



North Bridge House
Senior Canonbury

School prospectus



Welcome

I am delighted to welcome you to North Bridge House, where I have the privilege of overseeing the NBH portfolio and helping our six sites to be the very best schools they can be, delivering outstanding teaching and learning within a culture of care and kindness. Collectively, we are constantly looking at ways to improve and develop in order to help your children achieve the best possible results, while enriching their whole school experience.

Having been a teacher and now a leader, I am passionate about creating not only inspiring but enjoyable places in which to learn, whether a child is aged 2, 11 or 18. Children only get one chance at childhood and at NBH, pupil wellbeing is at the heart of everything we do. As a father of four children, I recognise the challenges involved in bringing up young people in today's world. Our staff are committed to ensuring each child's journey through our schools is as smooth as possible.

We believe in a high support, low pressure environment – we work tirelessly to help our pupils discover their personal talents and passions, and ultimately, to set them on course to discover their 'True North'.

I would warmly invite you to visit the school and see for yourself what makes NBH such a distinctive place to learn.

Brendan Pavey

Executive Headteacher, North Bridge House Schools

Our philosophy

Founded in 1939, North Bridge House offers an independent, mixed ability co-education for ages 2 to 18, challenging and inspiring pupils throughout every stage of their school career. Across six North London school sites, we successfully prepare happy pupils for every milestone, guiding them on the, not always smooth, journey from early learner to pre-teen to young adult.

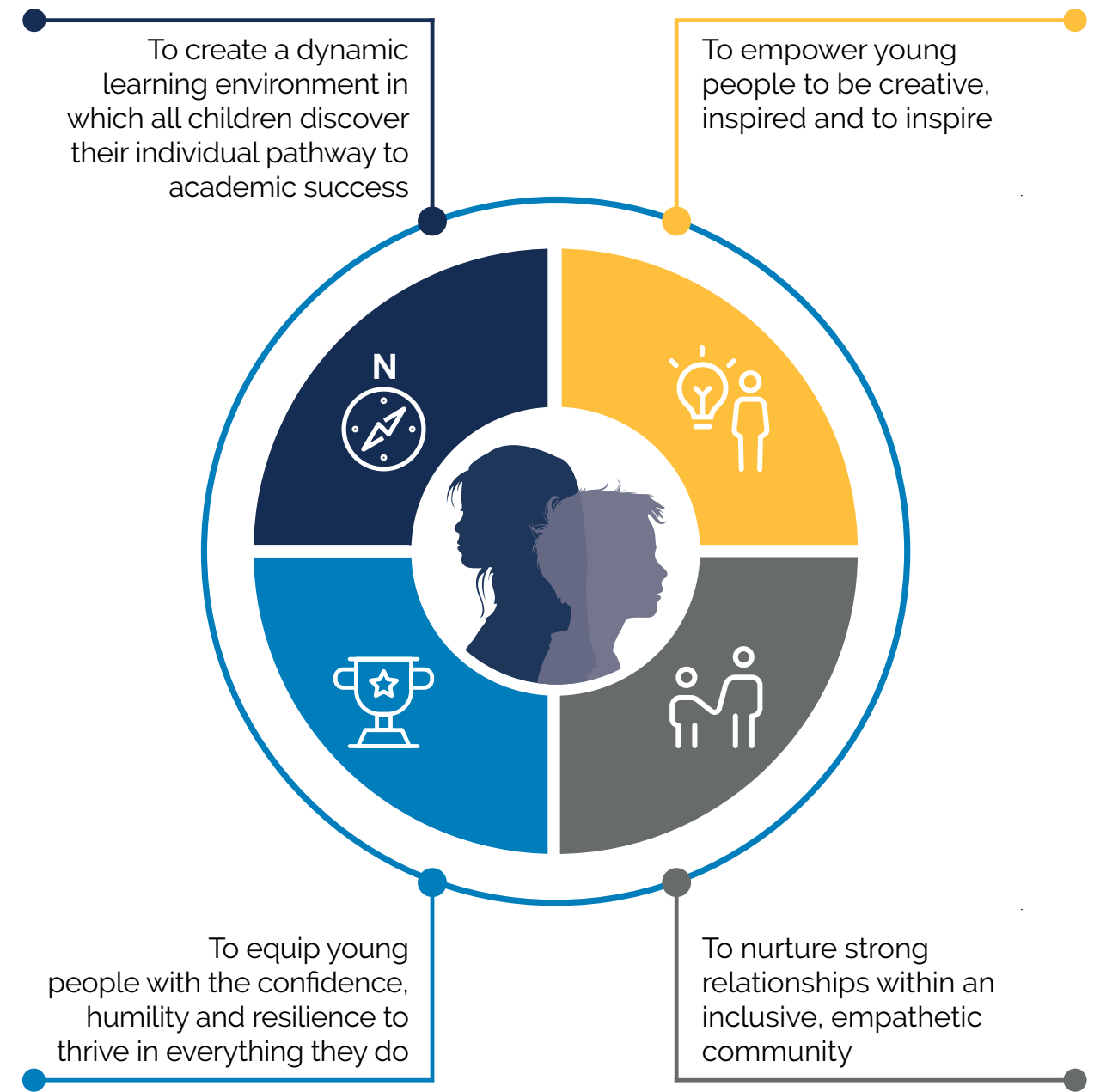
At whichever entry point families join us, we pride ourselves on getting to know and understand every pupil as an individual, helping them to find a direction in life that reflects their unique talents and personality.

We are focused on delivering a forward-thinking, progressive teaching and learning experience, which sets our pupils on a clear path to find what we refer to as their 'True North'. Everything we do is centred around our pupils and is rooted in our purpose and vision.

Purpose – to celebrate the individual within our diverse NBH community.

Vision – we awaken the potential of every individual to find their True North.

At North Bridge House, in order to fulfil our purpose and vision, we are committed to four aims:





Head's introduction

Having been at the school since it first opened in 2014, initially as Deputy Head, I have taken great pride in seeing North Bridge House Senior Canonbury go from strength to strength, establishing itself as a place of academic and pastoral excellence, where every pupil, regardless of their starting point, is personally challenged and supported to be the best that they can be.

From within the classroom to leading the school, I truly believe in the power of happy children, and as a staff body committed to understanding and meeting the needs of the individual child, we successfully make a significant difference to student outcomes. Our aim is to deliver a first-class, holistic education, which provides students with every opportunity to find their 'True North'. From our rigorous yet creative curriculum, to a wealth of extra-curricular and enrichment activities which smash stereotypes and build life skills, we provide an educational experience that not only ignites a passion in our students, but develops the character and resilience that empowers them to pursue said passion.

We maintain small class sizes to support the delivery of our inclusive curriculum and

teaching strategies attuned to the needs of the whole school community. Whether we are collaborating on research projects with UCL's Institute of Education or experts on the adolescent brain, we pride ourselves on bringing progressive, forward-thinking teaching and learning to the classroom and beyond, identifying with each of our unique learners and preparing them for the highly competitive international job market.

We are a local school with a global mindset; our families bring European and international culture to our diverse yet tight-knit community, while staff bring both teaching experience and 'world' experience, through employment and travel. Similarly, our school trips reflect our aim to expand students' horizons far and wide; here at Canonbury, learning manifests itself within truly memorable life experiences.

For a real insight into what North Bridge House Canonbury has to offer, I encourage families to visit us; we'd be delighted to show you what makes our school unique.

Charlotte Tassell-Dent

Headteacher

About us

Situated just off leafy Canonbury Square, nestled behind the vibrant Upper Street, we find ourselves in a cultural and historic hotspot. A stone's throw from the Estorick Collection of Modern Italian Art and a short walk from the Almeida Theatre, our Grade II listed building is over 500 years old and has been magnificently restored to provide a unique schooling experience. Characterised by its original Tudor architecture, the school's quaint charm is juxtaposed with contemporary teaching facilities, sophisticated use of tech, and provides specialist spaces for science, art and – in the historic King Edward's Hall – drama.

Students are reminded of the school's rich heritage through the House System: our three houses are named after chief minister to King Henry VIII, Thomas Cromwell; philosopher and scientist, Francis Bacon; and famous writer, Oliver Goldsmith. Classrooms are also named to reflect the school and adjacent Canonbury Tower's history.

The House System is an integral part of school life and is highly popular among students and staff, inspiring a friendly, competitive spirit and bringing an additional layer of pastoral care. While staff members are selected for Head of House roles, prefect and Head Student positions give leadership opportunities to pupils of all ages and ensure the student voice is upheld as an integral part of our school.

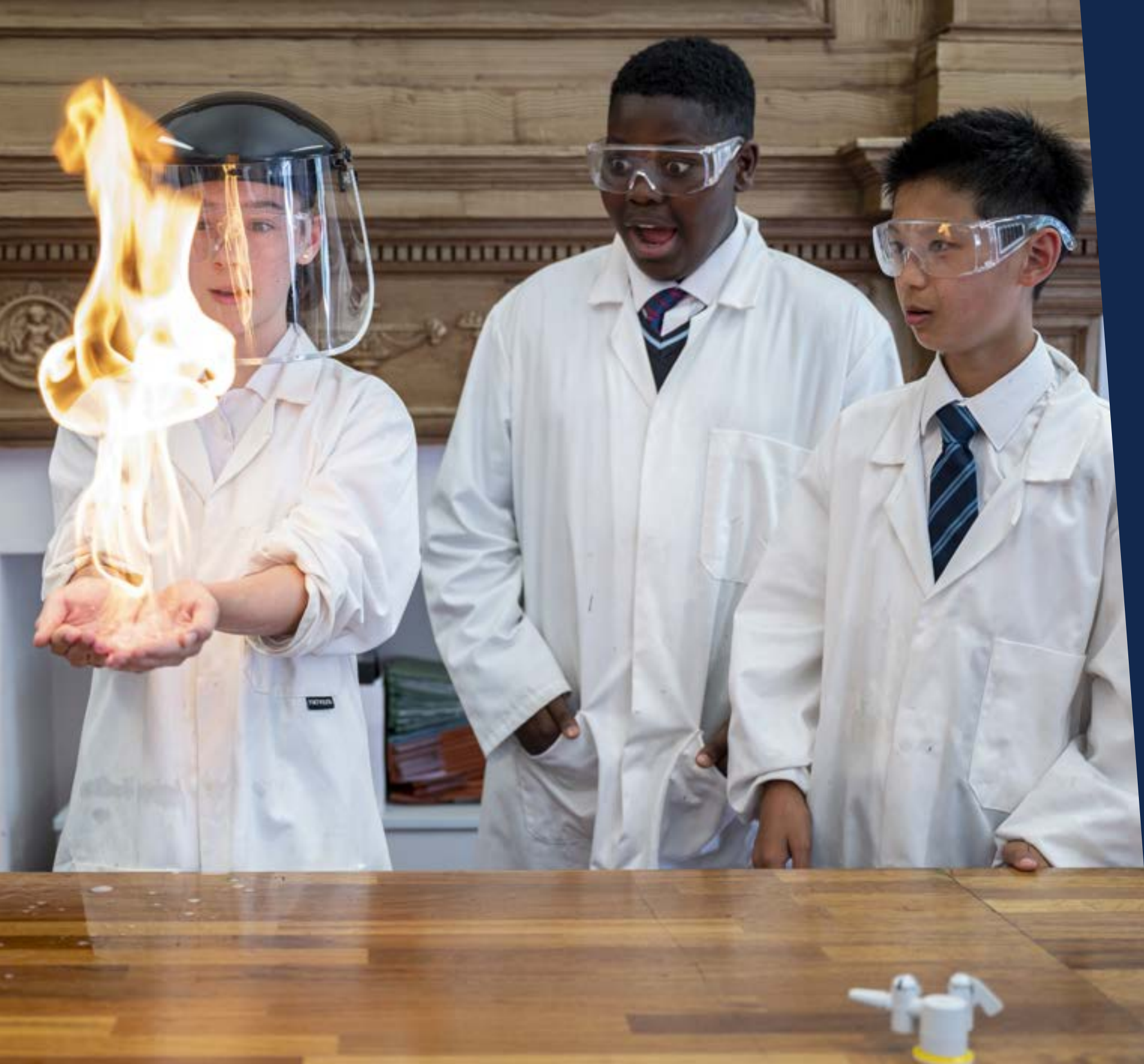




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“We love the school for both our children. Academics are obviously excellent, but it is the pastoral care which sets NBHC above so many other schools. The teachers really “get” our children and are hugely supportive even during bouts of teenage behaviour!”

Senior Canonbury parent



Our curriculum is broad, creative and specifically designed to foster a genuine love of learning, preparing students to enter higher education and the constantly evolving global job market. We enable pupils to pursue their personal interests through engaging study – while academically rigorous, our curriculum promotes character development. We provide a wide range of specialist subject options in addition to the core academic subjects, and every year group benefits from our timetabled weekly enrichment programme.

Embedded into our curricular design, enrichment sees pupils explore an exhaustive list of topics beyond the conventional areas of study, ranging from LAMDA (London Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts) and the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, to the student newspaper and the ever popular 'Plants, People and the Planet', which combines mindfulness and gardening with environmental council. These enrichment experiences motivate, challenge and develop the individual, equipping students with a wider skill set to enhance their university and job applications.

At GCSE, students select three subjects to study alongside the compulsory English Language, English Literature, Maths and Science (combined and triple awards). Sixth Formers are assessed in three to four selected A-Level courses. Visit [northbridgehouse.com](https://www.northbridgehouse.com) to view all subject options.

Sport

Taking a more modern approach to sport than a lot of independent schools, we try to introduce students to as many different activities as possible in order to find a sport for everyone. Rather than focusing on one sport per term, all students are exposed to 12 sports on the curriculum in Years 7 and 8, revisiting them in Years 9 and 10 to develop their skills and interests. We then continue to offer the majority of these sports at GCSE.

From the Sobell Leisure Centre to Regent's Park and Lee Valley Indoor Athletics Centre, we make full use of the premium sports facilities in the local vicinity. Students also have access to specialist facilities for outdoor adventure and water sports, as well as martial arts and fitness classes.

A generous selection of sports are also incorporated into our extra-curricular provision – ranging from judo and fencing to netball and gymnastics – providing pupils with the opportunity to expand their talents and interests beyond the curriculum.

A number of our keen athletes represent the school at regional and national Independent Schools Association tournaments, in both individual and team sports, while others compete in local, friendly fixtures.





“Pupils have a good measure of success in extra-curricular activities, with some pupils’ achievements being considerable for their ages, particularly in art and drama.”

Independent Schools Inspectorate, 2023



Extra-curricular



Our excellent extra-curricular offering aims to inspire and foster talents beyond the curriculum, to deliver a truly rounded and character-building education.

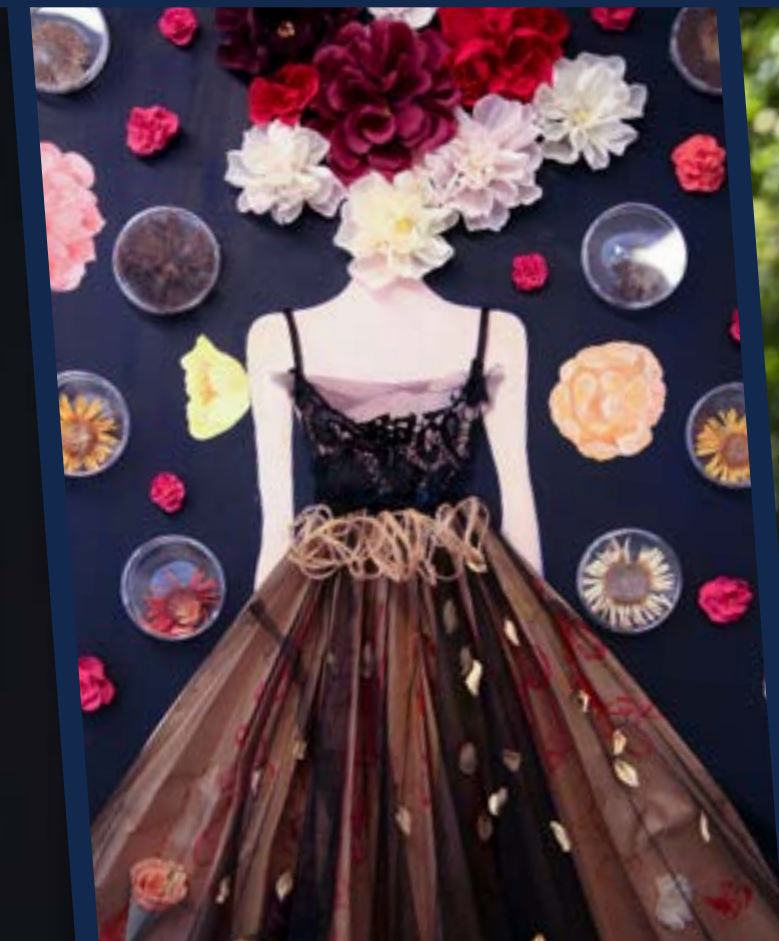
Our sport and fitness clubs are a popular option, as is science club, while our avid readers, published young writers and aspiring film critics immerse themselves in book club, creative writing and foreign film clubs.

Extra-curricular opportunities promote Upper School students as role models to our younger pupils, as they often work with staff to deliver clubs and initiatives and develop key leadership qualities.

Students also enjoy leading on and participating in a range of charitable events - be it a cake bake sale to raise awareness for the LGBTQ+ community, or 'Wear It Green Day' to fundraise for and grow our NBH forest; an initiative to help reforest the planet and see a greener tomorrow - as well as reaching out to the local community to litter pick or visit the elderly, for example.

Student Wellbeing Ambassadors further contribute to our wellbeing programme and close-knit, supportive school community.

Beyond the school walls, we host many trips, day and residential, to the UK and abroad - Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Borneo, Malawi and the US, to name a few. But to truly provide purposeful character development, we also make use of our very own outdoor activity centres in Hertfordshire and South Wales, which give us access to a wide range of outdoor adventure and water sports.



Pastoral

Our pastoral provision is integrated into every facet of school life, to help navigate the sometimes challenging path from childhood to young adulthood.

Starting senior school in itself can often be a little daunting, which is why we break the ice, initiate friendships and ease our Year 7s transition with an exciting outdoor adventure trip – aimed specifically at team-building and confidence boosting – within their very first term.

Students continue to meet with their Form Tutor every day, not simply for registration, but for teachers to fulfil their duty of care and establish valuable and trusting relationships with tutees, creating an environment in which pupils feel seen and heard. Specialist support is also available from our on-site counsellor and SENCo (Specialist Educational Needs Co-ordinator), while guest speaker sessions on topics such as social media and body image help students, staff and parents alike.

Our carefully designed PSHE programme informs students about the facts concerning their growth and development and sees them learn how to deal with a range of personal, social and moral issues as part of the curriculum, preparing our pupils to leave us as confident and empathetic young adults.

Ultimately, student wellbeing is at the heart of everything we do; academic success is inextricably linked with physical and mental health, which is why we promote wellbeing through expert-led workshops and talks. The Cognita 'Be Well Charter' further provides the whole school community with access to a wide range of wellbeing resources.





“Academic outcomes are excellent for all pupils whatever their challenges and starting points. Older pupils are particularly eloquent about the effect that the school has had on their development and achievement, citing the support of their teachers. Sixth form pupils told inspectors that they feel confident about themselves and their futures.”

Independent Schools Inspectorate, 2023

Our students' academic achievements go hand-in-hand with their excellent personal development. Each Year 11 and 13 cohort add to our impressive track record of GCSE and A-Level results, upholding a high performance across a range of academic and creative disciplines. Students frequently celebrate significant success in STEAM and modern foreign languages.

We are committed to providing a firm foundation for higher education and employment; students are carefully guided on A-Level choices, degree programmes and university selection. They also benefit from expert careers advice, UCAS support, and one-to-one mentoring if invited to interview or applying to Oxbridge.

North Bridge House graduates secure university places at leading Russell Group destinations, including Oxford and Cambridge, as well as renowned Arts, international and overseas institutions.



“The focus is on personal challenge with tailored teaching in a nurturing and attractive setting: a safe haven for developing teens.”

Good Schools Guide



Next steps

To begin your journey at North Bridge House, please visit northbridgehouse.com/open or use the QR code to book an Open Day or private tour. See the school in action, meet the Head and, most importantly, our students, to get a real feel for our wonderful Canonbury community.



Visit us

Our admissions process is stress-free; we are academically non-selective, meaning that we assess a child's potential as opposed to their current ability. Our aim is to ensure that all students will be able to access the curriculum and will be happy in our school environment. Visit our website to find out more about the admissions day - consisting of assessment and interview - that we conduct for 11+ and 16+ entry.



Admissions
process

Students who demonstrate academic excellence or excellence in the creative and performing arts are invited to apply for a scholarship.

To apply for a place at North Bridge House Senior Canonbury, please complete and submit an online form. The deadline to apply for September 2024 entry is Friday 17 November 2023.



Apply now

We recognise how important it is to find the right school for your child and our Admissions Team is available to provide assistance in navigating this process. Should you have any queries, or if you are looking for an occasional mid-year vacancy, please contact us on 020 7428 1520 or email joinus@northbridgehouse.com

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FIND YOUR
TRUE NORTH.