



WIMBLEDON HIGH SCHOOL

STEPPING IN GUIDE

2024-2025



Welcome to Junior School

It is a huge privilege to be welcoming your daughter to WHS and to the Junior School in particular. Starting school for the first time or joining a new school is always a very special and important milestone; it marks the start of an exciting new adventure and at WHS it is one that is characterised by a culture of positivity, respect, kindness and supportive collaboration.

At WHS we believe deeply in the joy of childhood and see it as our responsibility to enhance its vitality, spirit and magic in all that we do. It is with this in mind that we strive to provide a Junior School experience which inculcates each of our girls with a lifelong love of learning, the capacity to delight in the wonder of the world around them and the strength to stand tall and make sure their voice is heard.

As a staff team, we take our responsibility for your daughter's welfare, both academic and pastoral, incredibly seriously and it is important from the outset that you feel clear and reassured about what we will do to care for your daughter at all stages of her time with us. This booklet is just one source of reference for you to draw upon. We operate an open door policy - both literally and metaphorically our doors are always open.

We look forward to getting to know you and your daughter better over the coming months and years.

Mrs Sarah Chittenden
Acting Head of Junior School



“Though she be little, she is fierce.”

A Midsummer Night's Dream, Act 3 Scene 2

The Junior School Spirit

The spirit of the Junior School is hard to define; however, the words quoted above, spoken by Helena in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, come very close to capturing the energy, passion and sense of fun of what it is to be a Junior School girl.

The girls love the time they spend in school and, from the very first day they join us, they know that they can absolutely achieve anything to which they set their mind.

We seek to ensure the Junior School environment is one which enables and stimulates our girls to take risks with their learning from a young age, to challenge themselves intellectually and recognise the value of scholarship.

We help our pupils develop the skills to nurture friendships and grow the confidence required for true self-knowledge.

We are very aware that the world that will meet the young women of tomorrow is one that will be shaped by a variety of new influences and unpredictable variables.

From the rise of artificial intelligence to the impact of ecological change on the planet, it is imperative we equip our girls with the skills to enjoy success and happiness by finding their place in the world.

In order to meet these challenges, the Junior School spirit is rooted in a commitment to exceptional teaching, a culture of innovation and, most importantly, a love of adventure.



Learning



Adventum: Our Academic Curriculum

Adventum, our curriculum, aims to fuse together the discovery of knowledge and skills. It is underpinned by provocative thinking, intellectual disruption, critical questioning and self-knowledge. It ensures pupils value the role they play in society and collaborate to positively shape the world around them.

Our bespoke, philosophy-led curriculum allows pupils to gain an understanding of meta physics, aesthetics and ethics within a rich context of storytelling, questioning and collaboration. Our learners are instilled with a love of wisdom, integrity of thought and the social awareness to act with compassion, confidence and agency. They are filled with a desire to grapple with and overcome the challenges by the world in which they are growing up.

The majority of our Adventum curriculum, especially in the Lower Junior School (Reception – Year 2) is delivered by our skilled class teachers who get to know the pupils they teach inside out and can support a fluid and smooth progression through the first stages of school. Our curriculum is, however, powerfully supported by specialist teaching across the Junior School and this increases as pupils move into the Upper Junior School. This allows us to harness the benefits of specialist expertise and subject knowledge and provide learning experiences that are ambitious and aspirational.

More information about the finer details of the delivery and coverage of the curriculum in each year group will be provided as part of our Welcome Evenings in early September and further supported thereafter via our virtual learning environment, Firefly. Miss Elizabeth Jenkins leads our curriculum and all aspects of teaching and learning in her capacity as Assistant Head Academic & Innovation.

Our Junior School Assessment Team work closely with all our teaching staff to track, monitor and analyse pupil performance on a termly basis. This team takes responsibility for ensuring that every pupil makes excellent progress across the curriculum and oversees our reports to parents. Parents are invited to attend two parents evenings in the Autumn and Spring terms and receive a written end of year report in the Summer Term.

Lower School Specialist Teaching:

(Year 1 & Year 2)

Modern Foreign Languages, PE, Music and Art

Upper School Specialist Teaching:

Computing, Art, PE, Modern Foreign Languages, Music, Science

(Year 5 & Year 6)

English & Maths

Playing

Our Pastoral Commitment

High quality pastoral care of all pupils is the central priority of all Junior School staff. We recognise the importance of pupil happiness. Wellbeing is supported from the very beginning of their Junior School journey.

This undertaking is best exemplified by the cultivation and development of positive relationships between our pupils and their teachers. Our staff are devoted to understanding what makes each girl tick, using this knowledge to support them in developing a strong sense of self,

forming happy friendships and acquiring the skills required to navigate the world around them.

Our vibrant House system (to which all pupils belong from Reception) and our bespoke **This is Me** character development programme contribute to the pastoral care we offer.

Mrs Alexandria Rowland and Mrs Kate Cheetham in their capacity as Head of Lower and Upper Junior School respectively, take responsibility for leading Junior School pastoral care.

This is Me!

With pastoral care at the heart of everything we do, showing kindness and respect towards others are key characteristics of school life.

We use our bespoke This is Me characters to instill in our girls the importance of developing all of the following:



Growing



Arcadia: Our Co-Curriculum

Childhood is all about trying new things and embarking on new adventures. Arcadia, our Junior School Co-Curricular programme, unites a wide range of co-curricular activities and opportunities for all Junior School pupils.

From day trips and workshops, to visiting speakers and inspiring lecture series, our extended school day offers a plethora of experiences for our girls. Each week our club programme provides stimulating and engaging forays into music, drama, engineering, science, debating, problem solving and golf, to name but a few, and this is complemented by our weekly enrichment afternoon which sees the whole Junior School timetable devoted to diverse co-curricular pursuits.

Club sign up takes place at the end of each term for the term ahead e.g. parents register for Spring term Clubs at the end of the Autumn Term. You will be contacted separately with information on the clubs available to your daughter when she starts at WHS.

There are no co-curricular clubs open to Reception pupils in the Autumn Term. This is to ensure that girls can settle into the stimulating school days, before embarking on any co-curricular adventures.



Our Wild Girls outdoor learning curriculum and Upper Junior School residential trips programme guarantee our girls time immersed in nature and the open air. From Reception, our girls love nothing more than donning their wellies and exploring Wimbledon Common.

Themed weeks devoted to maths, science and the arts are commonplace, as are a range of charity fundraising campaigns. Pupil voice is alive and kicking in the Junior School thanks to our vibrant School Council, Eco Warriors and range of Form Captain responsibilities.



Nuts & Bolts: Information You Need to Know

What structure does the school day follow?

Our school day starts at 8.20 each day and ends at 3.15pm for Lower Junior School and 3.30pm for Upper Junior School. The sample timetables show the structure of the school day across the different parts of the school.

Sample Lower Junior School Timetable (Reception, Years 1 & 2)

		Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8.20-8.40	Morning Activities					
8.30	Registration					
8.40-9.20	P1 (40)	Maths	English	Maths	Spellings	Handwriting
9.20-10.00	P2 (40)	Maths	Gym	Maths	Maths	ICT
10.00-10.30	Break					
10.30-10.45	Assembly	Junior School	Grow	House/Peer/Circle	Singing	Celebration
10.45-11.15	P3i (30)	Phonics	Science	Spanish	Dance	RWI
11.15-11.45	P4i (30)	Grammar	Science	Games	Comprehension	Maths
11.45-12.45	Lunch					
12.45-1.10	Form time					
1.10-1.40	P5i (40)	Swimming	Creative	Art	Humanities	Music 1.15-1.55
1.40-2.20	P6j (40)	R.E.	English	Art	Humanities	Creative
2.20-3.00	P7j (40)	PSHE	Year 2 Singing	Creative	Humanities	Creative
3.00-3.15	Form period After school					

Nuts & Bolts:

What structure does the school day follow?

Sample Upper Junior School Timetable (Years 3 - 6)						
		Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8.20-8.40	Morning Activities					
8.30	Registration					
8.40-9.20	P1 (40)	VR	Maths	Maths	Computing	NVR
9.20-10.00	P2 (40)	French	Maths	Maths	Computing	Singing
10.00-10.30	Break					
10.30-10.45	Assembly	Whole School	Section	Form Time	House/Singing	Celebration
10.45-11.25	P3 (40)	Maths	Science	English	English	Art
11.25-12.05	P4 (40)	Maths	Science	English	English	Art
12.10-1.10	Lunch					
1.10-1.50	P5j (40)	Games	French	RE	Music	Humanities
1.50-2.30	P6j (40)	Games	English	Science	Swimming	Humanities
2.30-3.10	P7j (40)	Games	English	PE	PSHE	Experientia
3.10-3.30	Form period					
	After school					



Information You Need to Know

Dates for your Diary

Each term a Junior School Termly Calendar is published, outlining all key upcoming events. This is supplemented by our Wednesday Mail Out; this bulletin contains important information and reminders about upcoming events. Term dates are published on our website.

Staying in touch with the Junior School

We operate an open door policy at Junior School. This means that we actively encourage our families to get in touch with us. Email and telephone are helpful for relaying important messages and updates, however we value face to face communication wherever possible. If you wish to meet a member of staff, please do so by contacting the Junior School office in the first instance:

T 020 8971 0902
E info.junior@wim.gdst.net

Every term we host a series of **Parent Coffee Mornings**. These are informal events which provide an update on key strategic priorities to which the Junior School is working, as well as updates and information on each year group. These are hosted by Mrs Alexandria Rowland in the Lower Junior School and Mrs Kate Cheetham in the Upper Junior School and the Junior Leadership Team and are attended by the relevant class teachers.

In addition, you can expect:

- **Wednesday Mail Out - weekly**
Email bulletin from the Assistant Head, Lower Junior School, on the week ahead, with upcoming events and reminders of important Junior School information. Letters to parents are also distributed as part of the Wednesday Mail Out.
- We will update you with Junior school news digitally on a regular basis and you can choose to follow us on social media.

[wimledonhighschooljuniorsgdst](https://www.instagram.com/wimledonhighschooljuniorsgdst)
 [@Juniors_WHS](https://twitter.com/Juniors_WHS)

Reporting or requesting absence

If your daughter is absent unexpectedly e.g. due to illness, please call the Junior School office on 020 8971 0902 or email junior.absence@wim.gdst.net

Our holidays are generous and details of our term dates are published well in advance, therefore term time absence is strongly discouraged. Should you need to request term time absence in extenuating circumstances, please write to Mrs Chittenden, Acting Head of Junior School.

Information You Need to Know

Junior School uniform expectations:

Our uniform and Sports kit supplier is School Blazer - www.schoolblazer.com

Full details of the uniform are listed on Firefly in the New Parents section.

In addition to this, our PTA, Friends of Wimbledon High School, run second-hand uniform sales: look out for notices throughout the year.

Girls take pride in their uniform and we hope that buying it and wearing it for the first time generates some excitement in your house over the summer! Pupils are of course expected to wear it smartly. We cannot stress enough the importance of naming all uniform, water bottles, shoes and trainers, etc!

- Long hair must be tied back with blue or green ribbon or plain hair bands.
- Shoes should be black leather, fastened with Velcro or a strap - not slip-on.
- Navy tights or navy knee length socks may be worn during winter.
- Summer socks should be white ankle length.
- Ideally, earrings should not be worn at all and if they are worn should be small studs, which have to be removed for games and swimming. If you are considering allowing your daughter to have pierced ears, then please do this at the start of the summer holidays. No other jewellery is to be worn except for religious reasons and must not be worn for PE or Swimming. Nail varnish must not be worn.

- The girls wear specific kit for PE. Trainers should be predominantly white and comfortable for your daughter to run around in!
- On the day your daughter has her sports lessons, she can wear her Sports kit to school. You will be provided with full timetable information at the Parent Welcome Event in September.
- Girls need to bring in their book bag on the first day of term, but not their PE bags.
- Please provide a water bottle for your daughter with her name on it - this can come to and from school in her book bag.
- Pencil cases are not required for Reception.



Information You Need to Know

Morning drop off and afternoon pick up

We encourage sustainable travel to and from school and have created a **Parent School Agreement**, available in your induction pack, which we ask that all parents adhere to during their daughter's time at WHS.

We suggest that before September, you do a couple of trial runs of how you are going to get to school in the morning. Our central location in Wimbledon means that there are plenty of public transport options for families to consider, including bus, tube, mainline train and tram. Many families who live nearby also choose to walk, bike or scoot to

school - we have bike shelters for pupils to park their preferred mode of transport in!

Parents should ensure girls are at school by 8.20am. To secure the site, all gates will close at 8.45am. If you arrive later than this, please ring the bell on the gate and report to Junior School Office to sign your daughter in.

The playground is supervised from 8.15am every morning by a member of the Junior Leadership Team. This means parents can drop off their daughter at the Mansel Road gate safe in the knowledge that she will be closely supervised until registration commences at 8.30am.

Wraparound care is offered in the Junior School



For parents who require greater flexibility in drop-off and pick-up times around the school day, we offer Apple Pips wraparound care, providing a fun, relaxed environment for pupils.

Apple Pips is our in-house facility, run on-site by our own experienced Early Years practitioners. Activities include crafts, games, and role play. Provision to complete homework is available to pupils joining Apple Pips from the Upper Junior school. We aim to offer continuity for a regular booking for the academic year and operate a waiting list for additional requests during the year.

Before School Care

Bookable in advance, this is available daily from 7.45am for girls in Y1 to Y6 from the beginning of term, commencing Wednesday 4 September 2024 and for girls in Reception from Monday 16 September.

Early Morning Care
(does not include breakfast)
7.45 - 8.30am £6.00

Bookable in advance, this is available for girls in Y1 to Y6 from the beginning of term, commencing Wednesday 4 September 2024 and for girls in Reception from Monday 16 September 2024.

After School Care

Monday - Thursday to 15:30 - 18:00

S1	15:15 - 16:30 (main session)	£9.50
S2	16:30 - 17:30 (main session)	£9.50
S3	17:30 - 18:00 (late session)	£6.50

After School Care Friday 15:15 - 16:30

S1	15:15 - 16:30 (main session)	£9.50
----	------------------------------	-------

In addition, we offer a **Sisters' Waiting**, after school, which is available Monday to Friday, free of charge, for girls in Lower Junior School from the beginning of term and for Reception from Monday 16 September, who wait for their sisters in Upper Junior school (Year 3-6) to finish school at 3.30pm.



For further information on Apple Pips and how to book, please scan here.



Information You Need to Know

Break and lunchtimes

Pupils in Lower Junior School are provided with a fresh fruit snack each morning at break time. Pupils in Upper Junior School are invited to bring a healthy nut-free snack with them to enjoy at break time, for example a piece of fruit or a cereal bar.

School Lunch is compulsory for all Junior School pupils and the cost is added to and collected with the school fees. Allowance is made for school visits and there is no lunch on the last day of each term (when we finish at midday). Packed lunches are not permitted.

The school has a Healthy Eating Policy that recognises the need to cater for growing and energetic girls and is provided by our caterers, Chartwells. Our Catering Manager is always happy to discuss your daughter's dietary needs should you have concerns.

IF YOUR DAUGHTER HAS FOOD ALLERGIES OR RELIGIOUS PREFERENCES, PLEASE COMPLETE THE HEALTH FORM AND ALLERGIES AND INTOLERANCE FORM IN HER CHECKLIST ITEMS.

Pupils in Reception and Year 1 are served their meal providing a range of good quality, healthy food that is both interesting and appealing to pupils and staff alike. Pupils in Years 2-6 select their meal on a canteen basis from a weekly menu.

A member of staff supervises the younger girls very closely, encouraging them to try unfamiliar foods and to ensure that each pupil has a balanced meal. **The menus are published on Firefly.**

There are three Lunchtime Supervisors and other members of staff are on duty throughout lunchtime.

All pupils have time for free play at both morning break and lunch, supervised by Junior School staff. A range of playtime equipment is available; girls in Reception enjoy using the climbing frame and playing in the castle. We stagger the use of the playground to give everyone plenty of space.



Information You Need to Know

What should I expect if my daughter is unwell or incurs an injury whilst at school?

Our School Nursing Team is based in the Medical Room during school hours. All staff are regularly trained to administer basic First Aid. A number of staff throughout the school have undertaken more advanced training. They are on call should the nurse not be available. Lunchtime supervisors and teaching assistants carry First Aid kits to deal with minor injuries sustained in the playground. PE staff are trained to deal with injuries that may occur during lessons. The nurse will be called if they consider it necessary.

The nurses are not concerned solely with physical wellbeing, and are always happy to see pupils and listen to their concerns. The nurses are in the unique position of being neutral; they have many resources at their disposal and are always available to meet parents to discuss matters that affect your daughters.





Who are my daughter’s teachers?

Junior Leadership Team

Mrs Sarah Chittenden	Acting Head of Junior School	s.chittenden@wim.gdst.net
Mrs Kate Cheetham	Assistant Head Upper Junior School (returning January 2025)	kate.harper-tarr@wim.gdst.net
Mrs Alexandria Rowland	Assistant Head Lower Junior School	a.rowland@wim.gdst.net
Miss Elizabeth Jenkins	Assistant Head Academic & Innovation	e.jenkins@wim.gdst.net
Mrs Sarah Brierley	Assistant Head Co-Curricular and Partnerships	sarah.brierley@wim.gdst.net

Our Reception Team, September 2024

RT Class Teacher	Miss Saskia Trotman	s.gloucester-trotman@wim.gdst.net
RT Teaching Assistant	Ms Jodie Wright	j.wright@wim.gdst.net
RK Class Teacher	Ms Anna Knight Mrs Alexandria Rowland	a.knight@wim.gdst.net a.rowland@wim.gdst.net
RS Teaching Assistant	Mrs Carine Powell	c.powell@wim.gdst.net

WIMBLEDON HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS

EX HUMILIBUS EXCELSA

GDST
GIRLS' DAY SCHOOL TRUST



Wimbledon High School
Mansel Road, London, SW19 4AB
Wimbledonhigh.gdst.net



Tes Schools Awards 2024
Shortlisted
Independent Prep School of the Year

