



Working together to promote & celebrate achievement

# Plashet School

A Specialist Science College



## PROSPECTUS INFORMATION 2016 - 17





## Welcome

The choice of a secondary school for your daughter is a crucial one and there is convincing evidence that girls thrive best in a single-sex environment. Plashet is a caring, comprehensive school for girls, which offers an academic and stimulating learning environment. Our students are smart, respectful and committed to their learning. There is a real flavour of intellectual curiosity and ambition at Plashet. The education we provide will develop your daughter's knowledge, understanding and skills such that she can become a highly qualified, responsible young woman who can follow her academic journey beyond our walls.

Our school motto is '*working together to promote and celebrate achievement*'. Your daughter will find her learning challenging at Plashet. She will be taught by expert teachers who will share their fascination for their subjects with her and who will have very high expectations about her attitude and preparedness for learning each day.

My staff and I set high standards in every area of school life and consequently, Plashet is a disciplined, happy and caring place. Examination results and rates of progress have, for the last 10 years, placed us in the top 10% of schools nationally. There are many activities beyond the classroom to involve your daughter further in the life of the school. Our young women have many opportunities and responsibilities. Their views are important, as are their relationships with us, and each other.

As a Plashet parent you can expect to be fully involved in what your daughter is studying, how she is performing and the targets for her future attainment. We will give you regular information to help you appreciate more about your daughter's progress and her courses of study. A partnership between school and home is the foundation of your daughter's 5-year journey with us and her future success.

I would urge to read on to find out more about our outstanding girl's school.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rachel McGowan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rachel McGowan  
Headteacher

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# About Plashet School

We are a highly successful, oversubscribed comprehensive girl's school situated in the heart of East Ham. The school is, due to high demand, admitting 10 forms entry, in other words, 300 girls, into its Year 7 in September 2017. Plashet School is housed in two main buildings on opposite sides of Plashet Grove that are linked by the award-winning Plashet Unity Bridge. East Ham tube station and High Street North are within two minutes' walk of the school.

Plashet has a long history dating back to 1932 when East Ham Grammar School for Girls first opened on the South site. In the 1950s, the North site was built and Plashet County Secondary Modern School for Girls was opened. These two schools were amalgamated in 1972 and the two sites physically linked in November 2000 by our Unity Bridge. Biannually, we hold a Plashet Old Student Association day where we welcome back former students. Our most senior 'old girl' is now well into her 90s!

*'Working together to promote and celebrate achievement'* underpins all we do. Our students are highly motivated and keen to achieve their potential but their success does not happen accidentally. We are a school where everyone has a passion to learn; our students are encouraged to be both academically and creatively curious and inquisitive in their learning. We employ a strategic set of interventions to target learning at the individual level. Your daughter's learning at Plashet will be designed, analysed and guided by us throughout her five years in a personalised and bespoke way that lays the foundation for a happy and successful experience whilst at our school.

Year on year, the school attracts a very high number of first choice applications. The school has a curriculum that meets the needs of all students and provides them with a pathway towards their chosen profession or career. The school is a happy, flourishing and mutually respectful place of learning.

We are proud to be an inclusive school that promotes:

- **Academic achievement**
- **Enriching experiences**
- **Equality**
- **Aspiration**

Dynamic and engaging teaching and learning sit at the heart of academic opportunity and success at Plashet. We strive to challenge and nurture every individual, developing independence, curiosity, and self-belief. The girls achieve excellent results in public examinations.

When a girl joins Plashet, we will encourage her to develop originality and creativity both in her character and in her thinking. It is a journey that she will continue throughout her life. There are two beliefs that lie at the heart of everything we do:

- Firstly, to develop as a happy, self-confident person, girls must be part of a school environment that is warm, accepting, and dedicated to developing people as individuals and fostering the passions.
- Secondly, to develop real academic enthusiasm, students must learn to do more than just pass exams or assimilate knowledge, and they must learn to think deeply, critically and spontaneously, and to challenge expectations of their subjects and of themselves.

# The Plashet Experience

## Plashet School Day

For all students, the 'working week' in lesson time is 25 hours.

08.50 - 09.00	Registration
09.00 - 09.15	Assembly/Tutor Time
09.15 - 10.15	Lesson 1
10.15 - 10.35	Break time
10.35 - 11.35	Lesson 2
11.35 - 12.35	Lesson 3
12.35 - 13.35	Lunchtime
13.35 - 14.35	Lesson 4
14.35 - 15.35	Lesson 5
15.35	End of school day

## Attendance and Punctuality

Students are expected to establish excellent habits of punctuality and attendance as soon as they join the school. Students should always be in school by 8.45am to enable them to get organised for their lessons. A register is taken by form tutors at 8.50am each day. If a student is late for school, she must see our Attendance Officer and sign the late book. There is a sanction system in place in order to deter students from being late. At Plashet, we recognise that excellent attendance is intrinsically linked with achievement. Parents are encouraged to ensure that their daughters attend school every day.

## Plashet Uniform

Many visitors, almost invariably, note that our young women are polite, welcoming and cheerful, and that they are smartly dressed. There are very clear standards of student uniform as we expect everyone to come respectfully dressed to their work place. Our school uniform consists of the following:

- Navy school V-neck jumper or school cardigan
- White reverse collar blouse
- Navy school Shalwar Kameez
- Navy school Jilbab (ankle length)
- Navy full length school trousers
- Navy school skirt (must be knee length or longer)
- Navy headscarf - to be purchased at school
- Black school shoes

## Code of Conduct

At Plashet we encourage mutual respect between students and staff. Poor behaviour undermines this by damaging the trust that underpins all relationships in the school and by wasting valuable learning time. Our expectations are clearly defined in our Code of Conduct. If the Code of Conduct is infringed, sanctions will always be fair and appropriate to the poor choices made by the individual. Parents are informed if their daughter's behaviour gives cause for concern and the school expects to work in partnership with parents to improve the student's commitment to learning and support her to succeed.

This is our set of expectations regarding student conduct, namely, that our students will behave in such a way as to:

- Demonstrate their commitment to courtesy as an important personal quality
- Enable learning to happen
- Reinforce our sense of all being members of a single school community by the way they treat each other
- Promote the care of the school environment and resources
- Promote the reputation of the school in the community
- Ensure the safety of students

# Academic Achievement

We achieved Leading Edge Status in September 2004 and have since then extensively shared our practice with other schools. Our last two OFSTED inspections in 2005 and 2008 deemed our school to be outstanding and led us to be included in OFSTED's 'Twelve outstanding secondary schools – Excelling Against the Odds' report. Our inspectors commented: '*Plasnet is a happy and harmonious place*' and '*Students' achievement is outstanding because GCSE results are very high compared with the national average*'. Outstanding achievement at Plasnet is in our DNA. The examination results achieved by our girls as well as the progress they make, have, for the last ten years, placed us in the top 10% of schools nationally. Whilst exam results are not representative of the whole experience a young person has in their education, we acknowledge they provide a passport that allows our students to move on to a high calibre 6<sup>th</sup> form provider, top university or entry to the profession of their choice.

## Results

In the context of increasing rigour and challenge at GCSE level, Plasnet is delighted with the excellent results of last year's Year 11 cohort. Our most recent results from the summer of 2016 saw even more students achieving the very best grades at GCSE level and we have already been informed we are a top performing school again this year.

- 12% of all grades were A\*
- 33% were A\*/A
- 78% were A\*-C
- 100% were A\*-G, a true reflection of the inclusive nature of our school.
- 25 students gained 10+ A\*/A grades

## Reporting Learning Progress

We report to families three times a year about their daughter's progress as follows:

- |                                     |             |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| • Report 1                          | Autumn Term |
| • Subject Teacher/Parents' Meetings | Spring Term |
| • Report 2                          | Summer Term |

In addition, there are meetings for Parents at specific stages of their daughter's education. These are:

- |            |                  |
|------------|------------------|
| • Year 7   | Meet the Tutor   |
| • Year 8/9 | GCSE Choices     |
| • Year 11  | Post-16 Pathways |

# Our Curriculum

Our young women receive specialist teaching in all subjects and are offered an academic curriculum that enables them to compete with the highest performing students around the country. In Year 7, girls at Plashet study the following subjects:

- English Language & Literature
- Mathematics
- The Sciences: Biology, Chemistry & Physics
- The Arts: Art, Music & Drama
- Physical Education & Sports
- A Language – either: French, Urdu or Bengali
- The Humanities: History, Geography, Philosophy, Religion & Ethics
- Design Technology: Graphics, Food & Textiles
- ICT & Computing
- Learning for Life: including citizenship, personal, health & social education

The lower school curriculum is designed to engage our younger students and to engender in them a love of learning. The girls experience a wide range of subjects, so that they can begin to find new strengths and develop existing interests. Most teaching groups at Key Stage 3 are mixed classes. By this we mean that there is no deliberate setting by ability. Subjects are taught in groups with a maximum of thirty students.

## GCSE

At Plashet we offer a curriculum favoured by the top schools in England and international schools around the world. This is called the English Baccalaureate and includes the subjects most commonly required or preferred by academic 6<sup>th</sup> forms and universities.

- |                                                                 |           |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| • English Language & English Literature                         | 2 GCSEs   |
| • Mathematics                                                   | 1 GCSE    |
| • Triple Science (examinations in Biology, Chemistry & Physics) | 3 GCSEs   |
| <b>OR</b>                                                       | <b>OR</b> |
| • Combined Science                                              | 2 GCSEs   |
| • A Language (the one they have studied since Year 7)           | 1 GCSE    |
| • Either History or Geography                                   | 1 GCSE    |
| • Religious Studies                                             | 1 GCSE    |

Students then personalise their curriculum by choosing an additional subject from:

- |       |            |         |             |            |
|-------|------------|---------|-------------|------------|
| • Art | • Business | • Drama | • Food      | • Graphics |
| • ICT | • Music    | • PE    | • Sociology | • Textiles |

All students also have statutory physical education on their timetable as a non-examination subject.

There are alternative and more appropriate accredited courses for those students unlikely to achieve success at GCSE level and these personalised courses are decided upon in discussion with parents.

## **Religious Education**

Our Religious Education curriculum is taken from Newham's Agreed Syllabus, which has been discussed, agreed and ratified by Newham Council, local teachers and representatives of all major faiths and denominations. Through our RE lessons we aim to:

- awaken and develop an awareness of the spiritual side of life
- know and understand the beliefs of others and respect their right to believe
- discover the significance of commitment to a personal faith
- care about and contribute to a multi-faith community
- examine the questions relating to human existence and purpose
- understand how religious beliefs and practices affect our lives

All students follow a multi-faith syllabus covering aspects of five major world religions and visits to different places of worship form an integral part of the course.



# Pastoral Care & Development

At Plashet we pride ourselves on the robust, proactive and dynamic pastoral system that we have in place to ensure that all the girls reach their full potential academically and also thrive as individuals. Young women at Plashet can expect the most challenging learning experiences and will receive a high level of care and support from both their form tutor and subject teachers.

Plashet has the reputation of being a caring school. Each student belongs to one of ten tutor groups in each year and each tutor group has its own dedicated Form Tutor. This is the bedrock of our Plashet family. We plan for each form tutor to remain with his or her group of thirty girls for five years. The Form Tutor is responsible for the day-to-day welfare of their students. The Form Tutor will track how each girl's learning is progressing, support them to be organised and keep them informed of activities and events. It is the Form Tutor who takes registration every morning, who distributes any letters that need to be taken home by the student and is parents' first point of contact at the school. An integral part of the Form Tutors' role is to help students with any problems, concerns or worries.

Each year group has a Year Co-ordinator (YC) who leads the group of ten Form Tutors in looking after the general care and welfare of all students in the year and developing them as young women. An Assistant Year Co-ordinator (AYC) supports the YC and together they monitor the progress of all students and disseminate data to their Form Tutors for intervention purposes. If students are experiencing learning difficulties or exhibiting issues around behaviour for learning, the YC or AYC will organise specific support and intervention. The YC and AYC take an overview of the way all students develop and make progress with their work. This close monitoring, together with support if required, means that Plashet is able to bring out the best in every student.

Plashet has a discrete Coaching & Mentoring team of five full-time Learning Mentors; we also have our own full-time School Nurse, School Attendance Officer, School Counsellor and Educational Welfare Officer. This team of professionals enables individual students to fulfil their potential by providing flexible, on-going and responsive support.

At Plashet, we appreciate that the girls' education at school is a stepping stone to the rest of their lives. Sixth form, career and university guidance therefore begins early so that the girls begin to consider their future direction long before they need to do so. All young women at Plashet undertake a two-week work placement during Year 10. This is designed to support students' understanding of the skills and experience that are necessary in the careers or professions they are considering.

## **Collective Worship**

Collective worship provides a platform for the communication of messages that reflect the general school ethos. Through our acts of collective worship, we try to acknowledge the cultural and religious beliefs/practices of all our students, encouraging personal and social responsibility, understanding and tolerance. This, of course, involves showing respect for those who have no particular religious allegiance.

In view of the multi-cultural nature of the school population, we feel it is inappropriate to expect all students to take part in collective worship that is of a 'broadly Christian' nature (as required by the Education Reform Act, 1989). In view of this, the school applied to the local Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) and was given exemption from the condition of this Act. This means that collective worship at Plashet is not based on one particular faith or set of beliefs. Acts of collective worship are held in assembly time on Thursdays and Fridays. A multi-faith programme is followed as well as separate Christian, Hindu, Muslim and Sikh acts of worship.

## How to Apply/Admissions

At Plashet, we aim to make the Year 6 to 7 admissions process as smooth and informative as possible. We understand that choosing the right secondary school for your daughter is a big decision; it is about finding a place that feels right for both you and your daughter and we will help in any way we can.

There are 300 student places allocated in Year 7.

Year on year, the school attracts a high number of first choice applications and there is, each year, an extensive waiting list for places at Plashet.

It is important to complete the Secondary Admissions Form before the deadline date in order to secure a place.

Please refer to the *'Starting Secondary School'* Autumn 2016 edition booklet you should have received via your daughter's Primary School or contact the Newham Admissions Department for further information and details of how to complete the admissions form.

Applying for your daughter's secondary school place can be done online at [www.eadmissions.org.uk](http://www.eadmissions.org.uk) and is easy, secure and fast.

Alternatively, information can be obtained from the London Borough of Newham's website: [www.newham.gov.uk](http://www.newham.gov.uk).

**The closing date for electronic applications is Monday, 31<sup>st</sup> October 2016 no later than 11.59pm.**

## School Contact Information

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