

IGNITE THE SPARK THAT SHAPES THE LIFE





WE ALL AGREE THAT LIFE IS A JOURNEY. PERHAPS WE DO NOT ALWAYS REALISE THAT THE SIGNPOSTS FOR TRAVELLING ALONG THIS JOURNEY OF LIFE ARE CLEARLY VISIBLE EVEN IN EARLY CHILDHOOD.





AT HOLY CROSS WE IDENTIFY STRENGTHS
AND TALENTS FROM THE VERY START.



This has become the hallmark of a Holy Cross education because we know that, for every child, there is a key, their own special key, that will unlock their future. Once found, they will thrive, flourish and therefore learn at school. But most of all, they will be happy and curious, and let us not forget that happiness and curiosity almost always go hand in hand.

SO, THEY WILL SET
OUT IN LIFE BELIEVING
THAT THERE IS A
WONDERFUL PLACE
IN THE WORLD FOR
THEM, AND, WITH
THAT ATTITUDE,
THERE USUALLY IS!



HOW DO YOU, THE
PARENTS, RECOGNISE
A SCHOOL THAT CAN
DO THIS FOR YOUR
DAUGHTERS.



For a start, the learning and character formation that happens here, based as it is on a robust and visible Christian value system, will be a foundation for senior school, university and beyond.

Furthermore, at Holy Cross we set great store on being independent. Our approach gives girls an outstanding preparation for what is going to be, undeniably, a competitive future. This starts with them being awarded a place in their senior school of choice.

As far as gaining entry into a senior school is concerned, our girls achieve their first choices, often with scholarships (see our awards board). However, the parents who come to see us already know our performance record and expect excellent academic results.

SO, WHAT ELSE IS THERE?
WHAT ELSE DO WE DO?
WE FIRE A YOUNG GIRL'S
IMAGINATION.





As Catherine of Siena said, hundreds of years ago,
'IF YOU ARE WHAT YOU SHOULD BE, YOU WILL SET THE WORLD ABLAZE!'



In our magical corner of Kingston, where we have probably the largest open spaces for team sport and creative play in the area, we open your daughter's mind to all that is possible for them – to the limitless things they can achieve. Come and stand quietly in our glorious grounds and just listen.

COME & SEE...

Listen to the girl's laughter, their chatter, their joy in their lives. In short, listen to their happiness. You will then begin to understand that here, at Holy Cross, we ignite a spark; the spark that will shape the life.

WELCOME

Hello. I am Sarah Hair, the Head of Holy Cross Prep School and Pre-School in Kingston.

I am proud to work with a wonderful specialist staff at every level of our school, from 3 to 11. We have an outstanding track record of scholarships to prestigious senior schools, we have been the Sunday Times Prep School of the Year, we have a uniquely spacious, green, tree-filled campus in the heart of Kingston, with an on-site Forest School. But most of all, above everything else, we have a happy, laughing, secure group of young girls.

It is of great importance to me to maintain the balance between the goal-oriented side to everything we do here - inside the classroom and outside of it, and the formation of character and developing of those life skills that do indeed last a lifetime.

Come to see me and let me show you our school and how we go about education and growing up in these crucial early years in your child's life.

I know you want the very best for your daughter. I do, too.

Mrs S Hair,
Headteacher.



65%

OF THE LAST YEAR
GROUP GAINED
A SCHOLARSHIP

45

SCHOLARSHIPS
AWARDED

95%

ABOVE NATIONAL
AVERAGE
ACADEMICALLY

OUR SCHOOL

Our pupils perform very well academically – well above the national average and we are the recipient of an unusually large number of scholarships from surrounding senior schools. The question is why do our girls achieve this and what happens at the school to make it possible?

Here is what we believe, and what our parents tell us:

- Our two form entry, combined with small classes ensures a family atmosphere where every girl has a part – an important part – to play.
- Our curriculum is broad and challenging, therefore exciting. Your daughters will be highly motivated.
- Our grounds, the like of which are nowhere else to be found in this part of London, enable a richness of co-curricular activity and sport that is truly fabulous and horizon broadening for our girls.

Come and see us. We really are a hidden gem.

Our girls come from the surrounding areas of Wimbledon, Kingston, Surbiton, Richmond. They are of all backgrounds and all faiths are welcome.

Read on to find out more.



21

ACADEMIC
SCHOLARSHIPS

12

SPORT
SCHOLARSHIPS

9

MUSIC
SCHOLARSHIPS

3

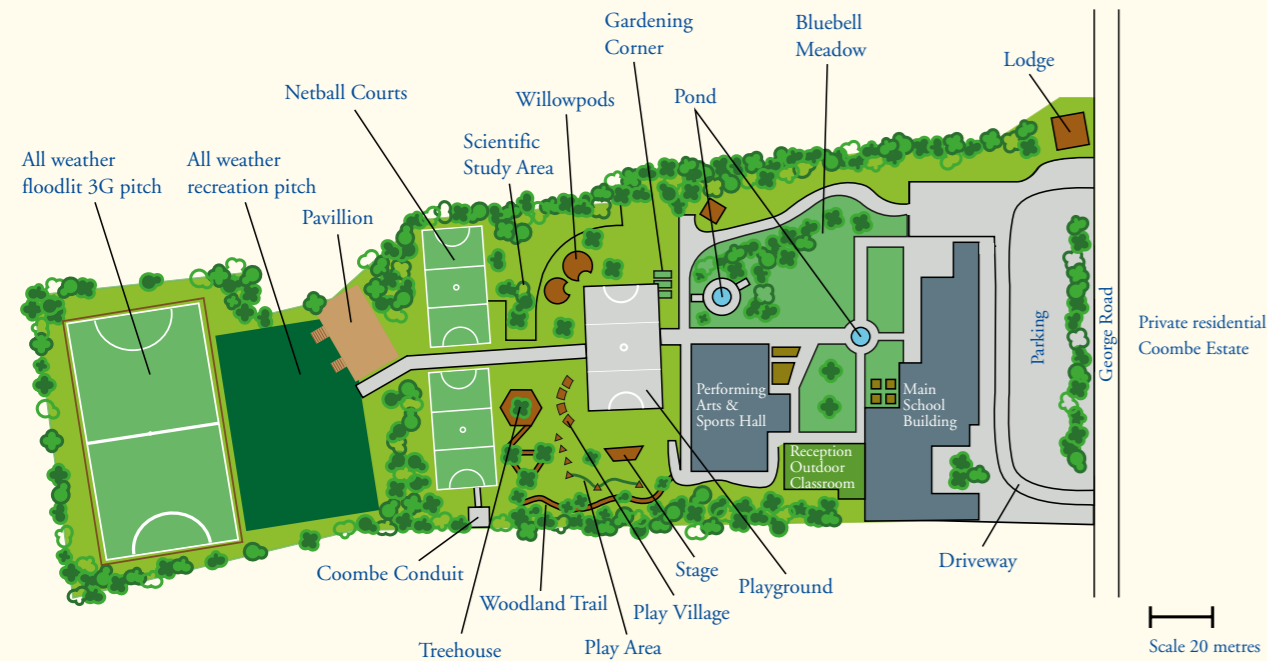
DRAMA AND ART
SCHOLARSHIPS



Holy Cross Prep is located on the private Coombe Estate and is accessible from Coombe Lane West or Kingston Hill. Kingston, Wimbledon, Surbiton, and the areas surrounding Richmond Park are all within easy travelling distance.

The school is privileged to enjoy extraordinarily large 8-acre grounds this close to London, where the girls have all the space they need to learn, explore, reflect, play and participate in sport on-site. Parking is readily available.

Plan of School Grounds



GLORIOUS ACRES



A DYNAMIC CURRICULUM

Erupting volcanos, re-enactments of Roman army manoeuvres in the playground, House of Lords style debates, Shakespearean readings and the cultivation of vegetables to make soup...

Our broad, dynamic curriculum is exciting, relevant and highly motivating. It enables pupils to excel academically, whilst providing a wealth of experience, enjoyment and success in the academic subjects, the creative arts, languages and sports. We like to foster an appetite for curiosity and develop a love of learning in our girls. An emphasis is placed on high quality teaching and learning activities, first-hand experiences and creativity. Well-resourced modern classrooms, equipped with the latest technology, enable teachers to utilise the best of both traditional and modern teaching methods according to learning intentions.



Effective classroom management ensures girls can learn in a calm and organised way. Interactive LED touch screens open a window to the world through media clips, while practical activities are multi-sensory to deepen understanding and retention.

Experienced class teachers deliver the core curriculum, teaching lessons in English, maths, science, the humanities, RE and PSHE. Throughout the week, specialist teachers impart their expert knowledge and enthusiasm to teach pupils computing (including coding and online safety), drama, French, music, PE and art, ensuring high attainment in these areas.



A thriving Music Department inspires girls to play a range of instruments, while the Sports Department's policy of 'Sports for All with Excellence' ensures that a healthy body supports a healthy mind.

Our co-curriculum incorporates workshops, guest speakers, artists, authors, illustrators, educational visits, and residential trips to places including the Jurassic Coast and France. This is an important part of the girls' enrichment programme which enhances our core curriculum. Our extensive, extra-curricular programme of optional activities before, during and after school allows girls the choice to explore or pursue particular interests or talents.

ACADEMIC SUCCESS

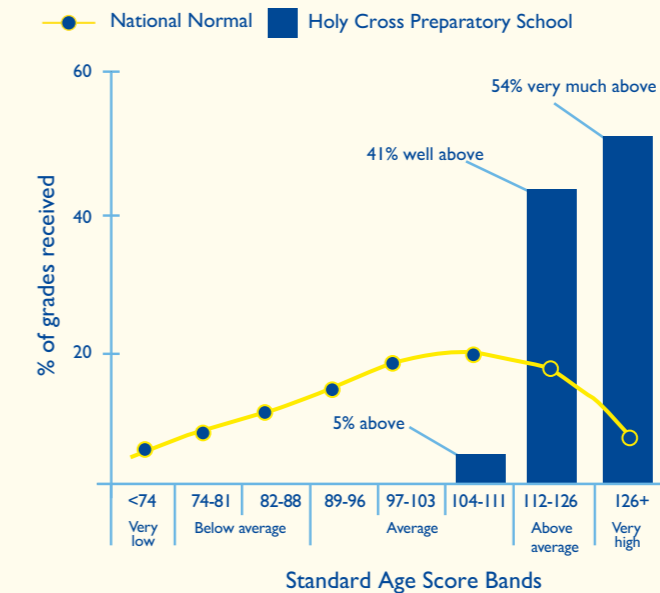
Academic standards at Holy Cross Prep are high and girls achieve well above the national average. With a nurturing, supportive ethos and excellent teaching, our highly motivated girls are capable risk-takers and independent thinkers, diligently moving their learning forward and becoming confident at acquiring new knowledge and skills.

Girls may be identified as needing some extra support at some point during their school career. We can also support pupils with a range of mild to moderate speech and language difficulties, if needed.



The School continually achieves impressive academic results. In national standard assessment tests, pupils achieve well above the national average across all curriculum areas (see graphic for 2020/21 results). This academic success not only enables access to highly selective senior schools, it also offers opportunities for academic scholarships, as reflected in the large number awarded to Holy Cross girls.

Cognitive Ability Tests - 6 (2020/21)



(Source: G.L.Assessment Ltd)





SPORT

Sport plays an important part in school life. A healthy heart supports a healthy mind, and we aspire for our girls to be fit – all very achievable with eight acres of space and exceptional on-site sporting facilities just for our prep girls.

Our sports hall provides a full-sized indoor netball court, in addition to three outdoor courts which facilitate both netball and tennis clubs. With a specialised wooden floor, the sports hall is also the perfect space for gymnastics and dance.

Opened in May 2019, our all-weather floodlit sports pitches and pavilion provide state-of-the-art facilities all year round, whilst allowing us to host tournaments and match teas. The rural grounds surrounding the pitch allow our older girls to practise their cross-country skills.

The Sports Department has a policy of ‘Sports for All with Excellence’, developing physical skills and fitness so each and every girl can do her personal best and learn to work as part of a team. With excellent facilities and a dedicated team of PE staff with a variety of different coaching skills, the girls participate in a wide range of sports. A broad, balanced PE programme develops girls’ skills in gymnastics, dance, netball, hockey, cross-country, and athletics. Swimming is taught at a local pool.

In addition, we have a large extra-curricular sports programme, whereby every girl represents her school in matches. The girls partake in an extensive calendar of fixtures and tournaments; all girls in years 3-6 represent their school in inter-school matches throughout the year. The school is renowned for its sporting success in netball, hockey, cross-country and cricket at local, county, regional and national level.

THE ARTS



Every child is creative, whether moulding the clay between their fingers in pottery, sketching in the field, moving to the captivating rhythm in dance, expressing the sound of the soul in song, or through the dedication of mastering the violin - the budding young “artist” is waiting to escape!

The expressive arts, comprising art, drama, music and dance, foster confidence, creativity and imagination in every child. Pupils attend timetabled lessons in these subjects, during which specialist teachers impart their knowledge, enthusiasm and expertise to girls (including the Little Sparks girls).

Art lessons encourage strong and confident expression in a variety of mediums to communicate ideas, feelings and experiences. Visiting artists and trips to art galleries foster a depth of artistic knowledge. Drama develops self-confidence, self-esteem and freedom of expression. The weekly drama curriculum teaches skills and techniques, giving pupils the ability to perform

with energy and enthusiasm in the many pupil performances throughout the year. Pupils excellent results in LAMDA exams, practical exams in speech, communication and performance known all over the world. Live performances, visits from theatre companies and trips to playhouses encourage confidence and instil professionalism in the girls when it is their turn to tread the boards in our modern theatre.

Music is an integral part of school life. All girls are given the opportunity to make music, learn an instrument and take part in the various musical activities on offer. Young children love to make music, and enjoyment can be found in Orchestra, Choir, Brass and French Horn Group, String Ensemble, Flute Group and Guitar Group. Visiting music teachers tutor the girls in piano, violin, cello, guitar, flute, clarinet, trumpet, singing, horn, French horn, trombone, cornet and saxophone. Musical achievement is of a very high standard and many girls complete the Royal School of Music exams.



FOREST SKILLS

We are all aware of the growing importance of Forest Skills for our young children. Schools in our area of London are usually unable to offer this facility because of lack of grounds and space. At Holy Cross we, and our girls, are lucky to have a superb campus that really does have woods in which our girls can play and also learn.

Set in the beautiful grounds, our Forest Skills Club explores and investigates flora, fauna and funga. Each season of the year brings its own delights to our doorstep - whatever the weather. Your daughter will learn woodland craft and in so doing develop an appreciation and love of nature. Somehow this seems to be more important now than ever. How often have you wished that you could properly identify a tree, a plant, an insect? And know a little about how they all work together in the circle of life? Your daughter will gain some of this valuable knowledge with us, here in our Forest School as well as toasting marshmallows in our fire pit!



EXTRA-CURRICULUM

Strategic moves in chess, pirouettes in ballet, playing Brahms symphony in our 50-strong orchestra, learning hockey skills in Quicksticks, exchanging views in debating or mastering baking with the mini-chefs – Holy Cross Prep offers an extensive extra-curricular programme available before school, at lunchtime and after school.

The programme is carefully managed and changes on a regular basis to inspire girls to explore new avenues of interest or pursue their favourite hobbies. In addition, there is an extensive range of sports clubs and musical activities on offer through the Sport and Music Departments. There is always much to engage eager young minds and bodies – smiles are in abundance.

During the holidays the school's activity camp provider runs a popular camp for children aged 4-12. The School offers older girls the opportunity to challenge their mental and physical skills at the PGL activity camp: abseiling down a 30 metre wall; building floating rafts from canisters; getting a team to the top of Jacob's Ladder - all activities offer thrills, challenges and adventure, building confidence, determination and self-belief.

Our extensive wraparound care provision allows girls to start early and finish late. Beginning with a hearty meal at Breakfast Club (available from 7.30am), after school our younger girls can craft, paint and play at Tea Club (until 6.00pm), while our older girls complete their homework (until 6.00pm). Both after-school clubs include a healthy light tea.





LEARNING IN GOD'S LOVE

Holy Cross Prep is a warm and welcoming school, well renowned for its sense of family and excellent pastoral care. With a Catholic foundation, the School's mission is to provide a Christian education. The worship of God, gospel values, a knowledge and respect for other faiths and sensitivity towards others are central to school life.

In the spirit of St Francis, the School is a caring community which strives to enable each person to realise their full potential, working in partnership with parents, teachers and children to develop the God-given gifts and talents of each person. The School is inclusive and welcomes all faiths into its community.



Although class teachers are primarily responsible for the pastoral care of their girls, the School works in a holistic way with all staff to support girls with care and sensitivity when they feel challenged by the demands in their lives.

The Holy Cross Way gives pupils a guide to life, encouraging them to be considerate to others and God's beautiful world. Older girls complete a mindfulness course to equip them with skills to negotiate the demands of today's world in a positive, reflective and controlled way. Blessed in Spring 2019, our dedicated prayer room provides a peaceful haven for our girls.



THE HOLY CROSS WAY

A Holy Cross girl uses her God-given gifts to follow God's path by:

- Serving and helping others as Jesus did.
- Embracing all school life has to offer with curiosity and gratitude.
- Considering others before herself with love and patience.
- Persevering to do her personal best at all times.
- Showing kindness and respect to each other and the world.
- Being a caring, loyal and forgiving friend in every way.
- Bringing peace and resolution in times of conflict.
- Being courteous and greeting everyone with a smile.
- Participating wholeheartedly in school activities.
- Being sincere, honest and speaking the kind truth.
- Being a Holy Cross girl wherever she is and in everything she does.

LITTLE SPARKS PRE-SCHOOL



We say that a good beginning to the journey of life starts young. Now it can start even younger - at 3-4 years old with our 'Little Sparks' pre-school. We are delighted to be doing this because so many of our parents have said they wished we would!

The pre-school will benefit directly from our unrivalled grounds in the heart of Kingston, from our wonderful facilities, and from our permanent specialist teachers. The pre-school is situated in The Lodge – a pretty building next to the main school which has been purpose-renovated.

So, why might you consider us for your young daughter's first steps in education?

Firstly, having early years experts and specialist teachers, qualified to nurture children within a 'growth mindset' environment, is key.

Your daughter will not be parked in a playroom but will always be on the go and full of beans in a rich and energetic learning setting. Curiosity, creativity, communication and confidence are the four cornerstones of early education. Everything happens on a child by child basis, with cognitive development derived from every activity. So, give your daughter the best possible start.

Secondly, your daughter will, in her own time, start to spread her wings. Unrushed, and yet presented daily with stimulating activities, she will start to grow roots in the Holy Cross family that will make her wonderfully prepared for senior school (yes, that is unimaginably far away and yet happens in a flash). Thirdly, Holy Cross is based on a robust Christian value system. Our girls move to our reception classes believing in themselves and with a responsibility to others. They leave Little Sparks well prepared for reception believing that there is an exciting future in the wide world for them – and, with that belief, we know that there will be!



EARLY YEARS

Ready with shiny shoes, smart tartan pinafores and fresh smiling faces, the first day at school for reception girls is September in the year following their fourth birthday.

Reception girls are taught in two modern, purpose-built classrooms which lead out to their own spacious outdoor learning area, where they can run, explore, plant seeds and be imaginative on their very own HMS Holy Cross ship, play house and climbing equipment. Learning is child-centred with a focus on developing the three characteristics of effective learning: playing and exploring, active learning, and creating and thinking critically.

On arrival at the start of the year, our reception girls are welcomed to school by their year 6 'big girl' buddy. The older girls act like a big sister; they are there to support the new reception girls in their first few weeks. This relationship is encouraged to grow and flourish throughout the year as girls accompany one another on school outings and at events.

The class teacher and teaching assistants encourage the reception girls to become independent and creative thinkers following the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum.

Holy Cross Prep is a high achieving school where pupils make rapid progress. "Pupils of all ages and abilities achieve exceptionally high levels of knowledge, skills and understanding" was the Independent Schools Inspectorate assessment in 2019 and the School was subsequently granted exemption from the learning and development requirements of the EYFS framework for children aged 3-5, by the DfE 2021. This allows the school freedom to exercise its professional judgement in implementing a curriculum with teaching strategies that are best suited to the needs of our bright, eager young learners. It also enables the girls to be taught and extended by specialist teachers and access part of the year 1 curriculum early.



FABULOUS FACILITIES

As well as the modern classrooms for each form (all equipped with interactive LED touchscreens and a secure, managed Wi-Fi system for mini laptops and iPads), there are specialist classrooms for art, computing, cookery, design technology, French, music, and science.

The Coombe Ridge Performing Arts and Sports Hall provides superb indoor sports facilities throughout the day. Multi-functional, the hall quickly converts into two soundproofed smaller halls for PE/drama and dining, or into a large performing arts auditorium, incorporating a curtain-theatre and tiered seating for performances in front of an audience of 284 people.

Outdoor sports facilities include three hard courts for netball or tennis, and two floodlit all-weather surfaces with a sports pavilion.

The extensive, leafy and picturesque grounds include a large play area with a small village, willow pods, trim trail and a woodland climbing challenge complete with a tree house. There are designated habitats for environmental study, including a mini-beast area, woodland walk, meadow, ponds and planting beds for gardening.





CATERING

Our award-winning catering team provide a varied, nutritious and healthy lunch. With bread baked fresh on the school premises every day, a salad bar and a 3-week revolving menu created by a nutritionist, there is always plenty to choose from...and always lots going on, from sausage and pasta making demonstrations to theme days with our chefs in fancy dress!

Girls are encouraged to taste and try new foods as well as seasonal fruits and vegetables, developing their young palates and teaching them to enjoy the pleasure of food as a social occasion with good manners and conversation.

All food is freshly prepared and cooked on site, and all diets are catered for.

For further information regarding dietary requirements please contact the school.



PROJECT GROW

Things are sprouting in our kitchen garden. The girls love growing vegetables that we then prepare and eat. This brings a valuable understanding of the earth, the need for tending a crop, the joy of harvest and of providing your own food. To bring this appreciation of the nutrition chain further to life, we have acquired a fast composter and a sustainable greenhouse.

FRIENDS & FAMILY

A warm Holy Cross welcome awaits every family and we are proud of our strong relationships with past and present pupils, parents and the local community. Our parents association, The Friends of Holy Cross (FOHC), organises fun activities and events for the girls and their families throughout the year.

From festive shopping at the FOHC Christmas Fair and outdoor fun at the Dads' and Daughters' Camp Night in the school grounds, to the themed Summer Ball for parents and friends; all events raise funds for the School and good causes, while friends and families have lots of fun along the way.

The School has many links with the local community including St. Ann's Church and Parish, the Coombe Schools, Southwark Diocese, local homes for the elderly and various charities.

Our Alumni Association keeps old girls and their families in contact with one another and the regular meet up has become a popular social event. Once a Holy Cross girl, always a Holy Cross girl!



WHERE NEXT...

Holy Cross Prep provides each girl with an outstanding start in life and by the time they leave us, year 6 girls are confident, gracious, highly motivated young ladies who academically achieve well above the national average, and tend to excel in music, drama and/or sport.

At 11 they are ready to move to the next exciting step in their education – a new adventure at senior school – and there are many schools to choose from. Holy Cross girls leave us well prepared and go onto a range of destinations, including the local selective independent day schools (11+), grammar schools (11+) and boarding schools (CE 11+).

We support pupils and parents in preparing for, selecting and securing the best senior school suitable for each girl. Girls are well prepared in school, for exams, interviews and scholarship tests at various schools and parents are guided through the choices available. Each year the gifts and talents of our year 6 girls are consistently recognised by senior schools, as demonstrated by the outstanding number of scholarships awarded.

SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED*

2021	2020	2019
45 Scholarships:	37 Scholarships:	27 Scholarships:
21 Academic + 1 Prize, 9 Music, 12 Sport, 2 Drama, 1 Art	20 Academic, 10 Music, 6 Sport + 1 Elite, 1 Dance,	8 Academic, 6 Music, 10 Sport, 1 Drama, 2 Art
5 Exhibitions:	3 Exhibitions:	4 Exhibitions:
3 Music, 1 Drama, 1 Art	3 Academic,	1 Academic, 2 Music, 1 Sport

*Typically 40 girls per year group





VISITING HOLY CROSS

Visits to the school are encouraged and we look forward to welcoming you here. Please contact the school office to make an appointment.

☎ 020 8942 0729

✉ admissions@holycrossprep.com

For further information please visit our website.

🖱 www.holycrossprepschool.co.uk





For more information
please visit, call or email:

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