



Chestnut Grove Academy



**CREATIVE  
LEARNING  
COMMUNITY**



## Welcome to our Community



When students join Chestnut Grove Academy, they are welcomed into a high-achieving, forward-thinking, caring community. In recent years, the school has been on a truly transformational journey: we have moved into an immaculate new school building and established the Wandle Learning Trust with Chesterton Primary School. Most importantly, our students' examination results continue to go from strength to strength, reflecting their resilience, ambition and talent, as well as the excellence of our teachers.

Creativity underpins the vision and ethos of Chestnut Grove Academy and it is enshrined in our motto 'A Creative Learning Community'. I am proud to offer our students a rich curriculum which provides them with a wealth of opportunities to explore the Arts, as well as the full range of academic subjects. I am a firm believer that a combination of tradition and innovation is the winning formula for academic success in the world which is in constant flux: only through the focus on academic discipline and rigour, as well as creativity, can we create resourceful life-long learners who will be able to rise up to the future challenges that we cannot even imagine today.

Chestnut Grove prides itself on being a happy and vibrant place to learn. We firmly believe that students achieve highly when they feel the genuine security of a community that supports learning and promotes social responsibility. At Chestnut Grove, we are committed to educating the whole child and, whilst academic results are paramount, developing well-rounded people who are able to forge their own path in the world and be a force for good is also of vital importance.

**Christian Kingsley**

Headteacher

# EXCELLENCE

## Academic Life

Engaging teaching and learning which motivates every student to achieve their full potential is at the heart of Chestnut Grove. The Academy is proud of its tradition of high performance: Chestnut Grove students achieve excellent examination results, as demonstrated by a rising trend in performance and academic attainment that consistently exceeds national averages. Our Sixth Form results place us in the top 25% of schools nationally based on value-added and a vast majority of our Sixth Formers receive offers from the Russell Group universities, including Oxford and Cambridge.

We are particularly proud of the impressive progress our students make as they journey through the Academy. A personalised curriculum that challenges and supports in equal measure is the key to our success. Students of all abilities are challenged including our Gifted and Talented students and also those with Special Educational Needs, who are given specific intervention in order to overcome barriers to learning.

Chestnut Grove offers a knowledge-rich and academically rigorous curriculum which marries traditional values with dynamic and creative approaches to teaching and learning. Our curriculum includes a strong core of English, Mathematics, Science, Humanities, Modern Foreign Languages and Philosophy, Beliefs and Ethics (RE), resulting in a high proportion of students opting for the English Baccalaureate. This is complemented by an extensive range of creative and vocational subjects, which provides breadth and balance to the curriculum. All of our Key Stage 4 courses offer progression into the Sixth Form.

Every year we offer up to 30 specialist places\* for students with an aptitude for languages or Art. These students receive an enriched curriculum which provides them with opportunities to explore these disciplines in more depth than would usually be possible.

Education at Chestnut Grove is about much more than examination results. We aim to instil a love of learning in our students that will fully prepare them for the modern world. Through inspiring lessons, students develop confidence, the ability to communicate effectively and an appreciation of the complexity of the world around them. Chestnut Grove Academy is a stepping stone to a successful and fulfilling life.

\*[www.chestnutgrove.wandsworth.sch.uk/Specialist-Places](http://www.chestnutgrove.wandsworth.sch.uk/Specialist-Places)



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# UNLOCKING POTENTIAL

## Pastoral Care

Pupils are justifiably PROUD to be part of the Chestnut Grove Community. PROUD encapsulates the character traits which we aim to cultivate in our students: Positive, Resilient, Open-minded, Unified and Determined. Students are taught the importance of courtesy and compassion which are fostered within a strong pastoral system responsive to the specific needs of the students. Our students have access to a wide range of services to support their academic, personal and social development, including a school nurse, education welfare officer, careers advisor and learning mentors.

We offer a comprehensive PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education), which is taught under the aegis of Health once per week. Our Health curriculum builds on the Rights Respecting Schools' framework and ensures that our students can confidently respond to the unforeseen challenges of the ever-changing world. Relevant and innovative, our Health curriculum has been instrumental in building an open-minded, safe and nurturing environment for all members of our community, in recognition of which we have been awarded the following accolades: the Accord Inclusivity Award, the DfE's Equalities Award, Educate and Celebrate Gold Status and UNICEF Recognition of Commitment Award.

Student leadership is an important feature of life at Chestnut Grove Academy. We encourage our students to take responsibility for their own learning and to have a say in how the school is run. Literacy Ambassadors, Peer Mentors and Sixth Form Mentors are just some of the roles which enable students to have an impact on our curriculum and community.

Chestnut Grove Academy is committed to providing a high quality programme of careers education for all students in Years 7-13. We hold an annual careers fair and students complete work experience placements in both Year 10 and Year 12. To facilitate our students' entry into the top universities, we develop their intellectual curiosity and provide outstanding guidance through the UCAS application process. We are here to help your child every step of the way on their journey to independence.



# CREATIVITY

## Inspired to excel

There is seldom a day when the sound of jazz, samba or the steel pans cannot be heard flowing through the corridors of Chestnut Grove, a constant reminder to us all that the Arts are an integral element of our Creative Learning Community.

We offer our students an extraordinary range of creative opportunities and believe that creativity in the curriculum can only serve to increase academic achievement, helping students to foster a sense of creativity, imagination, critical-thinking and problem solving skills. The Arts lay the foundation for engaging, motivating and inspiring our students throughout their time at Chestnut Grove and beyond.

Art and Design, Music, Drama, Dance and Media all provide students with the opportunity to develop their individual talents and engage with others in activities which not only build confidence, but develop leadership and communication skills.

We actively encourage our students to develop their creative talents through a demanding curriculum and an extensive enrichment programme. Students grow in confidence and expertise as they explore each discipline and this is celebrated in an extensive calendar of concerts, exhibitions and performances in school and on national and international tours. There really is no limit to where their passion can take them and many of our students go on to study art-based subjects at University.

The Arts are for everyone at Chestnut Grove – the emphasis is on enjoyment and participation for all.



We offer an extensive enrichment programme which serves to broaden students' horizons and develop their individual aptitudes and collaborative skills.

# ENRICHMENT

## Beyond the Classroom

At Chestnut Grove learning never stops. We offer an extensive enrichment programme tailored to broaden our students' horizons and develop their individual aptitudes and collaborative skills. This is enhanced with a diverse range of educational trips which serve to complement their academic studies.

### Sport

Chestnut Grove has a strong sporting tradition, providing opportunities for the full range of abilities. There are regular inter-house and inter-school competitions with football, netball, athletics and cricket being some of our key strengths.

### Outdoor education and trips

There is a thriving Duke of Edinburgh community, which challenges our students to serve others, acquire new skills, experience adventure and make new friends. This programme culminates in the expedition to the Alps as part of the Gold Award. There is also a wide range of curriculum-based trips, including annual geography fieldtrips to the Peak District and Dorset and MFL trips to France, Spain and Italy.

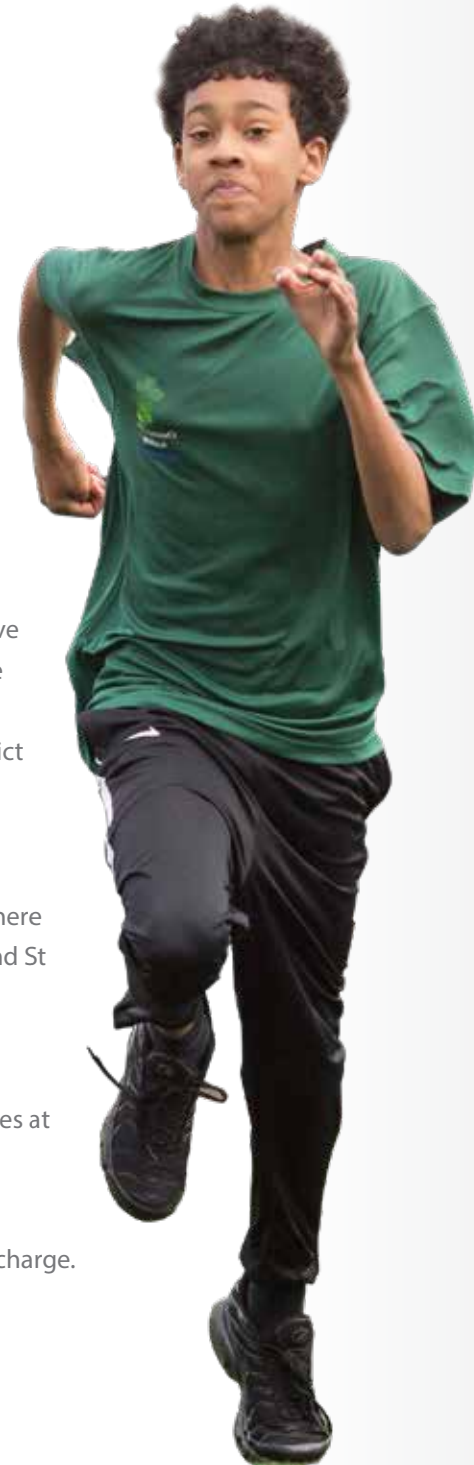
### Visual Arts

The first-class art facilities inspire our students to produce some outstanding artwork. There is a long tradition of Art tours, which has included trips to Berlin, New York, Barcelona and St Ives.

### Performing Arts

The Performing Arts work in close harmony to provide regular performance opportunities at school, in the local community and abroad.

Chestnut Grove offers instrumental tuition in brass, strings, vocal, woodwind, steelpans, guitars and drums. Instrument hire is free to students and lessons are offered at a small charge.



# THRIVING COMMUNITY

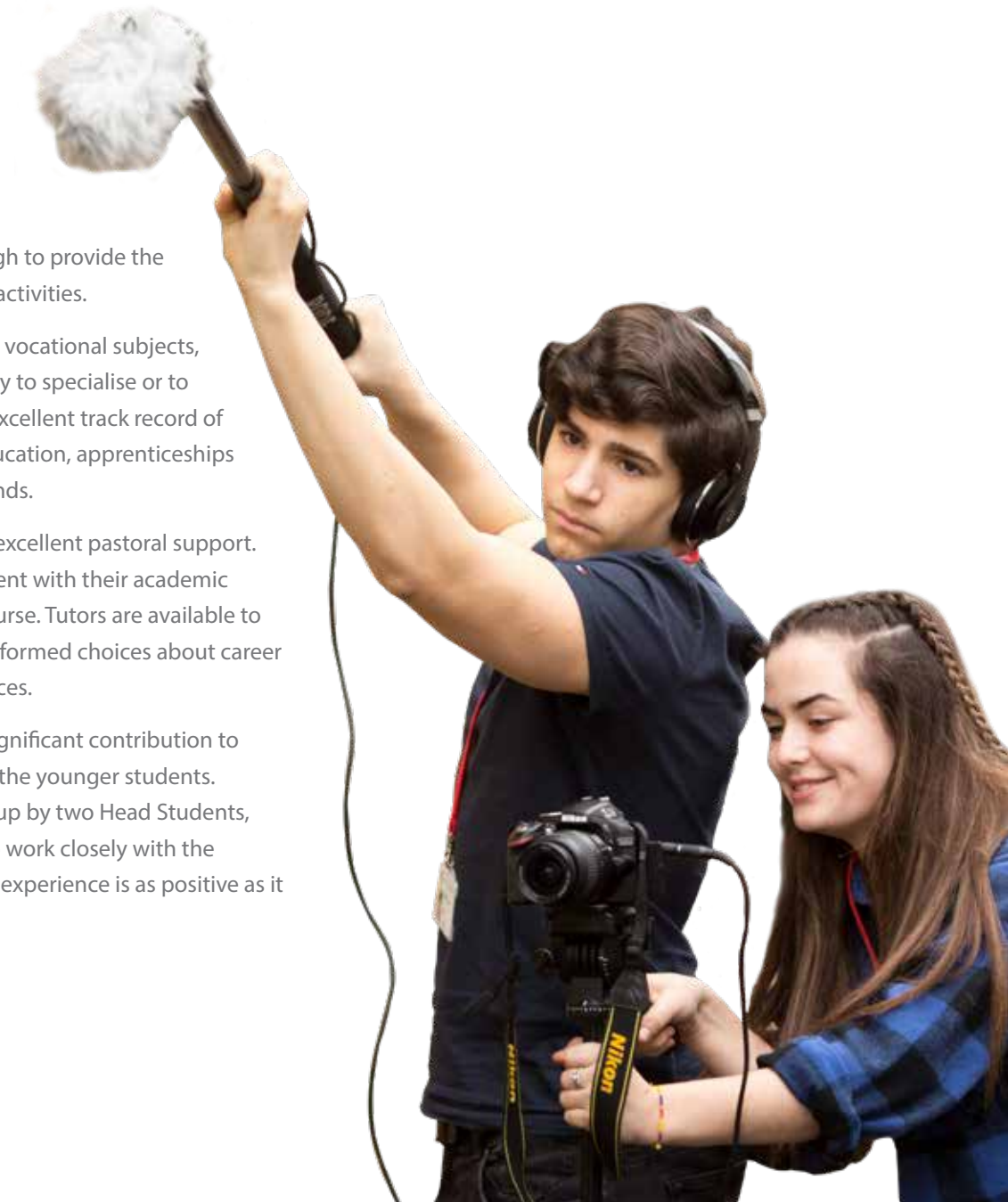
## Sixth Form

Chestnut Grove's flourishing Sixth Form provides students with the best of both worlds: a Sixth Form which is small enough to really care, with small class sizes and tutorials, and large enough to provide the breadth of courses and extra-curricular activities.

We offer a broad range of academic and vocational subjects, giving our Sixth Formers the opportunity to specialise or to retain a breadth of choice. We have an excellent track record of supporting our students into higher education, apprenticeships and employment opportunities of all kinds.

Sixth Formers continue to benefit from excellent pastoral support. A strong tutor team supports each student with their academic and pastoral needs throughout their course. Tutors are available to provide guidance and help in making informed choices about career opportunities and higher education places.

Sixth Formers are expected to make a significant contribution to Chestnut Grove and are role models for the younger students. The student leadership team is headed up by two Head Students, chosen from within the Sixth Form, who work closely with the Headteacher to ensure that the student experience is as positive as it can be.





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Wandle Teaching School Alliance: <http://www.wandletsa.com>