

YOUR FUTURE

OUR FUTURES PROVISION
2026-27

Sixth

 WIMBLEDON
HIGH SCHOOL

GDST



OUR FUTURES PROVISION

INTRODUCTION

Holly Rodgers
HEAD OF SIXTH

Our Futures provision at Wimbledon High is sector-leading. We support our students through the traditional routes, whilst also providing our strong, independent young women all the education and advice if they chose a less common, but equally compelling option.

Our Higher Education preparation is student-centred, supporting the girls to make authentic, ambitious choices that reflect their academic passions and future aspirations.

All students receive both 1:1 and group support through the UCAS application process, from the earliest formulation of personal statements, through to results day. Bespoke programmes also run for students considering particularly competitive or specialised destinations, such as Oxbridge, Medicine, degree apprenticeships, conservatoires, and overseas applications.

Our Futures team leads this provision with expertise and drive, supporting our students to secure an outcome that feels right for them. They work most closely with our Sixth Form students, but are always happy to answer questions and provide advice to students and parents in any year group.

Contact Holly Rodgers
Assistant Head - Head of Sixth Form

H.Rodgers@wim.gdst.net



MEET THE TEAM



Romy Rush
Head of Futures
r.rush@wim.gdst.net



Fiona Lucas
Head of Employability & Enterprise
f.lucas@wim.gdst.net



Fi Johnson
Head of Yr 12
F.Johnson@wim.gdst.net



Nicola Cooper
Head of Yr 13
Nicola.Cooper@wim.gdst.net



Callista McLaughlin
Head of Scholarship
c.mclaughlin@wim.gdst.net



Catherine McHenry
US Universities Counsellor
c.mchenry@wim.gdst.net

HIGHER EDUCATION

HE PATHWAYS

OXBRIDGE

Callista McLaughlin
HEAD OF SCHOLARSHIP

All students aspiring to study at Oxford and Cambridge take part in our Oxbridge programme. From the launch of the programme in spring of Year 12, students are encouraged to delve deeply into the subjects they wish to study. Subject mentors will invite them to share their research and musings, and will challenge their assumptions and test their knowledge, pushing them beyond the boundaries of the A Level curriculum. Group sessions bring about debate and exposure to fresh ideas, while individual sessions allow students to develop their personal skills, interests and motivation.

While demonstrating subject passion and expertise in specific areas of interest is invaluable, we know that interviewers really want to see how students respond to material they know nothing about. So, from the Summer term, those more nurturing, informal sessions will be balanced with rigorous interview preparation. Through interview exchanges with other schools, and our Oxbridge Saturday, internal and external interviewers will put the applicants through their paces. It is a programme that seeks to foster real love of learning that is maintained, even strengthened, under the pressure of academic challenge.

Students also have the opportunity to join a number of GDST programmes, such as the Oxbridge Preparation Programme and the annual residential Oxbridge conference.

To find out more about our Oxbridge programme,
please contact our Head of Scholarship, Callista McLaughlin.

c.mclaughlin@wim.gdst.net



“ W ”

Since being at New College, Oxford, I have experienced first-hand how well we were academically prepared at WHS/ Wimbledon High. The transition to university has felt natural; alongside our A-Level studies we were always encouraged to read around the course both in class and as part of the Oxbridge programme – a similar process to the tutorial-essay structure at Oxford. I have found the literature focus of my degree course to be the perfect combination of my two loves at WHS: German and English literature!”

Tilly (Class of 2024)
Studying German, University of Oxford

“ W ”

Miss McHenry, our US college counsellor, was incredibly supportive throughout the process. She took the time to review my college essays and was always available to meet, answer my questions, provide me with useful resources, and offer advice tailored to my grades and ambitions. Also, Wimbledon High's emphasis on playful scholarship, as well as its encouragement of student involvement in extracurriculars, gave me a wide range of experiences to draw on in my application, essays, and interviews

Cecilia (Class of 2026)

*4 year bachelor of arts degree in Government
at the University of Texas at Austin*

HIGHER EDUCATION

HE PATHWAYS

US UNIVERSITIES

Catherine McHenry
US UNIVERSITIES COUNSELLOR

Students exploring the possibility of studying in the United States are supported through a focused US Universities Programme that begins in Year 10 and continues through to Year 13. Through assemblies, workshops, and small-group sessions, they learn how the US system works, how to research universities effectively, and how to plan ahead for key deadlines. A central priority of the programme is helping each student identify universities that are the right fit for their academic interests, personal goals, and preferred learning environment. As they move into the application stage in Year 12, individual counselling provides tailored guidance on essays, recommendations, athletic recruitment, and application strategy, while encouraging students to take ownership of the process.

Parents remain closely informed through information evenings and ongoing communication, and staff receive training to ensure consistent support across the school. The programme is strengthened by up-to-date resources, data-informed planning, and strong relationships with US admissions representatives and alumnae, giving students meaningful insight into American university life. By staying current with admissions trends, testing requirements, and visa regulations, the school ensures that every student receives accurate, confident guidance as they prepare for their next steps.

To find out more about our US universities provision,
please contact our US Universities Counsellor,
Catherine McHenry.

c.mchenry@wim.gdst.net



MEDICINE/DENTISTRY

Romy Rush
HEAD OF FUTURES

Applicants for Medicine, Veterinary Medicine and Dentistry meet regularly both as a group and individually, to discuss the details of making an application, receive advice on university choices, and gain support with personal statements. Medic Society also provides valuable opportunities to hear from alumnae working in these fields, and to discuss 'hot topics' in the medical world. In the summer of Year 12, students take part in a UCAT preparation workshop, led by experienced tutors from the Medic Portal. Students are also able to join a GDST UCAT preparation programme that runs across the Summer Term.

In the autumn term of Year 13, the focus shifts to interview preparation. The Medic Portal come in to deliver a one-day intensive interview preparation workshop.

To find out more about our Medicine programme, please contact our Head of Futures, Romy Rush.

r.rush@wim.gdst.net



“ W ”

Wimbledon offers a fantastic academic programme for aspiring medical students, particularly given the extensive interview and entrance-exam requirements of the degree.

Throughout the entire process, I received outstanding guidance and access to a wide range of resources I would not have found elsewhere. Academically, Wimbledon prepared me extremely well for university; its A-level approach is genuinely stretching.

Antonia (Class of 2024)

Studying Medicine, University College London (UCL)

DEGREE APPRENTICESHIPS/YEARS IN INDUSTRY

Fiona Lucas
HEAD OF EMPLOYABILITY & ENTERPRISE

Degree apprenticeships are increasingly in demand and valuable, particularly when considering constraints on the graduate job market. We spend time educating students and parents about these roles, allocate a mentor to guide pupils through the application process and where possible buddy them with alumnae who have trodden a similar path. We provide CV and interview skills support, work experience and publicise employer insight days that help students make informed choices about this pathway.

To find out more about Degree apprenticeships/ years in industry please contact our Head of Employability & Enterprise, Fiona Lucas.

f.lucas@wim.gdst.net



“ W ”

My 12-month industrial placement at the pharmaceutical company GSK Stevenage was truly incredible. It taught me practical skills such as lab techniques and data analysis, and transferable skills such as presenting to large groups and working in a multidisciplinary team. Being paid a salary and working full time taught me important skills. I have also found prospective PhD supervisors and employers to be very interested in my industry experience. I have now been offered a fully MRC-funded PhD in Biomedical sciences at the University of Nottingham.

Vera (Class of 2021)

Integrated master's in Biochemistry at the University of St Andrews

CONSERVATOIRES

Whilst most students will use their Theatre and Drama A level to support very strong applications to a range of degree courses at the most competitive universities, some of our students will want to follow a more practical, industry-focussed, performance or technical theatre route to achieve their career goals. These students are mentored by a highly experienced team who have first-hand experience of key Drama Schools and are actively supported by alumnae who are studying or who have recently graduated from these highly competitive and prestigious institutions. Students will receive 1:1 support with applications, personal statements tailored to their specialism, audition preparation, and be monitored to ensure they manage this challenging process while continuing to meet A level targets.

To find out more about conservatoires preparation, please contact our Director of Drama Deb McDowell or our Director of Music Will Ford

deborah.mcdowell@wim.gdst.net
w.ford@wim.gdst.net

ART FOUNDATION

At WHS, we support students who are applying to Art & Design Foundation courses through our A Level Art programme. Students are introduced to the Art & Design Foundation pathways through a series of practical workshops including skills like etching, animation, screen printing, life-drawing, sculpture and much more. Students build a portfolio of work that would be used for their interview and develop their critical and contextual knowledge to fully prepare them for the course.

To find out more about art foundation courses, please contact our Head of Art, Alice Kikuma.

alice.kikuma@wim.gdst.net

“ W ”

The Drama department was incredibly supportive while I was applying to Mountview. Teachers gave up time to help me with speeches to prepare for the auditions and also with my personal statement and references. All of my A level teachers were so understanding that my audition process didn't look the same as those going for university places - they accommodated the ongoing rounds of auditions throughout the year. In general, Wimbledon High School helped my successful application to Mountview by teaching me to nurture the things I am passionate about, giving me confidence in myself and my abilities and the resilience to keep going, even after facing rejection.

Melody (Class of 2023)
*Currently studying at
Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts*

UNIVERSITY DESTINATIONS 2025

University of Bath

Aerospace Engineering
Pharmacy
Politics and International
Relations with professional
placement or study abroad
Psychology
with work placement

University of Bristol

Biochemistry
Economics & Management (2)
History
Mathematics
Medicine -
MBChB Standard entry
Social Policy
Veterinary Science (2)

University of Cambridge

Anglo-Saxon, Norse,
and Celtic History
History of Art
Law

Natural Sciences

Cardiff University

Marine Geography

Durham University

Biological Sciences
English Literature
Geography
History
Politics

The University of Edinburgh

Global Law
History and Politics
History of Art
Mathematics
Philosophy and Politics
Social Anthropology and
Politics
Spanish and Portuguese

University of Exeter

Economics and Finance with
Industrial Experience
Philosophy and Politics

Lancaster University

Business Management
(Industry)
Design

Economics (Industry)

University of Leeds

Economics
Fashion Marketing
Geography
International Relations

University of Liverpool

Medicinal Chemistry
with a Year in Industry

University of London**Imperial College London**

Aeronautical Engineering
Design Engineering

King's College London

Medicine

**London School of Economics
and Political Science (LSE)**

Accounting and Finance
International Social and
Public Policy with Politics
Management

**Royal Central School of
Speech and Drama**

Acting

**School of Oriental and
African Studies (SOAS)**

Accounting and Finance
**UCL (University College
London)**

Applied Medical Sciences
Arts and Sciences
with Study Abroad
Chemical Engineering
French and English
Mathematics with
Mathematical Physics
Medicine (6 years)
Psychology

Loughborough University

Product Design and
Technology
(with placement year)

University of Manchester

Fashion Buying and
Merchandising
Mechanical Engineering
Medicine
Physics

Newcastle University

Biomedical Genetics

University of Nottingham

Engineering and Physical
Sciences with
Foundation Year

University of Oxford

Chinese
Classics with Asian and
Middle Eastern Studies
Computer Science
Geography
History and French
Medicine
Philosophy, Politics and
Economics
Spanish and Linguistics

University of Sheffield

Architecture
Medicine
Physics

University of St Andrews

Art History
University of Surrey
Veterinary Medicine and
Science

University of Warwick

History of Art
Politics and International
Studies

University of York

Psychology

Sixth

UNIVERSITY
DESTINATIONS
2025

PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE

We know that academic achievement alone is no longer enough in this rapidly changing employment landscape, and that skills acquisition is also a key factor. We do this in several ways at Wimbledon: the GROW programme, PSP, Partnerships and co-curricular opportunities provide students with the chance to develop those crucial soft skills. The opportunity to learn, fail, adapt, and reflect is actively encouraged and practiced. Practical sessions on reading a payslip and developing a LinkedIn profile sit alongside presentation skills and pitching with confidence, providing girls with a comprehensive set of skills and knowledge as they enter the workforce.

ONWARDS

Every week, our Year 13s take part in our Onwards programme, preparing them for life beyond Wimbledon High. The foundation of this programme is the belief that success can take many forms, and fulfilment in future life can come from a rich combination of professional purpose, personal values, and work-life balance. Sessions can include university accommodation, student loads, how to approach graduate recruitment, the impact of unpaid care work, cookery skills and a range of other practical lessons focused on preparing the girls for adult life.

1:1 GUIDANCE

In the Lower School, 1:1 guidance is largely provided by the Form Tutor, who will explore students' passions, interests and aspirations. As the girls move into the Middle School and make decisions about GCSE and A Level options, they will have individual meetings with members of the Pastoral Team, Sixth Form Team and Senior Management Team to help make their choices. In Sixth Form, students have regular 1:1s with their tutor, the Sixth Form Team and any relevant mentors for specific pathways they are pursuing. Outside of these regular 1:1s, students and parents are also free to book meetings with our Head of Futures Romy Rush and our Head of Employability & Enterprise Fiona Lucas.

READ MORE



FUTURES

CAREERS CONVERSATIONS

Careers Conversations are an integral part of our Futures provision. We run a regular series of breakfast panels to highlight different career paths and provide insights into working life. Each panel is themed around a different industry, and usually comprises 3 or 4 speakers from a variety of roles, backgrounds and levels of experience.

The panellists share their stories in an informal environment, explaining their varied routes to success, sharing where they took a misstep, how this could be avoided and what they learnt along the way. Students have the opportunity to learn more about the options available to them and to ask any questions. We often find that the panellists value this as a networking opportunity and we are pleased to note that in some cases, students have secured work experience after making professional connections at these events.

FUTURES NEWSLETTER

The Futures page on Firefly is the central hub for all Futures related activity for pupils and parents. It is a treasure trove of information, including work experience placements, insight days, job opportunities, university events, webinars, and competitions. It also has the program of Careers Conversations

along with the information about the panellists and access to booking. It is the first port of call for students looking to learn more about a particular career or enhance their CV.

FUTURES FAIR

Our Futures Fair is the highlight of the Futures Programme. Every two years, students, parents, alumnae and employers come together with the shared goal of bringing more women and girls into their industries. Professionals working in industries ranging from cyber-security, sound engineering and astrophysics to sustainability, textile design and digital marketing, come to Wimbledon High to share advice in the Networking Lounge, as well as taking part in Q&A panel sessions. There are a fantastic number of potential careers on offer for our students to explore.



ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND EMPLOYABILITY

At Wimbledon, entrepreneurship is a core element of our Futures provision.

We encourage girls to think creatively, take intellectual risks, and develop the confidence to turn ideas into action. Through dedicated programmes, real-world projects, and collaboration with industry mentors, students gain practical experience in problem-solving, leadership, and innovation. Whether launching a new product or exploring social enterprise, girls are empowered to see themselves as capable change-makers, equipped with the skills and mindset to shape their own future and contribute meaningfully to the wider world.

ATHERTON AWARD

The Atherton Award is an annual prize that aims to recognise and encourage entrepreneurial spirit in young women. For the award, students initiate and develop their own entrepreneurial projects, ranging from launching small businesses to creating tech solutions. A winner is chosen for each individual school every year, with the award recipient winning an investment, trophy, certificate, and access to a private community of international winners where they can access mentorship and events to further their business and career.

GAIN

Year 12 students have the opportunity to take part in the GAIN Schools Investment Challenge, a national stock pitch competition for young women. It is a unique opportunity to explore how investment decisions are made, and to experience first-hand what it's like to think like an analyst. Working in teams of 3-5, students research a real

company, analyse its performance and future prospects, and present a video stock recommendation to industry professionals.

LEAD

The GDST LEAD programme (Leadership Enterprise Advanced Diploma) is an innovative partnership between the GDST and LSE. With the help of mentors from LSE, students come up with a business idea that has a positive social impact, addressing problems connected to sustainability, female empowerment, or inequality. They develop their idea over several months, and then pitch it 'Dragons Den' style in front of hundreds of students from different GDST schools at the LEAD Showcase at LSE.

READ MORE



UPCOMING FUTURES EVENT

Futures Fair 2027



Information Ideas Inspiration

18 March 2027

**FUTURES
FAIR** 18 MARCH
2027
Information | Ideas | Inspiration

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