



FRANCIS HOLLAND SCHOOL
SLOANE SQUARE

SIXTH FORM



A photograph of three women of different ethnicities and ages looking at a book together. The woman in the center, with short brown hair, is smiling broadly and holding the book. She is wearing a blue and white striped blazer over a dark top and a pearl necklace. To her left, a younger woman with light brown hair tied back is also smiling and looking at the book. To her right, an Asian woman with long dark hair is smiling and looking down at the book. They are all dressed in professional or semi-formal attire. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

*‘We offer a
stimulating
environment where
girls are both
challenged and
supported.’*

WELCOME

FROM THE HEADMISTRESS

Study in the Sixth Form is an exciting new beginning. It isn't simply the culmination of school education, but the start of focused and specialised preparation for higher education and the world of work beyond. At Francis Holland, we recognise that students need different skills and qualities as they move on to university or college: intellectual independence, self-motivation, academic curiosity, organisation and resilience. Universities and employers are seeking young people who are not only reliable and conscientious but who also show initiative and perseverance. Flexibility and adaptability are key aptitudes which our students will need as they make their way through life.

To equip our girls for this competitive and fast-changing world, we offer a stimulating and creative environment where they are both challenged and supported as they learn increasing self-reliance. Small classes, timetables tailored to each girl's interests and ambition, inspired teaching, outstanding pastoral care, and careful monitoring of progress all combine to provide an atmosphere which encourages each student to fulfil her academic potential whilst also developing into a cultured and informed individual.

Our girls achieve excellent results in three or four A levels and go on to study at the world's top universities, as well as art, drama or music colleges. They are also delightful young women - interesting, compassionate, modest and independent - who grasp life's opportunities with zeal, and retain throughout life the steadfast friendships they make at school.



Lucy Elphinstone
Headmistress

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF SIXTH FORM

Many students find that their Sixth Form experience is the absolute highlight of their school career. Francis Holland girls learn to be resourceful, independent and resilient and our sixth formers are role models, ambassadors and young leaders of the School. In this prospectus, and in its companion guide to the subjects offered at A level, you will find many exciting ideas and information about the Sixth Form at Francis Holland. If you have any questions about your future studies or how life in the Sixth Form is organised, please do not hesitate to come and see me in person, or email rls@fhs-sw1.org.uk



Rachel Sawyer
Director of Sixth Form



INDIVIDUAL CHOICE AND GUIDANCE

When it comes to A level choices the first thing we do is listen to you. We design the timetable only after we have ascertained your ideal combination of subjects. Of course we will guide you as to which subjects are essential or advisable for different university and career paths. Our flexibility is based on the philosophy that studying the subjects which really inspire you and in which you and we feel you can excel is an important key to academic success and fulfilment. Girls normally take four subjects in the Lower Sixth and continue with three or four A levels in the Upper Sixth alongside the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ).

*'It's really good
to be in a small class
because everyone's
voice is heard.
It's such a positive
atmosphere.'*

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

The average size of a Sixth Form class at Francis Holland is around 6 to 8 students but sometimes the numbers are even lower. You will find that your lessons are very different in style from those you had at GCSE and that you are treated as young adults on the cusp of a university education.

Classes are mostly in the form of stimulating and intellectually challenging seminars, often in specialist Sixth Form classrooms, where you will exchange views and present and discuss your own research. You will also receive a lot of individual attention so that you can be sure to progress at your own speed, very often taking your studies further than the syllabus requires. You will develop invaluable learning skills, secure study habits and, above all, a genuine intellectual curiosity in readiness for the even greater independence required and the opportunities you will encounter at the top universities in the UK and abroad and in your life beyond.

STRETCH AND CHALLENGE

Curiosity is an essential quality for academic success and in the world beyond school. We encourage a questioning attitude and encourage discussion and exploration of new ideas. For those who seek further intellectual stretch, the Blue Stockings (a club named after the eighteenth century women's movement) meet to explore contemporary issues, attend lectures and debates in London or visit the theatre. The more academically curious students and those wishing to prepare for a particular field of study at university also get involved in subject-specific extension groups. To name just a few, we offer the Medical Society, History of Art Club, Literary Society and Law Society.

All girls have the opportunity to take the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ). This qualification, which is highly valued by universities, allows students to research an area of personal interest, develop vital independent study skills and either produce a written report or creative artefact. Recent project themes have included albinism in Tanzania, the reunification of Vietnam and a commemorative performance of World War One poetry.

SUPPORT FOR EVERY INDIVIDUAL

Francis Holland is renowned for its outstanding pastoral care. In the Sixth Form you are treated as an adult whilst at the same time being given expert and wise support in the difficulties and stresses of growing up. Sixth Formers develop a close relationship with their teachers, form tutor and the Director and Assistant Head of Sixth Form. Tutor groups are small and your tutor will get to know you very well, taking an interest in your academic and pastoral welfare, and in your co-curricular pursuits.

The welfare and happiness of the girls is at the heart of everything we do at Francis Holland. Every girl is known, supported and nurtured. We are extremely proud of our comprehensive Sixth Form Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) programme which covers everything from current affairs to personal safety. Mindfulness is a key element of our PSHE programme and we are constantly developing new ways to promote wellbeing and positive mental health. The school also has an experienced counsellor for girls needing private personal support.



*Sloane
Square*





LONDON ON OUR DOORSTEP

Francis Holland is situated in a beautiful neighbourhood in the heart of London. It is just around the corner from Sloane Square Underground and the Royal Court Theatre (where former pupil Anya Reiss had such success and recognition as London's youngest playwright). From the Globe Theatre to the British Museum, the Imperial War Museum to the Courtauld Institute, Tate Modern to Tate Britain, the Houses of Parliament to the Old Bailey, hundreds of places of social or cultural interest are just a short tube ride away. Naturally the Francis Holland teaching and co-curricular programme takes full advantage of our excellent central location.

TRIPS ABROAD

As well as making the most of London, many departments organise visits to other parts of the country and abroad. Examples include Spanish trips to Barcelona and Valencia, Geography trips to Iceland and the US, Classics trips to Rome, Photography and Art trips to New York and History of Art trips to Venice, Florence, Paris and Madrid.



NEW YORK (ART & PHOTOGRAPHY)



PARIS (HISTORY OF ART)



SHROPSHIRE (GEOGRAPHY)



V&A AND SAATCHI GALLERY, LONDON



ROME (CLASSICS)



SPORT

Physical Education is an important and very enjoyable part of the Sixth Form curriculum. Once again our location means that we are spoiled for choice. We offer a surprisingly broad variety of sports: rowing on the Thames, tennis in Battersea Park, Pilates in our own gym, and a string of other sports including netball, hockey, aerobics, volleyball, jazz dance, trampolining, parkour, spinning and gym bootcamp. There really is something for everyone. Our House Captains and the Games Captain are also very involved in promoting sport amongst the younger girls.

DEVELOPING YOUR PASSIONS

Whatever your interest, we can build on it. Whether sporting, artistic, dramatic or academic, your interest will be nurtured in the wide array of clubs and societies on offer to all our Sixth Form.

Those who enjoy the performing arts are able to take part in orchestras and choirs of the highest calibre, and the Sixth Form Theatre Company produces and directs some stunning performances, often with boys from nearby schools. For those who enjoy sport – there is the opportunity to train in everything from rhythmic gymnastics to rounders. Our keen debaters train to competition level debating. There is also the chance to join discussion groups such as the Politics Club, Amnesty International or the Feminist Society.

Just as important as all of these, you are encouraged to start up societies and clubs of your own. Our Politics Club and Amnesty International Club were both set up by Sixth Formers. It is your school!

*‘There is so much
freedom in the
Sixth Form. It
is literally like a
new school.’*





*'Francis Holland
isn't just about
study. Reading with
the younger pupils
at a local primary
school is so
rewarding.'*



GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY

Giving is at the heart of our ethos. There are many opportunities at Francis Holland to offer your services to others, and to develop good teamwork and leadership skills. All girls in the Lower Sixth are set up with a community involvement placement tailored to their interests. For example, Sixth Formers volunteer at a local hospital, visit the elderly and run a debating club at a local primary school, St Barnabas. Additionally many girls help once a week at our Junior School, helping the infants and juniors with reading or sport. We also have a very long-standing relationship with the Katherine Low Settlement in Battersea where there is an opportunity to volunteer on a regular basis.

LEADERSHIP AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

We are passionate about preparing our girls to be the leaders of the future. As well as the formal positions of responsibility, we consider all of our Sixth Formers to be the young leaders of the school. They are instrumental in running School Council and are supported in introducing new initiatives. Through the Young Enterprise Programme, Sixth Formers have the opportunity to develop business and personal skills that will be vital to their futures. We frequently bring in inspiring young entrepreneurs to give an insight into the challenges of setting up a business. Sixth Formers have the opportunity to lead assemblies, make speeches and mentor younger students. Our trusting and supportive environment empowers our girls to develop their initiative, creativity and resourcefulness. Each girl has the opportunity to be noticed, appreciated and to make a difference.





SIXTH FORM LIFE

We understand that the Sixth Form years are important preparation for the world beyond school. Greater independence and support for the demands of A level study form our goal.

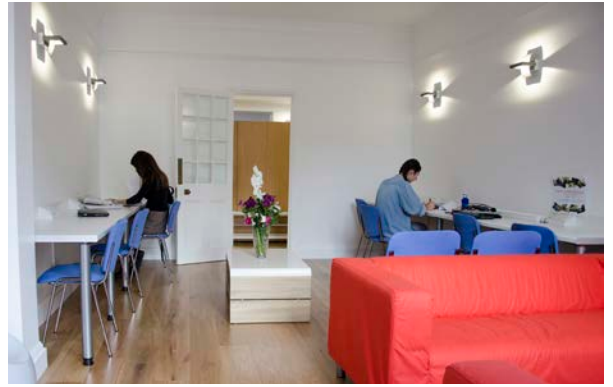
THE MORISON WING

In the Morison Wing, our senior girls enjoy bespoke accommodation which is designed to give zones of quiet study and comfortable relaxation, away from the hubbub of the main classroom areas. A particularly attractive feature is the deli-bar, housed in a beautiful conservatory area overlooking the central playground. Here, the girls can enjoy a delicious and nutritious light lunch over conversation or the daily newspapers, as an alternative to all the other healthy and tasty hot and cold choices available in our main school dining room. Tables for collaborative study, tutorials with teachers or individual work mean that our Sixth Formers are able to choose their favourite method of study. And right on hand are the Director of Sixth Form and key members of her team, including the Librarian and the Head of Careers, for advice and encouragement.



INDEPENDENT LEARNING

Sixth Formers really value the independent study spaces in the Library and Sixth Form Study during free periods, before and after school. Wi-fi access and the generous number of computers provided are also a very important aid to study, and we also encourage students to bring in their own laptops. We have subscriptions to online information resources such as e-Magazine and History Today. Daily newspapers are available and the Library subscribes to a range of journals to support girls' studies, including an impressive range of foreign language material. Full use is made of JSTOR (online academic journals), the British Library Lending Division and inter-library loans to provide extra resources. Our Librarian, a successful published writer herself, is always happy to help and guide girls with their research.



*‘The Common Room
is really inspiring and
provides a great space
for working
together.’*

*‘Taking on more
responsibility has been
really exciting and it’s a
great way to give back
to our school
community.’*

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Francis Holland aims to give girls the best chance of success in their application to Higher Education courses. Throughout the process your tutor, our experienced Head of Careers and the Director of Sixth Form will monitor how your research is progressing and take a close interest in your plans.

Extra classes are offered to prepare you for any entrance tests you may need to take, such as the BMAT and UKCAT for Medicine, TSA for Politics, Philosophy and Economics, LNAT for Law. Departments offer enrichment programmes for girls wishing to study their subject (or a related subject) at university. In the autumn of the Upper Sixth internal and external interview practice is organised. Additionally, whatever you require - preparation for an Oxbridge Choral Scholarship, an expert eye on your art portfolio, discussion of your essays for a US application, preparation for an audition for Drama School - you will receive personal and individual guidance and support.

This care for each individual girl does not stop when you leave Francis Holland. You will get just as much support if you choose to apply to university post A level, or want to come back for advice in the years to come. In due course we look forward to inviting our Sixth Formers of today back into school to inspire and advise our students of tomorrow. Francis Holland provides an amazing network of friendships and contacts which prove invaluable in the world of work. The memory of the fun and the opportunities here remain powerful ties between the girls. The wider FHS alumni community, which also encompasses former staff and parents, provides a bedrock of trust and support to the girls for the rest of their lives.

'I feel at ease with all my teachers. You can go for advice whenever you want. There's so much help with making decisions about universities.'





WWW.FHS-SW1.ORG.UK

ENJOYMENT AND EXCELLENCE
IN EQUAL MEASURE

39 Graham Terrace
London SW1W 8JF

tel: 020 7730 2971
fax: 020 7823 4066

registrar@fhs-sw1.org.uk
www.fhs-sw1.org.uk

