



FRANCIS HOLLAND
SLOANE SQUARE

SIXTH FORM





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SLOANE SQUARE

A TRANSFORMATIONAL EDUCATION

It is the emphasis placed on social enterprise that makes the Sixth Form at Francis Holland School, Sloane Square truly unique. In addition to achieving academic success, we run a mentoring programme to provide real-life business learning, with an emphasis on giving back. We collaborate with entrepreneurs in our community and network with those committed to changing the mindset of the next generation of successful women. Our numbers are growing fast, as ambitious young women turn to us for a transformational education that promotes creativity, enterprise and innovation.

FROM THE HEAD

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 specialized preparation for higher education and the world of work beyond.

At Francis Holland, we recognize 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 A level results 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 Francis Holland.



Alexandra Haydon
Head

FROM THE HEAD OF SIXTH FORM

Welcome to the Sixth Form at FHS!

Sixth Form life at FHS means being part of a community with a fantastic atmosphere of learning. You will be surrounded by talented peers in a supportive, tolerant, caring and forward-thinking environment. Our Sixth Formers are the young leaders in the School, acting as role models and ambassadors to both the younger students and the wider community.

This prospectus and its companion guide to the subjects offered at A Level will showcase many of the different aspects of Sixth Form life at FHS, including the range of A Level subjects available to you, as well as giving you a flavour of the holistic education on offer here. Our Sixth Formers become global citizens who are able to engage in the modern world. If you have any questions or would like to come and visit the Sixth Form, with opportunities to meet members of the Sixth Form team and current students, then please do get in touch.



Clare Stansfield
Head of Sixth Form



OLD SCHOOL HOUSE

Opened in 2021, the neo-gothic Old School House has been transformed into the inspirational space at the heart of FHS Sloane Square's innovative Sixth Form education.

The interior design and atmosphere provided by the Old School House are those of a creative workspace or modern university building rather than a traditional school. Comfortable seminar rooms replace classrooms; there is a dedicated A level science laboratory, a well-stocked library with a popular Feminist section, a hi-tech gym, a spacious beamed common room and discrete study spaces for individual or collaborative working.

There is a café offering breakfast and delicious snacks throughout the day, including school lunch, bean to cup coffee is available on every floor and there is a kitchen for the girls to use.

The Old School House is integrated into the main school campus, yet benefits from a dedicated entrance on Ebury Street, perfectly representing the Sixth Form's place within the school – firmly part of Francis Holland, but a distinctively different experience from the younger years.



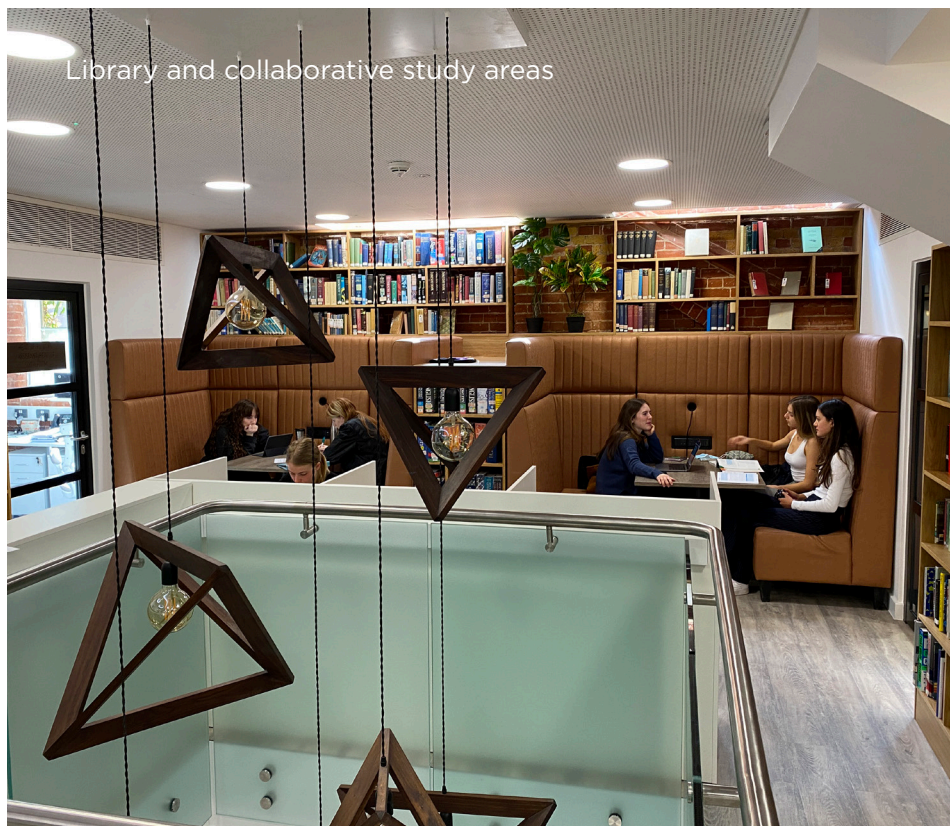
The atmosphere provided is that
of a creative workspace or university.





With an education which goes beyond exam results and prepares girls for the wider world.

Library and collaborative study areas



Independent study space



Fully equipped science labs



Fitness suite



Refractory



Specialist seminar rooms

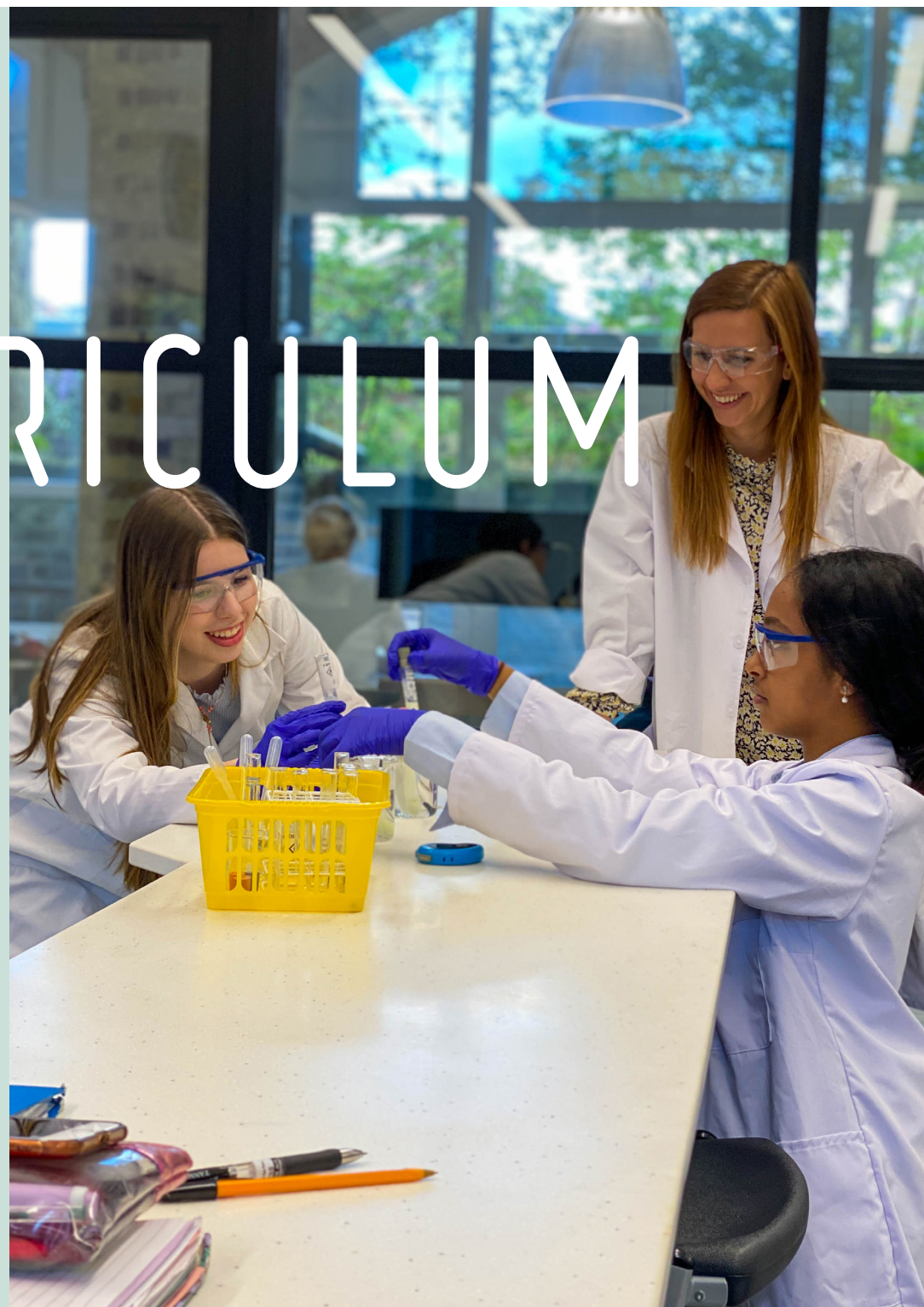


A BESPOKE CURRICULUM

Most Sixth Form girls study three subjects to A level, work towards an Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) and participate in an extensive Sixth Form Enrichment Programme.

We believe that this model gives girls the best chance of achieving the highest possible A level grades. It provides the space and opportunity to explore academically, in terms of the wider research demanded by the EPQ and the stimulation offered by a host of elective courses, and personally, through opportunities for volunteering, leadership and enterprise.

We are wholly committed to providing an education which goes beyond exam results and prepares girls for the wider world and it is this aim which is the bedrock of the FHS Sixth Form experience.



Academic Excellence

FHS Sloane Square Sixth Form staff-student ratios are generous, with small group sizes facilitating superb support for the needs of each individual student.

Predominantly, classes take the form of stimulating and intellectually challenging seminars which take place in specialist rooms in the Old School House. Research, presentation and open discussion are supported by individual tutor attention which ensures that students progress at their own speed, very often taking studies further than the syllabus requires.

This enables the development of invaluable learning skills, secure study habits and, above all, a genuine intellectual curiosity in readiness for the even greater independence required, and the opportunities provided, at top universities in the UK and abroad.



Enrichment Programme

Alongside studying for A levels and the EPQ, all Sixth Formers pursue a range of courses designed to prepare them for real world situations.

Self-defence classes, First Aid certification, advanced computing skills and financial awareness are all taught. A termly elective class is also taken with options ranging from the practical (DIY, Global Cookery) through the entrepreneurial (Innovation Sprints, Investing for Beginners), the quirky (Music and the Brain, Clay Motion Animation) and the creative (Sustainable Fashion School, Writing for Stage and Screen, Creative Writing) to the more academic (Forensic Psychology, Subcultures, Utopia for Realists).

Speaker Programme

Every Thursday afternoon we welcome a visiting speaker chosen and invited by the Speaker Programme Prefects. Our central London location helps us to engage with politicians, writers, activists, filmmakers, entrepreneurs, adventurers and many more eminent speakers.



ACADEMIC AND PASTORAL SUPPORT

FHS is renowned for its outstanding pastoral care. Sixth Form students are given expert and wise support and advice in the difficulties and stresses of school, university and life beyond the classroom.

Sixth Formers develop a close relationship with their teachers, form tutor and the Head of Sixth Form. Small groups enable tutors to take a close interest and provide guidance in students' academic and pastoral welfare and co-curricular pursuits.

The welfare and happiness of the girls is at the heart of everything we do at FHS. Every girl is known, supported and nurtured. Our comprehensive Sixth Form Life Skills programme covers everything from citizenship and world affairs to gender and sexuality. We take a proactive approach to developing positive mental health and wellbeing, helping girls to implement personal strategies to deal with potential stress and to reduce possible anxiety.

The School also has a team of experienced counsellors on hand for girls to approach confidentially if they feel in need of personal support.



Giving Back to the Community

Giving back is at the very heart of our ethos, which is why there are so many opportunities for our Sixth Formers to offer their services to those in need within the community.

Our Sixth Formers volunteer at a local hospital, visit the elderly through In-Deep Battersea and run a debating club at a local primary school, St Barnabas. Girls also support our wider school charity efforts, including sorting food bank donations, organising fundraising activities and supporting Parents' Association events. We also have a long-standing relationship with the Katherine Low Settlement in Battersea, which was established by a FHS alumna and provides many unique opportunities to volunteer on a regular basis to help refugee children in the local community.



LONDON ON OUR DOORSTEP

Francis Holland is situated in a beautiful neighbourhood in the heart of London, just around the corner from Sloane Square Underground, the Royal Court Theatre, the Saatchi Gallery and London's iconic King's Road.

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. Opportunities are also highlighted in the termly FHS Calendar of Enriching Delights, which guides girls towards theatre, cinema, exhibitions, lectures and events, which they might enjoy. In the Sixth Form, there is a strong culture of independent engagement with these aspects of London life: public lectures at Imperial, KCL and Gresham College are particularly popular.

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 Athens, Photography and Art trips to New York and History of Art trips to Venice, Florence, Paris and Madrid.





Sloane Square



Globe Theatre



The Saatchi Gallery



Tate Modern



THE BEST YOU CAN BE

Whatever our Sixth Formers' wider interests may be, at FHS we are committed to giving girls the opportunity to develop, build and excel.

Whether sporting, artistic, dramatic or academic, all interests will be nurtured within the wide array of clubs and societies on offer to ensure that our Sixth Formers can be the best that they can be.

We offer a surprisingly broad variety of sports: boxing, tennis in Battersea Park, Pilates, and a string of other sports including netball, indoor climbing, aerobics, badminton, yoga, trampolining, spinning and gym bootcamp. There really is something for everyone, including a well-equipped fitness suite in the Old School House to encourage everyday health and wellbeing. Our House Captains and the Sports Ambassador are also passionate about promoting sport amongst the younger girls.

Those who enjoy the performing arts are able to take part in orchestras and choirs of the highest calibre and to participate in drama productions both at the School and in the West End.

Sixth Form debaters train to competition level debating and there are also a multitude of discussion groups on offer, such as the Current Affairs Society and the Feminist Society. Our Politics Club and Amnesty International Club were both created by Sixth Formers in order to further and promote their interests, so if a club or society is not offered now, new Sixth Formers are encouraged to take the lead and create their own.



Leadership

Our Sixth Formers will be the leaders of the future and as such are encouraged to lead the school through a carefully constructed range of school leadership positions.

These are designed to give as many girls as possible experience of taking on greater responsibility whilst concurrently receiving careful mentoring from senior teachers.

From the very first week of the Sixth Form, girls are invited to apply to be Form Prefects for younger year groups, Subject Prefects (who support younger girls at clinics and promote that subject more widely) and Speaker Programme Prefects (who arrange a host of eminent external speakers). Later, they can apply for more senior positions on the Student Leadership Team.

All Sixth Form girls – even those who do not wish to take on formal positions of responsibility – will have the opportunity to lead assemblies, speak publicly and mentor younger students.



LOOKING TO THE

Francis Holland Sixth Form gives its students the best possible chance of success in their application to Higher Education courses.

Throughout the process a personal tutor, our experienced Head of Futures and the Head of Sixth Form will monitor how research is progressing and will take a close interest in our girls' progression.

Extra classes are offered to help prepare students for any potential entrance tests, such as the BMAT and UCAT, TSA for Politics, Philosophy and Economics, LNAT for Law. Individual departments offer enrichment programmes for girls wishing to study their subject (or a related subject) at university. In the autumn, Upper Sixth internal and external interview practice is organised.

Additionally, whatever is required – preparation for an Oxbridge Choral Scholarship, an expert eye on an art portfolio, discussion of essays for a US application, preparation for an audition for Drama School – Sixth Formers will receive personal and individual guidance and support at all times.



Life After FHS

This dedicated care for each individual girl does not stop when Sixth Formers leave Francis Holland, Sloane Square.

Support is always available should university applications be made post A levels, or should advice be needed in the years to come.

Many of our alumnae come back into school to inspire and advise our students of how the transformational education they received has stood them in good stead for life after FHS at university or in their professional lives.

The common values, attitudes and confidence instilled in our Sixth Formers ensures that the extensive Francis Holland alumni network, which also encompasses former staff and parents, provides strong friendships and important contacts which prove invaluable in the world of work and beyond.





FRANCIS HOLLAND
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39 Graham Terrace
London SW1W 8JF
020 7730 2971
registrar@fhs-sw1.org.uk
www.fhs-sw1.org.uk

