



THE CAMDEN SCHOOL FOR GIRLS



Onwards & Upwards



CONTENTS

WELCOME TO CAMDEN SCHOOL FOR GIRLS	4
155 YEARS OF PIONEERING EDUCATION	6
OUR VISION, AIMS AND VALUES	10
A BROAD CURRICULUM AND INSPIRATIONAL TEACHING	12
DEVELOPING THE INDIVIDUAL	14

A STRONG PARTNERSHIP WITH PARENTS AND CARERS	16
WE LISTEN TO STUDENTS	18
OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM	20
A STIMULATING AND WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT	22
BEYOND THE SCHOOL GATE	24
NEW HORIZONS	26



WELCOME

TO CAMDEN SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

A warm welcome to Camden School for Girls. Camden School for Girls is a comprehensive school that provides an excellent education for all its students. We are determined to make learning enjoyable, interesting and stimulating so that all our students are able to reach their full potential. As a parent or carer, you will be keen to discover what makes this school unique, and how we will care for your child as they grow towards adulthood. This booklet will give you that information, and you will also gain a clear understanding of how the school works from our website, from visiting the school and from speaking to students and teachers.



“Headteacher’s engagement, example and care for the students is outstanding”

“Teachers go above and beyond with working outside of the classroom in evenings and holidays”



Our school motto, dating from the school’s foundation in 1871, is ‘Onwards and Upwards’. This captures the sense of optimism and determination to succeed that permeates the school. We aim to develop resilience in our students, and the ability to be tenacious in their quest to be the best that they can be in all aspects of their lives.

We are ambitious for every young person in our school, and our commitment to their success is combined with very strong pastoral work to make sure that students feel happy, safe and supported at all times. We enable our students to find their own voices and develop their own opinions by encouraging a broad understanding of the world, a social conscience and a considerate approach to other people. Every student is valued, and we encourage all students to value other people as well. Our aim is to nurture caring, confident, responsible and mature young adults who are ready to go on to the next stage of their education.

I do hope you and your child enjoy getting to know the school and take away a strong sense of how Camden School for Girls provides an outstanding education. I am very much looking forward to meeting you and welcoming you to our warm and welcoming school community.

Kateryna Law
Headteacher



155 YEARS OF PIONEERING EDUCATION

Camden School for Girls was founded in 1871 over 155 years ago by Frances Mary Buss, an early pioneer of female education and the first person to use the title of 'Headmistress'.

Buss fought hard for girls to be allowed to sit public examinations and to enter universities. At that time, a girl's education tended to be social rather than intellectual: boys were educated 'for the world', and girls 'for the drawing room'. But Frances Mary Buss wanted her school to prepare girls 'for any position in life which they may be called upon to occupy'.

Although some mothers withdrew their daughters in horror when they realised Latin and mathematics were included on the curriculum (subjects considered dangerous for girls), the school soon gained a reputation for providing an excellent education.

The school started with 40 girls. It cost 4 guineas to attend. Their fathers' occupations included clerks, tailors and civil servants as well as two builders, two grocers and two clergymen, an engineer in the British Museum, a cattle salesman, a boarding house keeper, a jeweller and a pianoforte tuner.

By 1900 almost every town had a school modelled on the prototype that Frances Mary Buss had created.



1871 -1877 RAPID EXPANSION

The Camden School grew rapidly from 40 girls to 161 in just 6 months. By February 1873 governors had to take another house in Camden Street and numbers rose to 331.

The school's first waiting list was soon established. Funds for The Camden School were however short and attitudes towards female education were still hostile. The school battled for survival and when things seemed to be at their lowest ebb help came from Princess Alexandra (later Queen Alexandra) who asked for both of Miss Buss's schools to be placed under her patronage and gave a cheque for 50 guineas. Around the same time The Brewers Company also agreed to give a sufficient amount of money and provide some annual endowment. On 13 May 1875 Queen Victoria signed the scheme to administer both Miss Buss's Schools as public endowed schools under the Charity Commission putting both schools on a firm footing.

1878 MOVE TO PRINCE OF WALES ROAD

In 1878, the school moved to a larger building on Prince of Wales Road (now luxury flats) which had previously been the Asylum for Aged Governesses. The school had grown to 420 girls and the architect Mr E. C. Robins FSA had a big task in remodelling the old home into a school. Classrooms were provided as well as a Science Lecture room, an Art School, a Library and a Gymnasium and the school was surrounded by a lovely walled garden. Miss Buss was an early pioneer in the field of physical education. Special care was given to questions of health and physical



"I liked the idea that we were celebrating this woman who started a school against all the odds and how lucky we were to be here"

DAME EMMA THOMPSON, ACTRESS, SCREENWRITER AND ALUMNA OF CSG





welfare and the provision of a gymnasium in her school was well ahead of its time.

In the meantime North London Collegiate (sister school to Camden School for Girls founded in 1850 also by Frances Mary Buss) moved into Sandall Road which had previously been a furniture store known as the Emporium. The Sandall Road site became CSG's permanent home when North London Collegiate moved to Canons Edgware.

THE WAR YEARS

The First World War saw the creation of the School's Guild of Good Will with a collecting box put in each form room and weekly voluntary contributions invited. The school also gave up all school and sports prizes and the money saved was added to the fund. Donations were made to the Serbian Relief Fund, the Friends' War Victims' Relief Society and to Belgian and English hospitals.

During the Second World War the Camden School was evacuated to various locations including Uppingham and Lincolnshire. The intention was that the school would move into the building at Sandall Road now vacated by NLCS but an air raid in January 1941 extensively destroyed the school site. The school site lay in ruins for many years afterwards until eventually the bold decision was taken to try to raise the money to rebuild. The Building Fund, supported by students and parents, raised £5,000, which would be an impressive £130,000 in today's money. The architects

Stillman & Eastwick-Field Partnership created a Brutalist design that linked the Victorian and Edwardian sections of the school. On the 18 October 1956, the school celebrated the opening of the new school at Sandall Road in the presence of HRH The Duchess of Gloucester (Alice). The famous sculptor Sir Jacob Epstein also created a bronze head to celebrate the occasion.

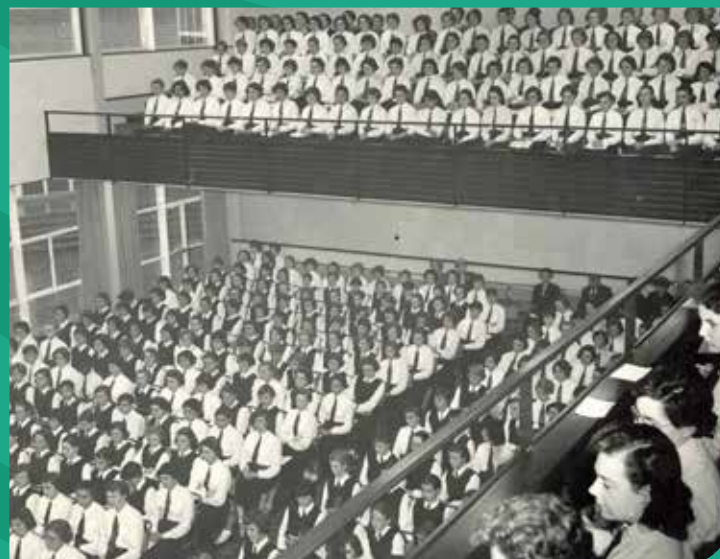
THE 1960S

In the 1960s, a small factory adjacent to the school became available and plans went ahead for the addition of an additional science wing. On 8 December 1965 Sir John Cockcroft, Master of Churchill College and joint winner of the Nobel Prize for Physics (1951) for his pioneering work on "splitting the atom", laid the foundation stone.

Some celebrity concerts took place during the 1960s including the likes of Paul Tortelier, Andrés Segovia, Vladimir Ashkenazy & John Ogdon amongst others to help raise funds for the new science block.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

The school uniform altered somewhat over time. In the early 20th century girls wore pinafores known as 'gymslips'. By the middle of the 20th century this had evolved into a bottle green uniform with a school tie and blazer (examples of which can be seen in the school foyer) By the mid-1970s the uniform had been abolished.



ADMISSION OF BOYS

During the 1980s the school joined a consortium with other schools in the area for Sixth Form with some boys admitted to attend lessons on site. From the 1990s they were officially admitted for the first time on the school roll. The Sixth Form House was built and work was done to extend the Founder's Library as we know it. By 2002 the Camden Building had been built creating much needed space.

In 2000, a blue plaque was unveiled on our school building to Frances Mary Buss. It is highly unusual for a plaque to mark a school premises, but the building was chosen as none of Buss's former homes were still standing.



On the last day of the Spring Term every year Camden School for Girls proudly celebrates Frances Mary Buss as well as the school's many benefactors in a ceremony called Founder's Day. The school's orchestra and choir perform a magnificent array of music, hymns and psalms whilst the headteacher and head students give an address. All present wear a posy composed by the students of a daffodil (Miss Buss's favourite flower) and flowers that are purple, green and white to represent the Suffragette colours.

Our school proudly celebrates an illustrious alumni community who have left an indelible mark on the world in a variety of different fields. Their legacy is a powerful testament to the excellence and ambition nurtured here at Camden School for Girls which all began with the extraordinary vision and indomitable character of our founder Frances Mary Buss. Indeed Doris Burchell CBE, past headteacher at CSG from 1946 - 1968, writes in her book 'Miss Buss' Second School' that Frances Mary Buss spent her life in preparing a pitch on which she knew, right from the beginning, she would never play and who when encountering opposition was heard to say:

"We may not get there, but others will"





OUR VISION, AIMS AND VALUES

The Camden School for Girls was founded in 1871 by Frances Mary Buss, one of the great pioneers of women's education. The main school admits girls and has a comprehensive intake. At sixth form level the school has specific GCSE grade requirements and it also admits boys. The school aims to create a social and physical environment which combines security and care with challenge, stimulus and the highest expectations, where staff and students work together with the understanding and support of parents and carers.

Our vision for the future is to sustain and to promote the school's ethos, heritage and

philosophy within the contexts of public policy, social trends and educational need, ensuring that it can adapt to and meet future challenges.

The aims and values of the school are:

- to maintain and develop the school's tradition of providing the highest quality of education
- to offer equality of opportunity and care to all students whatever their race, gender, class, creed or special needs.
- to be a positive presence within the wider community and to promote a sense of environmental and social responsibility
- to foster a supportive environment where staff and students are valued, motivated and fulfilled

We encourage all students to:

- develop their individual talents to the full
- have confidence in themselves and a sense of self-worth
- work co-operatively with others
- develop independence of thought
- value education and enjoy learning
- practise tolerance and open mindedness
- show consideration for others and respect their diverse qualities and needs

I hope you will recognise our commitment to our vision, aims and values as you visit the school and explore more information about it on our website.



“The school maintains its embedded roots and traditions whilst providing the students with an outstanding quality of education, ensuring they are ready to make their mark in the 21st century world in which they live”

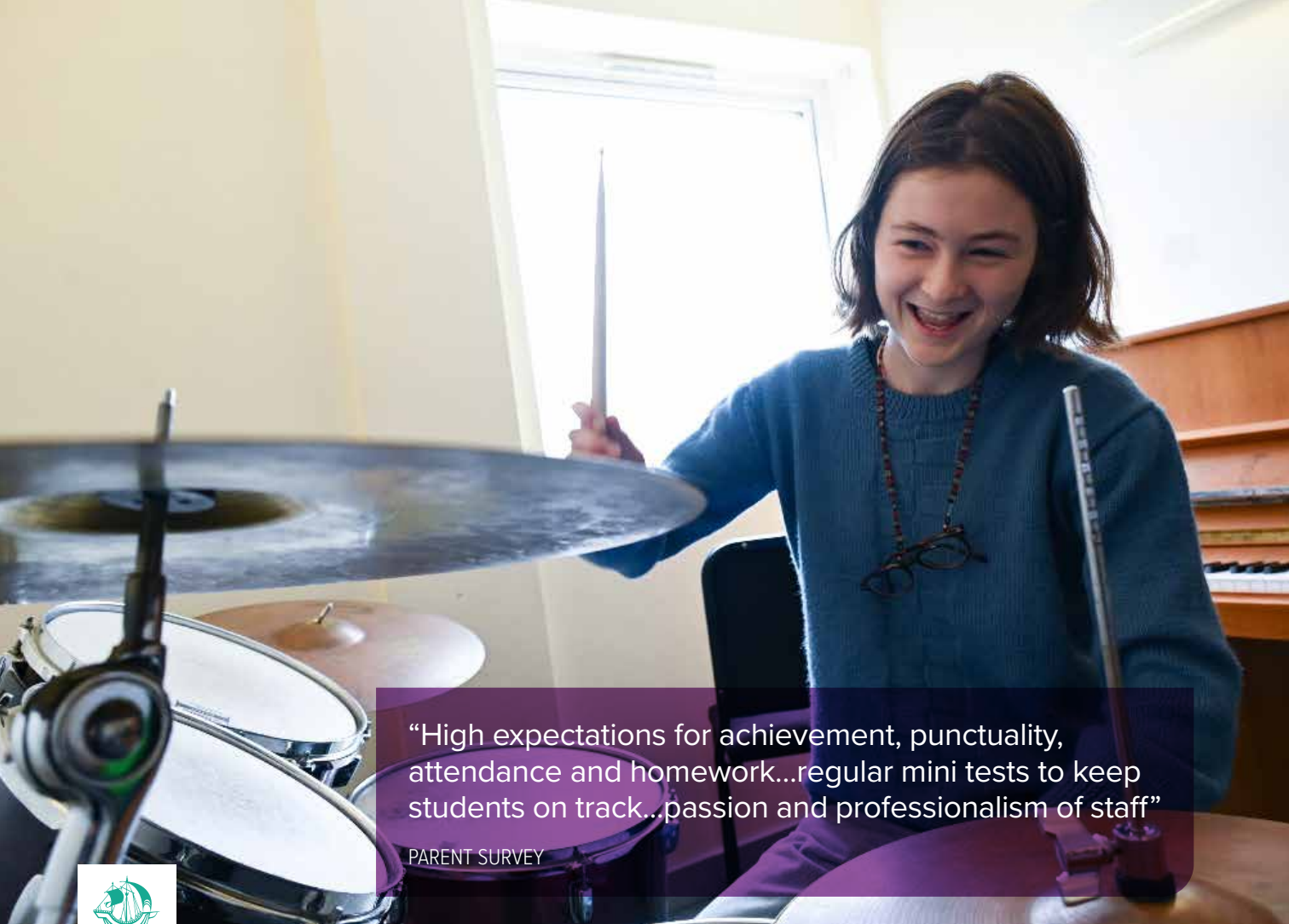
CAMDEN LEARNING

“The communication continues to be excellent”

PARENT SURVEY

“General ethos, sense of intellectual and creative enquiry about the school is superb, with clubs, guest speakers, sixth form masterclasses and many clubs...so many innovations that make a difference”

PARENT SURVEY



“High expectations for achievement, punctuality, attendance and homework...regular mini tests to keep students on track...passion and professionalism of staff”

PARENT SURVEY



A BROAD CURRICULUM & INSPIRATIONAL TEACHING

The school offers a broad and balanced curriculum which has a distinctive character derived from the strengths and traditions of the school. The school has been praised for the moral, spiritual, cultural and social development of its students through the full range of subject teaching, pastoral guidance and the variety of extra-curricular activities on offer. Our teachers are well-qualified specialists who combine excellent subject knowledge with the ability to make learning interesting, challenging and enjoyable.

KEY STAGE 3 Years 7, 8 and 9

The four classes in each year form teaching groups for some subjects. Smaller groups are created for the teaching of practical subjects. Students who need specific support with their learning are given additional assistance by our Learning Support department.

Subjects taught:

- English & Drama
- Mathematics
- Science
- Art
- Music
- Geography
- History
- French / Spanish
- Theology and Philosophy
- Computing
- Physical Education
- Design Technology (Food Technology, Product Design and Textiles)
- Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education

Camden School for Girls is one of the few remaining state schools to offer the full range of classical subjects; Classical Civilization, Latin and Ancient Greek. In Year 8, all students study Classics and at the end of Year 8 students are offered the choice for Year 9 of studying Latin or continuing study of Classical Civilization. Decisions are made between students, parents and staff.



“My daughter is happy, and finding the learning interesting. She takes part in a range of clubs and is developing her interests”

PARENT SURVEY



KEY STAGE 4 Years 10 and 11

In Years 10 and 11 students follow a rich programme of core and optional subjects.

Core subjects:

We are delighted to be offering a broad range of subjects to study at GCSE. As part of our core offer, which includes English Literature and English Language, Mathematics, Science, Physical Education, French or Spanish and Personal, Health, Social and Economic education.

In the Spring Term Year 9 students are offered 3 choices of GCSE and Vocational courses. Options offered for 2023/2024:

- Latin
- Classical Civilisation
- Ancient Greek
- Art
- Music
- Triple Science
- Further Mathematics
- Computer Science
- Health and Social Care
- Design Technology - Textiles
- Design Technology - Product Design
- Hairdressing and Beauty Therapy
- Geography
- History
- Sociology
- Physical Education
- Theology
- Drama

In addition Ancient Greek and Further Mathematics GCSEs are currently offered either before or after school and can therefore be studied in addition to the three optional subjects.



Camden School for Girls is ranked
6th best comprehensive
school nationally by the
latest ParentPower report
PARENTPOWER REPORT



DEVELOPING THE INDIVIDUAL

“How uplifting and positive the environment is at the school”
PARENT SURVEY

We have a dedicated and experienced pastoral care team with a Head of Year and Assistant Head of Year managing a team of four Form Tutors who have daily contact with students. They monitor the mental health, wellbeing, attendance, progress and achievement of all students in their group. Whenever possible, students remain with the same Form Tutor and Head of Year throughout

their five years in Camden School for Girls. This system provides stability and establishes trust between home and school, and gives every student a known adult to go to if they need help. Our Head of Years and Learning Mentors are also visible and approachable, as are senior staff. Promoting resilience, good mental health and confidence is key if we want our students to become strong and well rounded individuals.



“Equal education is the most powerful tool to provide to people so that they can be able to be the people to make the meaning. To be able to have a say in the world around them. To find passion and to follow their dreams, to love what they do, to be able to make a difference to the way the world is...Miss Buss sought to make the world a better place by founding two ground-breaking girl’s schools. Now, we must use this education that we are provided with, that she fought for, for good. We must work, as Miss Buss did, to make the world a better place”
HEAD PREFECT, MAIN SCHOOL

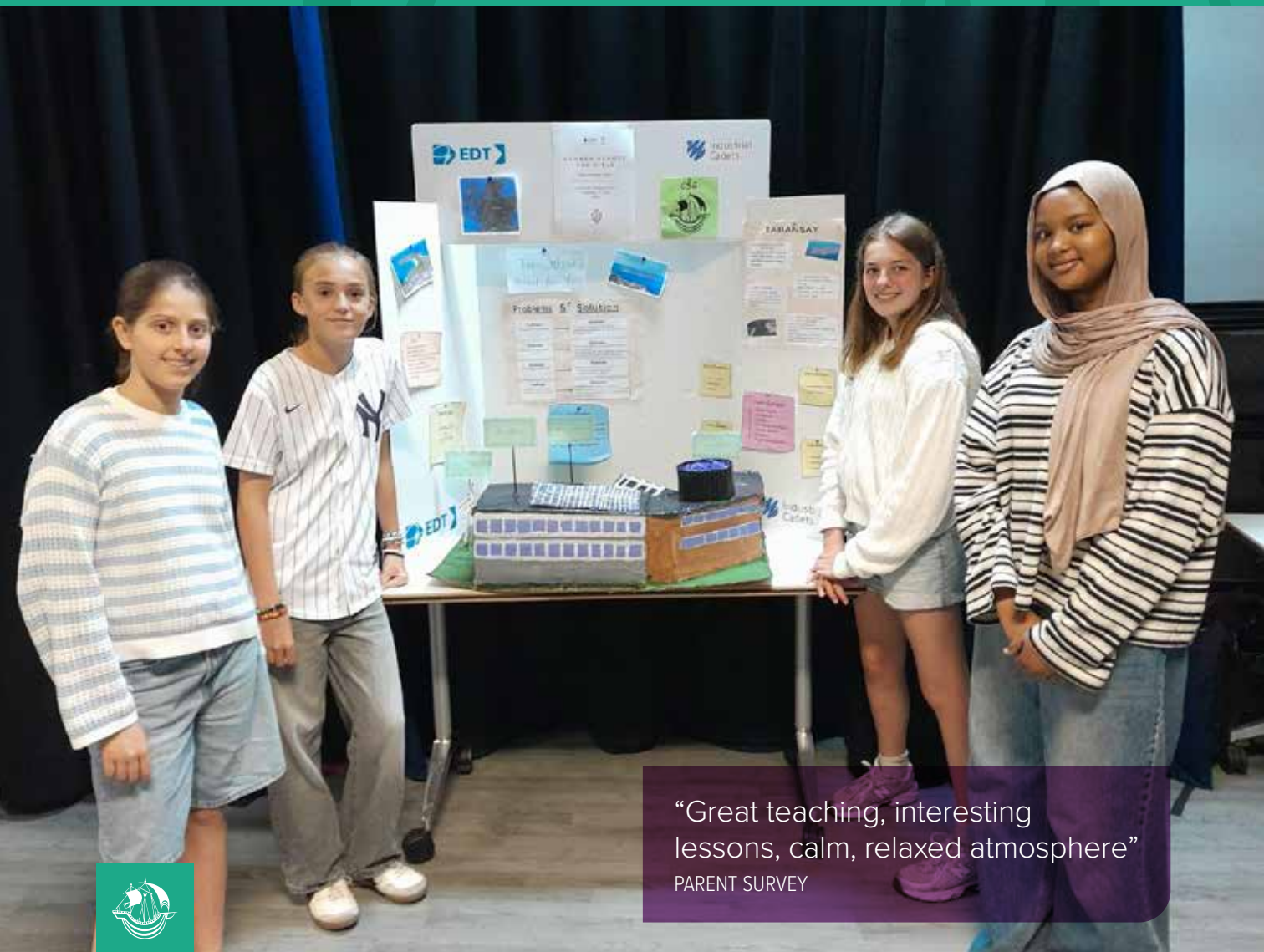


“My daughter feels
secure and happy”
PARENT SURVEY

We pride ourselves on excellent standards of achievement but we also want our students to have the skills and motivation to succeed in all areas in their lives, have high self-esteem and be respectful citizens.

All students follow the school’s Code of Behaviour which revolves around developing the individual’s obligations to the community. There are deliberately few rules and our behaviour code was written in collaboration with the students and is a short series of expectations that promote good behaviour. We foster a calm learning environment where students feel safe and secure.

Our pastoral team is always prepared to do everything possible to ensure that the students make rapid progress socially, emotionally and academically.



“Great teaching, interesting lessons, calm, relaxed atmosphere”
PARENT SURVEY



A STRONG PARTNERSHIP WITH PARENTS AND CARERS



“She is very inspired by her teachers”
PARENT SURVEY

We value our partnership with parents and carers and are grateful for the contribution they make in supporting the school and their children’s progress. This partnership is at the heart of all we do.

We maintain close and regular contact with parents and carers through the weekly ‘Friday News’, ParentMail, Daily News Sheet called the Banda and the school website. All give up to date information and are on the school’s website (www.csfg.org.uk).

All staff are keen to have close contact with parents and carers so that together we can be consistent in encouraging hard work and promoting good behaviour.

“Teachers and staff engagement and enthusiasm, thank you for all you do!”
PARENT SURVEY

The school provides additional curriculum and pastoral support for students who are eligible for the Pupil Premium. Assistance is provided with the costs of trips and learning materials.

The Camden School Community Association (CASCA) is also committed to bringing parents, carers and staff together to raise money and support the school. It provides opportunities for everyone to work together in organizing a range of community events. From the enormous Jumble Sale to the popular Quiz Night and Summer Fest, CASCA creates regular opportunities for the whole school community to come together.

CASCA support has enabled the school to move forward with a range of initiatives, from raising money for the introduction of Duke of Edinburgh Scheme, new books for the library, school planting initiatives, running the Model UN, improving the staffroom and a wealth of learning resources.



WE LISTEN TO STUDENTS



“Excellent teaching
and overall concern
about child”

PARENT SURVEY



Camden School for Girls is democratic and energetic, and our students have a true sense of ownership, responsibility and care towards each other and the school. Student leadership opportunities are abundant and we encourage our students to take an active role in their school community.

Our School Council is an elected body of students from across all year groups, led by the Head Prefect and their deputies. Together they meet and organize events such as Pink Day (breast cancer awareness), International Women’s Day, Black History month, Mental Health Awareness week, Culture Day and raise a significant amount of money for other charities. In addition, the School Council regularly invites visitors into school to talk to students about their lives and work.

School Council meetings provide a forum where students can also discuss and propose resolutions about issues which are important to them. Through the School Council we encourage an interest in politics and the world around us.

“As you step into the school it is evident that the staff provide a safe secure environment where all feel valued, confident and cared for”

CAMDEN LEARNING

“The variety of opportunities, musical and other, that allows our daughter to express her identity beyond the academic”

PARENT SURVEY



6 GIRLS NO BUOYS SWIM FOR SCIENCE LABS

On Sunday 1st September 2013, a team of 6, 4 of whom were from Year 8 at Camden School for Girls set out from Shakespeare Beach, near Dover, at 5.30am and swam a distance of 21 miles.

They swam in in one hour shifts and reached France in just over 13 hours. A magnificent £18,000 was raised which was put towards refurbishing the science labs.

Dame Athene Donald, Professor of Experimental physics at the University of Cambridge, Master of Churchill College, Cambridge and former pupil at Camden School for Girls officially opened the refurbished laboratory.



“Musical activities and events are always really good. The trips have been great, good to see the kids being taken further afield.”

PARENT SURVEY

OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

We believe that students learn as much outside the classroom as in it. We offer a wide variety of extra-curricular activities to all students at lunchtime and after school. We are very proud of our strong musical tradition and we have received the London Music Award in recognition of our excellent provision. Our music offer includes a full symphony orchestra, a big band, two jazz bands, a string group, a woodwind group plus several choirs and vocal groups. Other activities include debating, raising environmental awareness, Feminist Club as well as philosophy, Latin language, computing, design technology, art and gardening clubs. Students have access to computers in the library and to other facilities outside school hours for homework and to enable them to pursue their interests. The school schedules a rich variety of music and drama performances every year. Past productions include *Beauty & the Beast*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Legally Blonde*, *Matilda*, *Grease*, *Candide*, *Romeo & Juliet* and *Medea*.

Our PE department offers a large selection of activities including trampolining, football, netball, basketball, volleyball, badminton athletics and dance. The department has strong links with the Highgate Harriers and Arsenal Football Club and school teams participate in a wide range of borough and London based competitions.

In addition we offer a number of school trips to inspire students and support the curriculum. Day trips include visits to the Crick Institute, Imperial War Museum, Tate Modern, the Tower of London, Neasden Temple, The Victoria and Albert Museum and the Science Museum. A programme of residential school journeys is organised annually including the Language Department trips to Barcelona and Paris, the Geography field trip to Wales and the PE department outward bound trip to Devon.



A STIMULATING & WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT

The school has some beautiful Edwardian buildings, including the distinctive Bell Tower at the top of the oldest block on the site. A World War Two bomb demolished a large section of this building and it was replaced by the 1950s accommodation that houses many of our current, excellent facilities, including a spacious and well-lit art studio, a photography studio and a stunning, well-stocked library that is beautifully maintained by our full-time school librarian.



Our music facilities are outstanding, and include a generous performance space as well as smaller rooms specifically designed for individual music tuition. The design technology workshops provide our students with excellent opportunities to design and make in product design, textiles and food.

We have a quiet and welcoming space in which students who require learning support have individual or small group tuition. We have extended the dining hall and foyer areas and added some much needed larger classrooms and private study space into the sixth form block.

Many of our classrooms provide generous, comfortable spaces for learning, and we are particularly delighted that our 1960s science laboratories have been extensively refurbished, so that students are now enjoying bright, modern, well-equipped spaces in which to learn.

There are very welcoming open spaces around the school and our own gymnasium and games court. We also make use of local sports facilities in order to extend the curriculum. All our visitors notice the exceptionally high quality of the student art work around the school, a feature of which we are especially proud.

“The sense of school history is strong and the exhibitions in the foyer are lovely and have helped my child with her sense of pride in the school”

PARENT SURVEY



Equal education is the most powerful tool to provide to people so that they can be able to be the people to make the meaning. To be able to have a say in the world around them. To find passion and to follow their dreams, to love what they do, to be able to make a difference to the way the world is...Ms Buss sought to make the world a better place by founding two ground-breaking girls' schools. Now, we must use this education that we are provided with, that she fought for, for good. We must work, as Ms Buss did, to make the world a better place”

MAIN SCHOOL HEAD PREFECT



BEYOND THE SCHOOL GATE



At Camden School for Girls we aim to raise the aspirations of our students and encourage them to consider a wide range of careers. We want to make sure our students leave the school as independent individuals, ready to take their place in the world. Our careers education is combined with guidance and advice to ensure that all of our students develop the knowledge and skills that they need to make successful choices, manage transitions in learning and move successfully into the world of work. We aim to challenge stereotypes and broaden our students' horizons about the various career opportunities and pathways that are available to them and learn about skills that are valued in the world of work. Students receive independent careers information, advice and guidance and are encouraged to pursue pathways that best suit their talents, interests and expected level of qualification.

Years 7-11 careers information is delivered through the PSHE curriculum. All Year 9 students will have a 1-1 careers interview which supports them in making informed decisions. All Year 10 students complete work experience in July which offers them an insight into future careers and enables them to know what options are available to them within their local communities. Year 11 students receive 1:1 independent careers advice and the school hosts a conference to offer additional guidance on post 16 options.

Students have chosen careers in a wide range of fields including fine dining, medicine, product design, journalism, visual communication, creative media, law and international development.

“Revision clubs for GCSE exams have been a lifeline”

PARENT SURVEY 2023



“My child has gained much more confidence in planning their work independently”

PARENT SURVEY

“My child is developing critical thinking skills in subjects such as English and Theology, but also with an after-school Debating Club. She is also enjoying diversifying her musical skills in Music and in bands with her friends”

PARENT SURVEY



“Camden School for Girls’ community heart has been present for hundreds of years, reaching back to the times when a girl’s education was a rare thing to achieve...the school that Frances Mary Buss founded is one of excellent academic achievement, and amazing opportunities, but I do have to note the key value that fills the corridors here is kindness”

SIXTH FORM HEAD PREFECT



NEW HORIZONS

At the end of their time in the main school, your child may wish to attend our excellent sixth form. We offer a wealth of different A level subjects and we have an outstanding record of successful entry among our students to Russell Group universities, medical school, Cambridge and Oxford, dentistry, veterinary science degrees and Art Colleges. The Sixth Form has its own learning and relaxation space, but sixth formers mix freely with younger students and this is very much one single school.

Some of our students choose to pursue more vocational courses and this area is well served with Further Education colleges. Opportunities are explored thoroughly with students as they make their way through the main school and prepare for their education post-16 and beyond. The school provides exceptional careers and course advice, and supports individual students through each transition, from Key Stage Three to GCSE, and from GCSE to A Level and other post-16 provision.

We have a rich and extensive network of past students who remain in touch with the school and support it in many ways.

“The Camden School for Girls continues to be overseen by teachers dedicated to upholding Ms. Buss’s principles, ensuring that every student can thrive regardless of their background... our teachers exhibit genuine passion for the subjects they teach, this passion underscores their sincere dedication, for which I am immensely grateful”

SIXTH FORM HEAD PREFECT

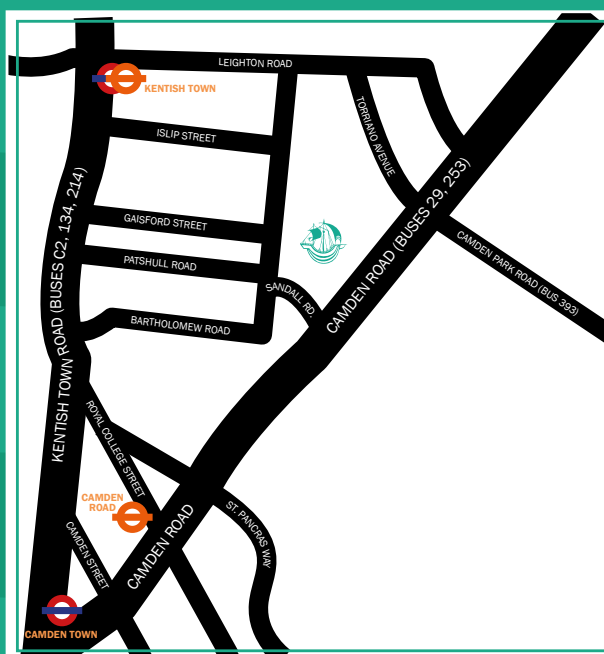




THE CAMDEN SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

SANDALL ROAD
LONDON
NW5 2DB

☎ 020 7485 3414
✉ csg@csg.school
🌐 www.csfg.org.uk



September 2026