

# Academic Excellence in a Christian Community

In 1714 the then Archbishop of Canterbury, Thomas Tenison, founded a school for some "ten poor boys and ten poor girls" on a site which has since become Croydon's popular Whitgift Shopping Centre. Over 300 years and three sites later, Archbishop Tenison's is now situated in the leafy Park Hill area of the town, some fifteen minutes' walk from East Croydon Station. Archbishop Tenison's is an 11-18 voluntary aided, mixed comprehensive school, part of the educational provision of the Anglican Diocese of Southwark and the London Borough of Croydon.

The school is well regarded locally for its high academic standards, the presence of a large Sixth Form, the very high level of pastoral care provided for the pupils and its Christian ethos. Assemblies are an important part of school life; there is an annual Eucharist for each year group; all students take Religious Studies at GCSE, with a good number continuing to A Level.

The School caters for around 760 pupils, of whom 240 are in the Sixth Form. The school is oversubscribed every year and as a result it is necessary for the Governors to rank applicants for places in Year 7 according to church membership and involvement of the child and a named parent or carer. 50% of admission places are given to Anglican families, 40% to Non-Anglican families and 10% are given to local families. Since September 2012 the Pan London Admission Number has increased from 96 to 108 into Year 7.

Many of our pupils stay on into the Sixth Form and students also join from other schools in the Borough and beyond. The Sixth Form offers a range of AS and A2 courses, together with some BTEC courses, based at other centres. Most of the Upper Sixth proceed to Higher Education each year, gaining entry to top universities, including Oxford and Cambridge.

Archbishop Tenison's aims to provide an education which is broad, balanced, relevant and accessible to the diverse and close-knit community it serves.

The school is well regarded in the area for its music, drama and sport, especially netball, football and cricket. Students are active in debating and public speaking.

The rewarding aspect of working at Archbishop Tenison's is reflected by the way in which staff achieve very impressive results in National Mathematical Challenges. There is a wide range of extra-curricular activities with around 40 different clubs and societies. Charity support also features strongly in the life of the Sixth Form and the school. We have a particular link with RUSH in Kenya and each year collect shoeboxes for children at Christmas through the Biggin Hill Romania Group.

Each year there are language exchanges, educational journeys abroad, residential field courses, Duke of Edinburgh and Christian Union residential weekends.

The school has featured in a number of guides to good state schools and was described as "Good" in our 2013 OFSTED Report. The school has both a strong sense of traditional values and a readiness to embrace new ideas which are of real benefit to the pupils and students.

## **Transportation**

The London Borough of Croydon, the largest London Borough, has excellent transport links, by train London is only twenty minutes away and Brighton approximately forty minutes.