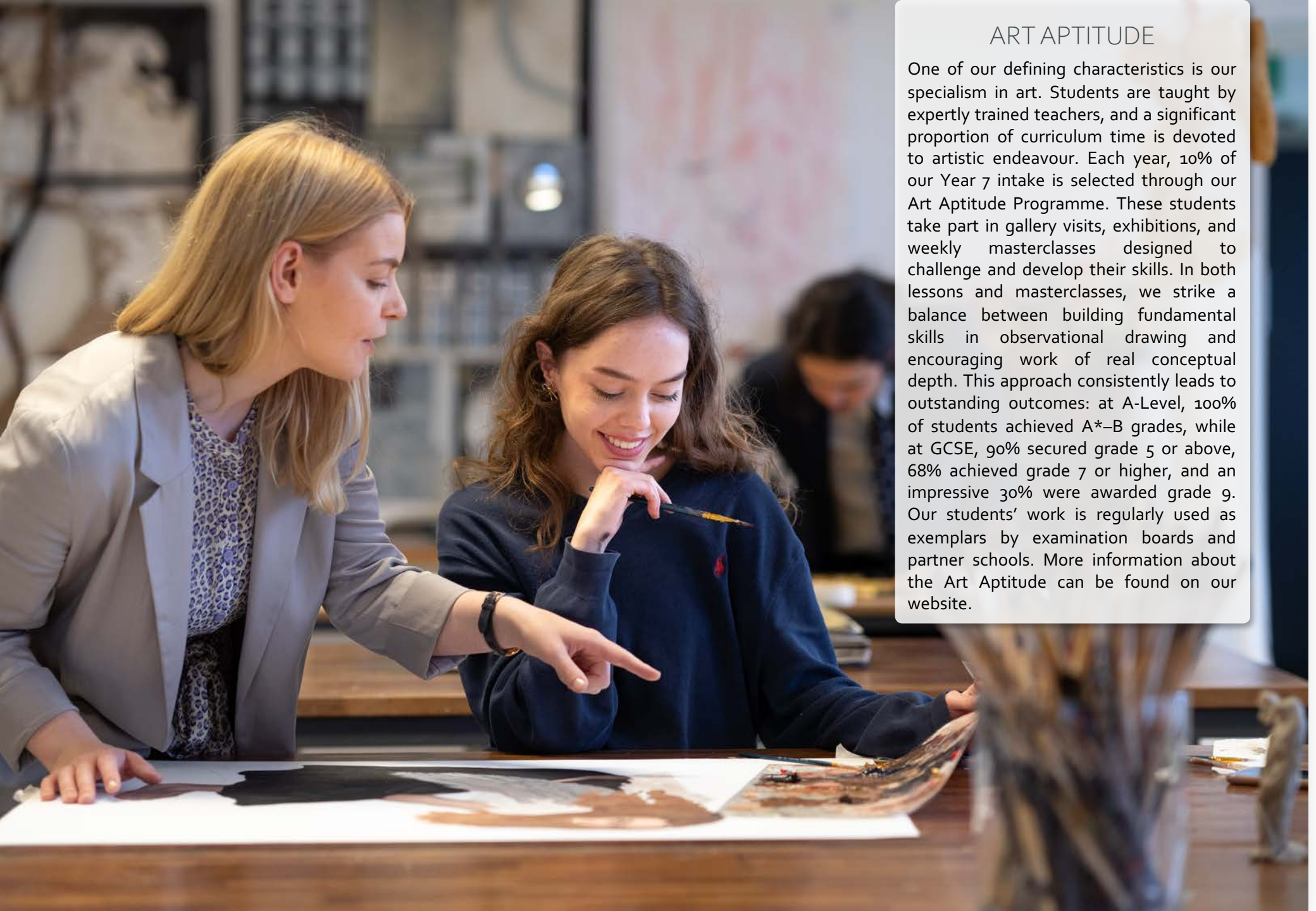
Musical activity permeates school. In addition to an ever expanding and talented school orchestra there is a diverse programme of ensembles and solo performance that takes place after school along with opportunities for peripatetic lessons on the piano, drums, and brass instruments. Opportunities abound for recording and experimenting in musical performance in our specialist recording studio, and the richness of musical life is all recorded within the pages of our student-led termly music magazine, featuring interviews with 'up-and-coming' student musicians and classical and popular recommendations.





A PLATFORM TO PERFORM

There are frequent informal concerts given by students, not least in the newly restored Music Room of Thorpe Lodge, and music of all kinds flourishes throughout the year: a capella musical theatre aficionados sit cheek by jowl with self-taught classical pianists; rock-guitar soloists extraordinaire alongside tabla virtuosos. A centrepiece of our musical output is our school choir. The choir sings frequently in significant venues in London (it has an annual evensong scheduled in St Paul's Cathedral) and it has established an annual tour, singing in cathedrals across the country and further afield. It has, over the years, travelled to Durham, to Florence, and even to Carnegie Hall in New York to perform alongside the King's Singers.



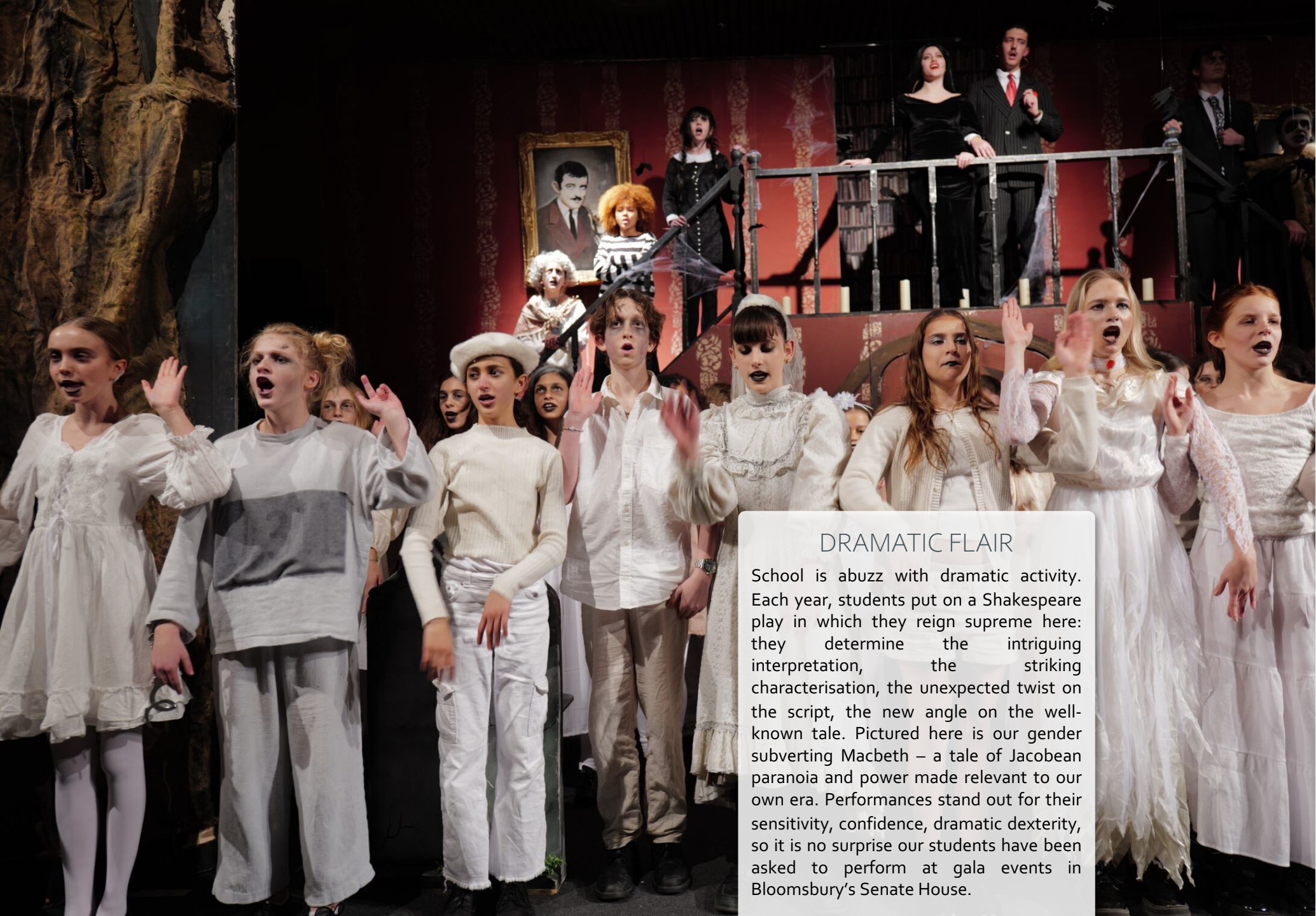
ART APTITUDE

One of our defining characteristics is our specialism in art. Students are taught by expertly trained teachers, and a significant proportion of curriculum time is devoted to artistic endeavour. Each year, 10% of our Year 7 intake is selected through our Art Aptitude Programme. These students take part in gallery visits, exhibitions, and weekly masterclasses designed to challenge and develop their skills. In both lessons and masterclasses, we strike a balance between building fundamental skills in observational drawing and encouraging work of real conceptual depth. This approach consistently leads to outstanding outcomes: at A-Level, 100% of students achieved A*–B grades, while at GCSE, 90% secured grade 5 or above, 68% achieved grade 7 or higher, and an impressive 30% were awarded grade 9. Our students' work is regularly used as exemplars by examination boards and partner schools. More information about the Art Aptitude can be found on our website.



BESPOKE GALLERY SPACE

Art is housed in splendid studios, and benefits from the run of our new purpose built artists' studio and gallery in Thorpe Lodge. A photographic darkroom, etching press and Apple technology are but some of the resources from which students benefit.



DRAMATIC FLAIR

School is abuzz with dramatic activity. Each year, students put on a Shakespeare play in which they reign supreme here: they determine the intriguing interpretation, the striking characterisation, the unexpected twist on the script, the new angle on the well-known tale. Pictured here is our gender subverting Macbeth – a tale of Jacobean paranoia and power made relevant to our own era. Performances stand out for their sensitivity, confidence, dramatic dexterity, so it is no surprise our students have been asked to perform at gala events in Bloomsbury's Senate House.



SHOWS, GLORIOUS SHOWS

Our School Production each year is quite the event, even eclipsing Drama Showcases featuring bloodthirsty performances of *The Crucible* and gruesomely reimagined fairytales. Pictured is *The Addams Family* in 2024, and recent years have seen stagings of *Oliver*, *Grease*, *Back To The Forbidden Planet*, *Guys & Dolls* and more. With roles great and small, orchestral parts, lighting and technical crew positions and more, it is a chance for the whole breadth of our student population to get stuck into a dynamic and compelling theatrical experience.



AN ACTIVE EDUCATION

Regular exercise and physical education is a vital part of students' school experience, not just to stay healthy but to equip them with the skills and character traits to take part in sports and understand the values of healthy competition and fair play. PE lessons include fitness activities alongside introductions to a wide range of sports including basketball, softball, football, rugby, netball and more.

A CHANCE TO COMPETE

Our busy extracurricular schedule is awash with sports and games, both for students to enjoy for fun and with fixtures and competitions in mind. Our trophy cabinets constantly welcome new silverware, with the sports on offer rotating throughout the year and including tennis, football, netball, table tennis, athletics, and rugby.



EXTRACURRICULAR LIFE

Life at Holland Park extends well beyond the classroom. Our extensive extra-curricular programme allows students to explore new interests, develop talents and build lasting friendships. Opportunities are wide-ranging: students may spend one afternoon rehearsing for the school production, playing in the orchestra or joining Samba Club, and another solving puzzles in Maths Club, debating current issues, or experimenting in Engineering. Those with creative passions can take part in Textiles, History of Art, Creative Writing through First Story or Foreign Film Club, while sporting opportunities include football, basketball, netball, rugby, table tennis and running. Students also benefit from strength and conditioning training and the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. This breadth of choice ensures every student can find a space to thrive, experience joy and feel a strong sense of belonging within our community.



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.

SPACE TO GROW

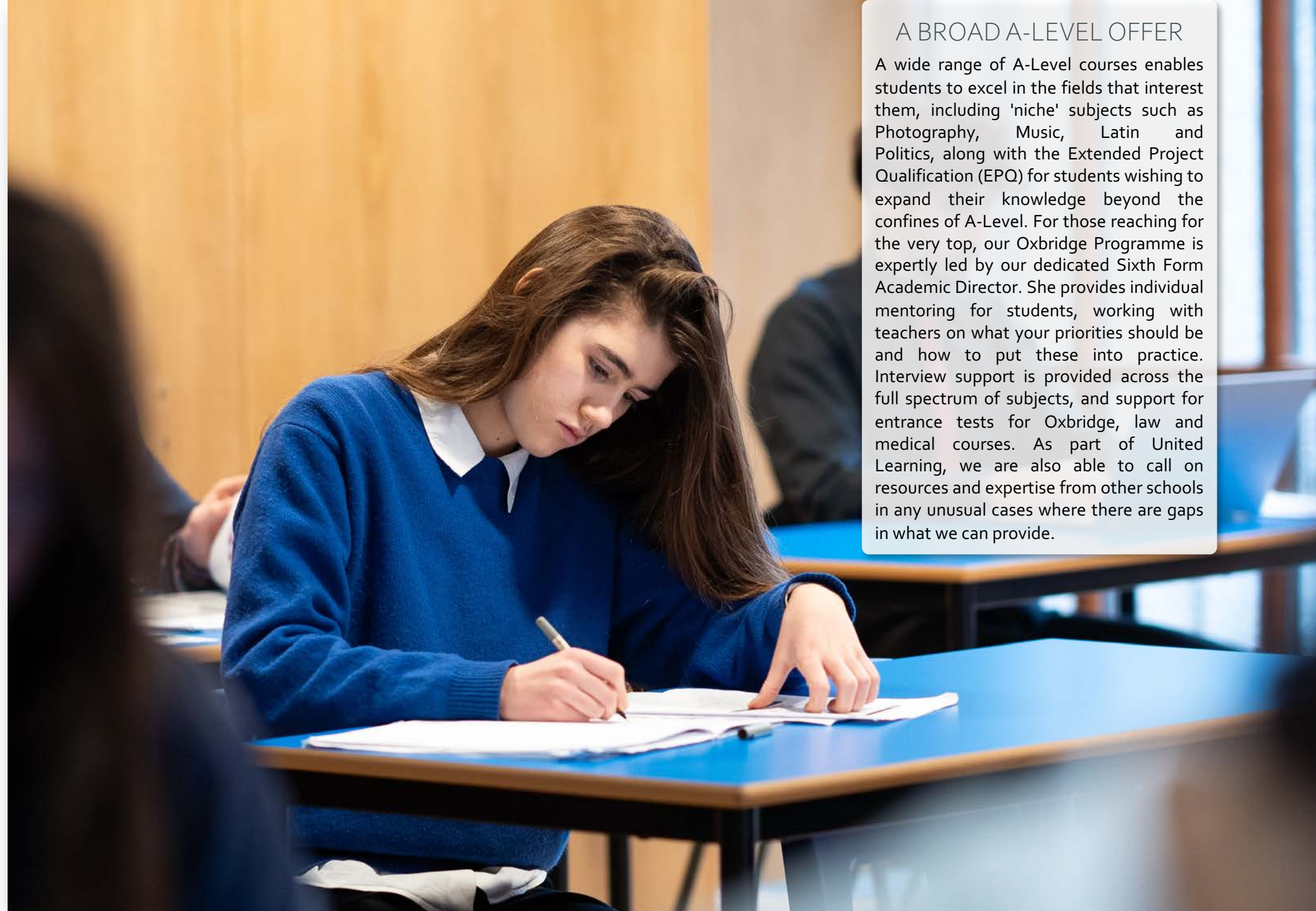
Holland Park School is more than a school. It is a community where every child is known, cared for and inspired to succeed. Our pastoral care is exceptional, creating a safe, supportive and ambitious environment where students grow into confident, compassionate and successful young adults. In the heart of central London, our campus is a rare oasis of space and opportunity, with excellent facilities including tennis courts, an astroturf pitch, a large multi-use games area and a calm reading garden. Break and lunchtimes are full of energy, with activities such as table tennis and table football creating a happy and inclusive atmosphere. Each student is guided by a dedicated tutor and supported by a highly skilled team including Heads of Year, Pastoral Support Officers, a Family Liaison Officer and a full-time Wellbeing Mentor, alongside a qualified counsellor from ConnectEd. Student leadership is central to life at Holland Park, with elected Student Principals and House Captains shaping our culture and promoting kindness, respect and ambition. With outstanding teaching, exceptional care and a wealth of opportunities, Holland Park is a place where students are inspired to excel, dream big and achieve remarkable things.





THE SIXTH FORM

Our Sixth Form represents the best of Holland Park School. Housed in the beautiful Grade II-listed Thorpe Lodge (pictured), students know to aim high, and the expertise of teachers and our Pastoral Director, coupled with their own hard work, has repeatedly reaped rewards and success across a wide range of our A-Level courses.



A BROAD A-LEVEL OFFER

A wide range of A-Level courses enables students to excel in the fields that interest them, including 'niche' subjects such as Photography, Music, Latin and Politics, along with the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) for students wishing to expand their knowledge beyond the confines of A-Level. For those reaching for the very top, our Oxbridge Programme is expertly led by our dedicated Sixth Form Academic Director. She provides individual mentoring for students, working with teachers on what your priorities should be and how to put these into practice. Interview support is provided across the full spectrum of subjects, and support for entrance tests for Oxbridge, law and medical courses. As part of United Learning, we are also able to call on resources and expertise from other schools in any unusual cases where there are gaps in what we can provide.



IMPRESSIVE RESULTS

In 2025, mathematics led in A-Level achievement, with students achieving particularly highly in Further Mathematics (67% A*-A), Maths (62% A*-A), Latin (100% A*-A) and Geography (43% A*-A). Success is not limited to these subjects however: the year before, the strongest performances came in Science - Physics (84% A* - A), Economics (67% A* - A) and Chemistry (58% A* - A). A-Level success at Holland Park spans the humanities and the sciences.

FOSTERING INDEPENDENCE

Set apart from the main school, our Sixth Form Centre in Thorpe Lodge encourages students to develop their independence, with a range of private study spaces, access to a well-equipped kitchen, beautiful gardens, and the support and expertise of a dedicated pastoral and administrative team. Sixth Form-specific trips, clubs and speakers help foster a rounded CV as university applications beckon.





INTO THE WORLD...

Our Leavers' Morning at the end of Year 11 is always a sentimental occasion, but the fact that the vast majority of our Sixth Form students come from within our own ranks is testament to students' faith in their school to help them succeed. For all students, a dedicated Head of Careers & Employability coordinates work experience opportunities, visiting speakers from a range of walks of life, and trips and partnerships with local and international business, government departments, and more.



...AND ON TO UNIVERSITY

After their Leavers' Dinner (pictured), the vast majority of Holland Park School Sixth Form students progress to leading universities in the UK and internationally. Our in-house Independent Research Project competition develops the independent thinking and academic skills needed for university study, and each year students are successful in some of the most competitive applications, including Oxbridge, medicine and dentistry. We hold a comprehensive programme of UCAS tutorials, with workshops on applications, university choices, apprenticeships and navigating Clearing, alongside personalised careers guidance for every student.

In 2026, 68% of students with a confirmed university destination progressed to a Russell Group university, with 75 students securing Russell Group places. Students secured places at an impressive range of institutions, including 14 at UCL, 11 at King's College London, 7 at Bristol, 7 at Exeter, 4 at Warwick and 4 at Bath. Three students secured Oxbridge places, with two progressing to Cambridge and one to Oxford, while other destinations included Imperial College London, the London School of Economics, St Andrews, Edinburgh and Georgia Tech in the USA.

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Airlie Gardens | London | W8 7AF | 020 79081000

