

SENIOR SCHOOL OPEN DAY 2020



WHERE GIRLS SHINE



A WARM WELCOME TO WITHINGTON



Thank you for your interest in Withington Girls' School as a senior school option for your daughter. We very much hope that the information provided during our recent Virtual Open Day events - a recording of which has been shared with you - and in this booklet are helpful in giving you a flavour of the very special Withington experience.

Withington Girls' School is an energetic, vibrant community, a stimulating, exciting place

to learn and to grow where the relatively small size of the School, outstanding pastoral care and strong community spirit mean that each girl is known as an individual and receives the attention she needs to fulfil her potential. It is our aim that our girls leave school at ease with themselves, outward-looking and socially aware, able to pursue their dreams and to face with confidence the challenges of life beyond.

The School is unusual in not awarding academic prizes – at Withington the pleasure of learning is its own reward, an ethos which sustains our pupils for life - our outstanding examination results speak for themselves and the girls' exceptional academic achievements, combined with their outstanding personal and social development, enable them to go on to the most competitive university courses.

The culture of respect, genuine interest the pupils have in each other and desire to see everyone do their best enable our pupils to aim high, participate freely and thrive both inside and outside the classroom through our dynamic co-curricular programme.

Our pupils come from all over Greater Manchester, Cheshire and beyond – we value individuality, celebrate diversity and enjoy a remarkably cohesive community with a strong sense of shared purpose. The School does not offer scholarships but is proud to provide means-tested financial support to more than one in six of our pupils from Year 5 upwards. Many girls make friends for life – former pupils stay in touch with each other and many mentor current pupils through our alumnae network.

We take great care over helping girls settle into School so that they enjoy being here and make the most of the wonderful opportunities available, and we work in close partnership with parents, encouraging parents to take an active part in the life of the School.

Details of our Admissions Procedure for 2021 are to be found in this booklet and on our website. Please don't hesitate to contact our Admissions Department if you have any questions.

We look forward to having the opportunity to meet you in 2021.

With my best regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "S. J. Haslam".

Mrs Sarah Haslam Headmistress



ADMISSIONS PROCEDURE

All girls who apply for Year 7 entry are required to sit an Entrance Examination which is taken in the January of the planned year of entry. Papers are taken in English, Mathematics and Verbal Reasoning. The applicants who have performed well in the Entrance Examination will be invited for interview in the three to four weeks following the examination day.

The 11+ Entrance Examinations for September 2021 admission will take place on **Friday 8th January 2021** and, if national and local coronavirus (COVID-19) guidance allows, our aim is for applicants to sit the examination in person on this date. In light of the likely restrictions that will continue to be in place and the need to reduce risk for all involved, we have made adjustments to the usual entrance examination arrangements.

It has always been the practice here at Withington that on the day of the Entrance Examination our own pupils do not attend school and that will continue in January, enabling us to use rooms and spaces across the school site to maximise social distancing. We will also run the examination in two overlapping sittings so that the number of children interacting is reduced. Full details of arrangements on the day will be provided to the parents of all applicants before the end of the Autumn Term.

In recent years the Withington Senior School entrance examination has consisted of five sections: two English papers, two Mathematics papers and one Verbal Reasoning paper. In January 2021 there will be three papers: English (45 minutes), Mathematics (45 minutes) and Verbal Reasoning (50 minutes).

These papers will assess the same skills as in previous years so there will continue to be comprehension and writing sections in English and arithmetic/functional Maths and problem-solving questions in the Mathematics paper.

While there will not be as much opportunity for free time as in a normal year, the warm Withington welcome will be very much in evidence and we will do all we can to ensure that the children have a positive experience - we are very mindful that this has been a difficult year and

some children may be feeling anxious about entrance examinations. Our aim will be to continue to make the experience as friendly and reassuring for the children as possible.

The past English and Mathematics papers available on our website continue to serve as useful guides as to what applicants can expect to be covered in the January 2021 examination papers (please search 'exam papers' at www.wgs.org).

Following a review of the examination results, we invite a significant number of applicants to interview during the three to four weeks after the Entrance Examination. We plan to go ahead with the interviews, which will take place either in person or remotely.

Interviews will take the form of an informal chat with the Headmistress, Deputy Head or Director of Studies and/or other senior members of staff. Your daughter may be asked about her responses in the examination papers or she may be asked more general questions about her interests, things she enjoys at school or any other relevant topics. There is no particular 'type' of girl we are looking for here, and certainly there are no 'correct' answers to most of the interview questions; the qualities we hope to see are a genuine enthusiasm for learning, a curiosity about the world and an ability to think about issues in depth. These qualities may display themselves in many different ways. Parents are also invited to have a conversation with the Headmistress. This is not part of the selection procedure but an opportunity for you to ask any unanswered questions about the School.

A REMINDER OF DEADLINES:

Year 7 application deadline: Thursday 3rd December 2020

Year 7 bursary application deadline: Thursday 10th December 2020

Please refer to the Admissions Timetable published on the School website – www.wgs.org/admissions/admissions-timetable/ - for full details of key admissions dates and please do call our Admissions Officer, Ms Jane Ellis, on 0161 249 3371 or by email at admissions@wgs.org if you have any questions.



THE PASTORAL SYSTEM

Moving from a Junior School, where pupils are generally taught by their class teacher for most of the day, to a secondary school where they have to move around the School for different lessons and may encounter up to eight teachers in a day, is a big step for any 11-year-old. Withington has a very effective pastoral system which helps girls to deal with this change in their school lives in the first few weeks of their first year and which supports them throughout their time at the School. There is an Induction Day in the Summer Term for prospective Year 7 pupils. Here they will be able to spend time with members of their new Form and meet some of their teachers. Also in the Summer Term, the Let's Make Music Day gives new joiners another opportunity to spend time with girls who will be in their year, whilst enjoying playing both new and familiar musical instruments.

Each Year group is divided into Forms of about 26 pupils. Girls are taught in their Forms or smaller groups for most of their lessons in the first three years. Every Form has its own Form Tutor and Shadow Form Tutor who, between them, see each girl on a daily basis. The Form Tutor and/or Shadow is the first point of contact for pupils and parents; they have the best all-round picture of each girl in their Form and guide her through the year. The Form Tutor's knowledge of the girls in the Form usually means that any potential problems are picked up at a very early stage and dealt with swiftly.

Each Year group is overseen by a Head of Year, who is responsible for all the girls in the Year; the Form Tutor can refer problems to, and parents can contact, the Head of Year if necessary. We work closely with our School Nurse who has an integral role in the pastoral system, and we also have a School Counsellor. Our pastoral team works closely with pupils and parents to promote the wellbeing of all pupils and address any concerns sympathetically.

Outside this formal structure, girls are given the opportunity to talk to Sixth Form pupils about any concerns they may have through the Peer Support System. Three or four trained Sixth Form pupils are allocated to each Form; they meet regularly with the Form to run activities and are available to chat to groups or individuals.

Pupil representatives from each Form attend School Council and Feedback meetings which are chaired by the Head Girl Team. Through such forums all pupils can contribute to the day-to-day running of the School and suggest ideas for development. We have a strong Anti-bullying Policy, including an Anti-bullying Statement written by the pupils themselves, and a culture of mutual respect where pupils can enjoy the many opportunities open to them at Withington.

We are proactive in supporting wellbeing: all the curricular and extra-curricular activities in the life of our busy school contribute to our pupils' growth and sense of themselves as purposeful and thriving members of a community. There are also dedicated days and events for pupils to explore different aspects of wellbeing and reflect on ways to maintain a healthy balance across all aspects of their lives.



REMOTE & BLENDED LEARNING

A strategic decision taken over three years ago to introduce mobile devices as a key tool in our learning approach positioned Withington well when the national closure of schools was announced in March 2020.

Familiarity on the part of our pupils and staff with digital learning meant that we were able to move quickly towards a comprehensive remote learning programme. It was the attitude of our pupils and staff, however, that ensured no ground was lost during lockdown. Not only did our pupils demonstrate a sense of responsibility in engaging with home-based learning each day but their participation in activities such as quizzes, musical events, sporting challenges and fundraising initiatives demonstrated their wish to maintain a sense of connection to their school throughout the period of lockdown. Pastoral care and community life continued through regular virtual assemblies, podcasts and House events, delivered via the School's OneNote-based platform, Virtual WGS.

The successes of the remote learning programme are now being applied in our approach to blended learning, when pupils or teaching staff are required to self-isolate. Our Blended Learning Policy sets out our commitment to continue with all aspects of the educational service we normally provide – lessons, preparation for examinations, safeguarding and pastoral support, learning support, extra-curricular and enrichment activities. Most importantly, we continue to promote pupils' personal and social development, a sense of community and the school ethos and values.

OUR MOBILE LEARNING APPROACH

In line with many schools who run mobile learning schemes, our pupils bring their own device into School for use in lessons, allowing the device to be used for both schoolwork and personal use. We provide guidance on which devices are suitable and have worked hard to develop a system that will deliver a consistent experience for everyone, regardless of the platform they prefer – including Apple's iOS, Microsoft's Windows and Google's Chrome and Android - and to enable pupils to use devices that can be obtained at a range of prices.

HOW MOBILE LEARNING WORKS

Each Senior School pupil brings in a fully-charged suitable device to school every day; charging points are available if needed. Teachers will ask pupils to use the devices in lessons and/or to complete homework where there is a benefit to doing so. There is no expectation that pupils will complete work in every lesson on a mobile device and their deployment varies between subjects and classes.

All Withington pupils have free access to the full Microsoft 365 range of applications, including Word, Excel and PowerPoint. Alongside those programs, OneNote, an application designed with education in mind, is proving to be a useful tool in a range of subjects and is available free for all pupils on any device.

Since lockdown, Microsoft Teams has been used extensively as the platform on which remote lessons are delivered at Withington, all in accordance with e-safety and acceptable use policies.

We want to take advantage of the opportunities afforded by new technology but to do so in a way that does not prioritise the technology itself over teaching and learning. We also aim to keep Withington and its students at the forefront of learning and to help them to develop skills that will be beneficial in their future lives.



THE CURRICULUM

INTRODUCTION

The Withington Curriculum is designed to suit the needs and abilities of our girls whilst also taking account of changes which take place nationally. We are not obliged to follow the National Curriculum but we do incorporate those elements which suit the abilities of our pupils. The Senior School selects on ability at age 11 and the curriculum is determined to a great extent by the academic profile and aspirations of our pupils.

At Key Stage 3, girls study a very wide range of subjects. This is designed to provide them with a broad and balanced education and help them to discover their particular talents.

Girls continue with a core of compulsory subjects at Key Stage 4 and also opt for a selection of GCSE subjects. The curriculum is slightly more specialised and more time is devoted to the subjects of their choice.

Balance is still important and girls are encouraged to choose subjects from a range of areas.

Currently our pupils study either three or four A Level subjects. If they study three subjects at A Level, we usually recommend they supplement this with an Extended Project Qualification. Sixth Form students also follow an Enrichment programme that consists of a small number of short compulsory courses along with some optional, non-examined courses of their choice. The girls are looking ahead at this stage; virtually all go on to university and the curriculum is designed to reflect the changing requirements for university entry.

The following pages give a flavour of the curriculum within School at this time. However, specific details may change from year to year.

“Before I joined the school, I was quite a shy person who thought that making friends was out of the question. But before I knew it, I settled in well and made many friends that I enjoy being around. I have now come out of my hiding place and can confidently show who I really am.”

A Year 7 pupil



SUMMARY OF THE SCHOOL CURRICULUM

SUMMARY

There are 40 periods each week with most periods being 35 minutes in length. The numbers in the grid refer to the number of periods allocated to each subject. In Year 7, two Modern Foreign Languages

(from French, Spanish and German) are studied; girls may choose the two languages they would like to study.

KEY STAGE 3

SUBJECT	YEAR 7	YEAR 8	YEAR 9
English	5	4	4
Mathematics	5	5	5
Latin	2	2	2 [^]
Modern Foreign Language 1	2	2	2
Modern Foreign Language 2	2	2	2
Biology	2	2	2
Chemistry	2	2	2
Physics	2	2	2
History	2	2	2
Geography	2	2	2

SUBJECT	YEAR 7	YEAR 8	YEAR 9
Religious Studies	1	2	1
Music	2	2	2
Design Technology*	2 for half a year	2 for half a year	2 for half a year
Food and Nutrition*	2 for half a year	2 for half a year	2 for half a year
Art	2	2	2
ICT	1	1	2
Drama	1	1	1
PE	4	4	4
PSHCE	1	1	1

* Subjects are taught as half Form groups
[^] Year 9 pupils have an introduction to Classical Greek in the Spring Term



SUMMARY OF THE SCHOOL CURRICULUM

KEY STAGE 4

English, Mathematics and a Modern Foreign Language are compulsory in Years 10 and 11 and all girls study either three separate sciences or Trilogy Science.

They also receive one period of PSHCE (Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education).

SUBJECT	YEAR 10	YEAR 11
English Language + Literature	5	6
Mathematics	5	5
French/German/Spanish	4	4
Biology	3 or 4	3 or 4
Chemistry	3 or 4	3 or 4
Physics	3 or 4	3 or 4
PSHCE	1	1

If a girl has opted for Trilogy Science she will have three periods each of Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

Girls who have chosen to study the separate sciences will have four periods each of Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

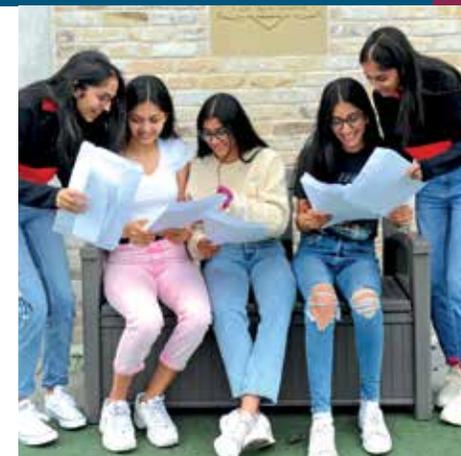
Girls also opt for any further three or two (if studying three sciences) GCSE subjects from Geography, History, RS, French, German, Spanish, Latin, Greek, Music, Art, Food and Nutrition, Drama, Computer Science, Design Technology and PE.

In Years 10 and 11, girls have two or three PE lessons depending on their other options, along with a non-examined course in Religion and Philosophy for half the year.

Further information is available in the GCSE Booklet which is issued in December.

“All the subjects are awesome. Everyone is so friendly and there is no difficulty making friends. You can settle in really quickly. Don’t worry, tests aren’t there to scare the life out of you, they’re there to prove that you are amazing!!!”

A Year 7 pupil



SIXTH FORM

In Year 12 girls choose to study either three or four A Level subjects. If they study three subjects at A Level, we usually recommend they supplement this with an Extended Project Qualification. All A Level courses are studied for the two years.

The table opposite shows the subjects currently on offer. We will, however, always continue to improve and develop our curriculum and options may be added or changed in the future.

Each subject has a teaching allocation of eight periods.

Sixth Form students also follow an Enrichment programme that consists of a small number of short compulsory courses in, for example, Financial Literacy, along with some optional, non-examined courses of their choice.

A LEVEL SUBJECTS	
Mathematics	English Language
Economics	French
Further Mathematics	English Literature
Politics	German
Biology	History
Music	Spanish
Chemistry	Geography
Art & Design	Latin
Physics	Philosophy, Ethics & Religion
Drama & Theatre Studies	Greek
Computer Science	Psychology
Classical Civilisation	Physical Education



ART

FACILITIES

The Art Department boasts a large, well-equipped studio, a specially designated Sixth Form area and an adjacent smaller studio and an art classroom. A specialist kiln room and a photographic darkroom are also attached to this suite.

KEY STAGE 3

All pupils follow a specially designed programme for Art, Craft and Design here at Withington, which is studied from Year 7 to the end of Year 9. Girls have one double lesson of Art per week.

An exciting and varied curriculum is taught through a wide range of disciplines in both two and three-dimensional forms. These include drawing, painting, mixed-media, printmaking, textiles, ceramics, graphics and sculpture. Pupils explore visual, tactile and other sensory experiences to create new, interesting and vibrant artwork. They work with traditional and new media techniques, developing essential skills and nurturing confidence, imagination and creativity.

Critical and contextual studies form an important part of each scheme of work. Pupils explore ideas and meanings in the work of artists, craftspeople and designers and learn about the diverse roles and functions of art, craft and design in contemporary life, in historical times and in different cultures. This knowledge and understanding informs and influences their own practical artwork as well as broadening their appreciation of the world around them.

Schemes of work are thoughtfully designed to excite, interest, challenge and develop pupils' creative and technical abilities. They encourage and enable personal development to thrive. The duration of a project is a whole term, allowing the full creative journey to take place, and includes weekly homework, which extends, enriches and supports the coursework undertaken in lessons.

WITHINGTON GIRLS' SCHOOL

KEY STAGE 4 & 5

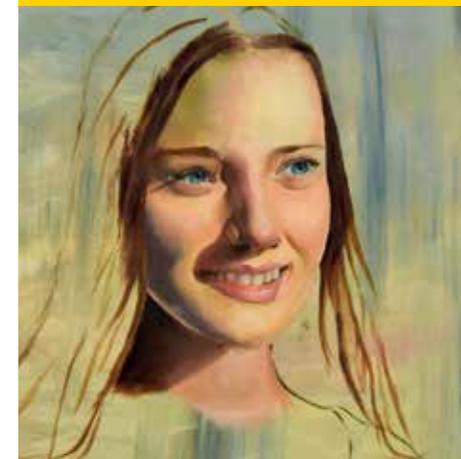
Rich and broad Art, Craft and Design courses are studied at GCSE and A Level here at Withington, and girls produce wonderfully personal, creative and thought-provoking portfolios of artwork. The girls utilise the whole spectrum of techniques and materials, themes and subject matters, and they each select those which are the most appropriate for them. We pride ourselves on working with the girls on an individual level and nurturing the special skills and qualities that each hold.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

There are a wide range of exciting and ever-changing extra-curricular Art, Craft and Design opportunities on offer to all girls in the school. There are weekly lunchtime clubs held in our vibrant and inspiring art studios for all Key Stage 3 year groups and these are run by all of our senior Art Teachers. The three art studios are also open each lunchtime and after school for any of our girls to continue with their artwork if they choose. Our curriculum is also greatly enriched each year with visits from artists, lecturers and curators who lead inspirational talks and practical workshops. There are educational trips to galleries and museums in which girls can experience engaging with artwork and artefacts first-hand, which is invaluable. The Art Department also run and enter annual art competitions which encourage all girls to further develop and express their artistic voice.

**“In Art, you learn how to be
creative and think creatively.”**

A Year 7 pupil



WHERE GIRLS SHINE

CLASSICS

KEY STAGE 3

The Classics Department aims to introduce pupils to the world of the Romans through the study of the Latin language. We hope that girls will take pleasure in seeing how the English language works through an understanding of Latin grammar and in seeing how many of our own words, and those of French and Spanish, come from Latin. Through stories of everyday life in Pompeii and Roman Britain, and through an introduction to many famous myths, we hope to bring this world of 2000 years ago alive. We make use of interactive computer programs, videos and library books and girls are encouraged to produce creative work for display as well as completing more formal exercises.

Latin is taught to all girls in Years 7, 8 and 9; an introduction to Classical Greek is also offered to all in Year 9 so that both subjects are options at GCSE. We use the Cambridge Latin Course, which has an attractive format and a steady progression of material. Both language and culture are integrated from the outset and pupils are expected to compare and contrast their lives today with daily life in the Ancient World.

At A Level, in addition to Latin, we are introducing Classical Civilisation as an option from September 2020.

“Greek is just so much fun! It really helps with derivations and it is really interesting using a different alphabet.”

A Year 10 pupil

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES & TRIPS

We like to make as much use as possible of outings, theatre visits within Manchester, trips to Oxford, Chester, Wroxeter and London for plays, exhibitions and museum collections. There are regular trips to Greece and Italy.

There is a weekly Classics Club for younger pupils, while GCSE pupils take part in a Latin Scrabble competition with other local schools. Each year we enter the Latin and Greek Reading Competition, organised by the Classical Association of Manchester.

“I really like when we do the translations using pictures - it helps me to understand it better.”

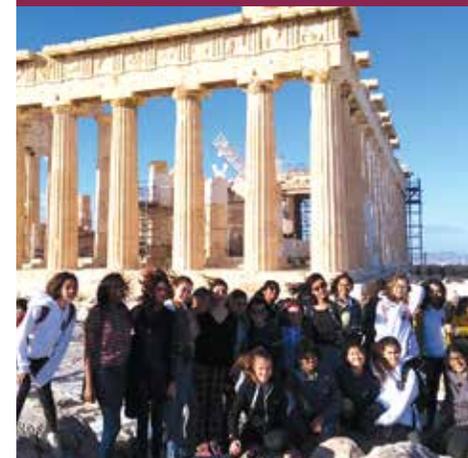
A Year 7 pupil

“Latin combines literature, language and history, making it a varied subject.”

A Year 10 pupil

“Latin combines all aspects of learning such as thinking logically and analytically and problem solving skills.”

A Year 10 pupil



DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

KEY STAGE 3

DT is taught in half-groups in rotation with Food and Nutrition for half a year in each of the Years 7, 8 and 9.

It is a GCSE option at KS4. We follow the AQA Design Technology GCSE specification, where pupils study all core materials and processes with a specialist focus on papers and board.

Our state-of-the-art Design and Technology workshop and design studio gives Withington pupils excellent opportunities to become creative thinkers, innovators, and problem solvers. They apply aesthetic, ecological, moral, social, and technical considerations to their own designs and to existing products. Sustainability is a focus that is applied to all project work. Students use a range of communication skills, including verbal, graphical and modelling skills, to design and make models and products in accordance with a specific design brief. Design Technology also teaches valuable practical skills and provides excellent opportunities to work collaboratively in a team.

The projects undertaken in DT are varied in content providing opportunities to engage in activities that are challenging, relevant and motivating. Girls gain a huge amount of enjoyment, satisfaction, and confidence from the activities that they work on at Key Stage 3 & 4.

The Department has several CAD/CAM machines that are representative of current industry standards including a laser cutter, a Roland CAMM 1 knife cutter and a VersaCamm Print and Cut Knife Cutting machine. All these CNC machines allow pupils to manufacture their products using many different materials such as vinyl, card, acrylic and wood. The machines are run by the versatile Techsoft V3 program on networked computers and are supported by A3 colour printers. Our computer-aided

design equipment allows designs to be cut and engraved on different materials and transferred into several marketable products such as coasters, wall signage, textile products and mugs. Senior pupils therefore can create professional-quality resistant material and graphic products.

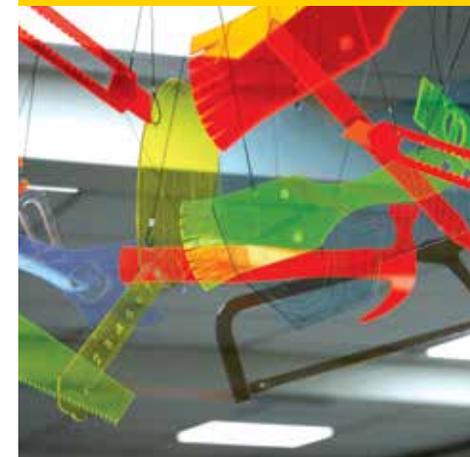
Year 7 pupils start their DT course by learning about the design process and creating personalised stickers using CAD/CAM. They then move on to more practical elements of designing and making and undertake short product design projects using plastic, card, paper, textiles and vinyl. All projects make full use of CAD/CAM.

Year 8 girls design and make prototypes using a variety of materials including plastics and wood. They can develop both their technical and material skills and strengthen their knowledge of CAD/CAM.

The Year 9 course includes a Product Design Project in which the girls design and make innovative and exciting real-life products and prototypes for their own chosen target market. They can also create an advertising campaign as extension work.

The GCSE course combines design theory, core technical principles, specialist knowledge and practical design and making skills. At the end of their two-year course, students sit a written exam and submit an extensive design and make project in the form of a Non-Exam assessment (NEA), which is undertaken in Year 11.

Design and Technology teaches important life skills: logical thinking, communication skills and problem-solving. The Department is eager to influence and inspire Withington girls not only in the curriculum but also in the responsibility of technology and design in life itself.



DRAMA

Drama is taught at Key Stage 3, GCSE and A Level

KEY STAGE 3

The course gives girls an opportunity to work together creatively and develop their imagination and communication skills. Students learn theatre techniques through games and exercises and use these techniques to articulate their responses to the people and the world around them. Our two Drama Studios offer state-of-the-art facilities ensuring pupils have access to the best equipment for lighting and sound. Both studios provide an intimate environment ideally suited for the range of drama activities that students undertake during lessons. Our Performing Arts Technicians are always on hand to offer expertise and guidance for girls wishing to further their knowledge of technical theatre skills using the specialist equipment available.

All examination groups perform a minimum of two studio performances each year. These plays provide a forum for girls to learn directing, acting, design and technical skills as they experience the excitement and intensity of live studio theatre.

The Year 9 course includes a project where students research and devise their own drama-documentary. Year 8 students have the opportunity to write, film and act in their very own silent movie, whilst Year 7 pupils start the Drama course developing their vocal and physical performance skills in our *Matilda* scheme of work. All our schemes of work offer students the opportunity to develop an understanding and appreciation of making, performing, and interpreting drama.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

There is a thriving Drama programme, which extends and complements work undertaken within the curriculum. LAMDA lessons, Drama clubs and workshops are offered to various Year groups and a full technical training programme, covering all aspects of theatre lighting, sound and stage management, is attended by girls of all ages.

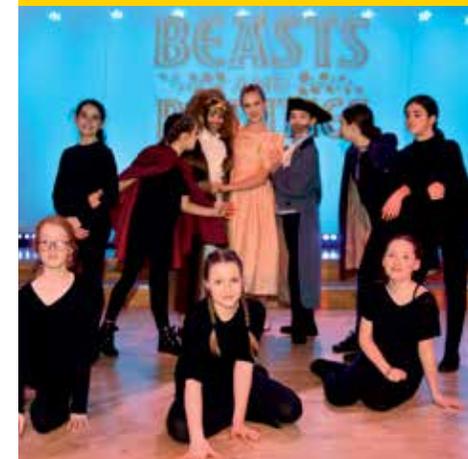
We attend a number of professional theatre productions and drama workshops each year and also invite various theatre workshop providers into School.

We do a whole-school Drama production in conjunction with the Music Department at least every two years, the most recent being *Beasts and Beauties* in 2020.

Each year, Withington girls are invited to audition for productions at The Manchester Grammar School. MGS pupils also take part in some WGS productions, most recently, *The Phantom of the Opera*. Occasionally, Withington girls are invited to audition for local theatres or casting agents with some success, both at local and national levels.

“In Drama, we have the chance to learn how to express ourselves.”

A Year 7 pupil



ENGLISH

All girls study English throughout at least the first five years of their education in the Senior School. Each girl has four or five periods of English per week in Years 7 to 10 and six periods of English in Year 11, leading to GCSEs in English Language and English Literature. In the first three years, the emphasis is placed on learning to enjoy the subject as well as building on the skills learnt at Key Stage 2.

The programme is varied and includes a variety of reading, writing and speaking and listening activities. Language and literature are taught in an integrated course which includes drama and grammar. Girls are encouraged to make use of the School Library and to read widely from a range of fiction and non-fiction texts. Oral skills are fostered by participation in debates, discussions and prepared talks.

In Year 7 students will be introduced to the works of Shakespeare and will read *Back Home* by Michelle Magorian. They will study the play of *Frankenstein* and a range of poetry. English Language work will focus on writing for different purposes and audiences and on creative writing as well as looking at grammar and vocabulary.

“English is really fun and all the activities we do are enjoyable. The teacher makes it fun too!”

A Year 7 pupil

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

A great deal of English activity takes place outside the classroom. Debating Society has a lively programme of weekly debates, discussions and guest speakers. Girls take part in Public Speaking competitions in which there have been many successes in recent years. There are regular theatre trips to both local theatres and those in other parts of the country such as Stratford and London.

“English is one of my most enjoyable subject as I love to write diary entries, persuasive writing and informal writing and we all love to express our feelings.”

A Year 7 pupil



FOOD AND NUTRITION

The Food and Nutrition Department is a lively, enriching and rewarding educational environment where the girls' creativity thrives. A wide range of practical skills are taught in the large and well-equipped Food room and we also have an additional classroom for teaching the non-practical aspects of the curriculum. The Department is well resourced and offers a wide range of specialist equipment for all girls to utilise. Pupils in Years 7 to 9 have one double lesson per week for half the year, rotating with DT.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR

The Department contributes to several extra-curricular events; SHiNE Together, WGS summer camps, North West Gifted and Talented and making the food for the afternoon tea on Citizenship Day in the Summer Term, as well as numerous charity events.

AIMS OF THE DEPARTMENT

- To provide a range of learning opportunities in a safe environment implementing good food safety and hygiene practices
- To allow pupils to make informed choices to achieve a healthy, balanced diet
- To explain how and why food is cooked and the functional properties of ingredients, to build up scientific understanding that underpins key food preparation and cooking processes
- To allow pupils choice and personalisation of cooking activities, encouraging independence and decision-making skills
- To encourage pupils to understand other people's situations, lifestyles, social and cultural differences.

KEY STAGE 3

In KS3, we teach food preparation and cooking with consideration for the selection of equipment, ingredients, food sources and functional characteristics. Pupils examine where and how a variety of ingredients are grown, reared, caught, and processed, and consider sustainability and the impact of different choices on the environment. They also learn to describe how preparation and cooking affects the sensory and nutritional properties of the ingredients. Food and Nutrition lessons provide an excellent platform for developing confidence, problem-solving, organisation and time management skills.

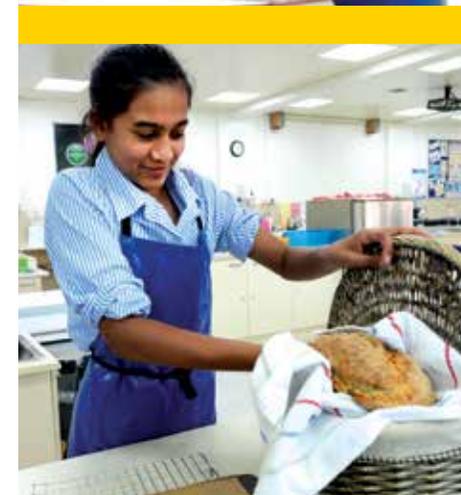
KEY STAGE 4 & 5

Food and Nutrition is a very popular option at GCSE and pupils study the AQA Food Preparation and Nutrition specification. Pupils are taught the science behind why and how we use ingredients to make food safe and appetising. The qualification will also equip students with an exceptional range of practical skills and, most importantly, an in-depth understanding of nutrition.

Year 13 Enrichment – all pupils participate in a practical skills, short course, 'Cooking on a Budget' which teaches them valuable life skills and sound nutritional advice to help prepare them for living away from home.

“I really like Food and Nutrition because we get to taste and make different things and we also get the chance to learn the science behind baking”

A Year 7 pupil



FRENCH

Girls are taught two modern languages from French, German and Spanish in Years 7 to 9 and continue with at least one of them to GCSE. Girls have the opportunity to select the two languages they wish to learn before they start in Year 7.

The French Department has adopted the Pearson online Dynamo course in Years 7 to 9. This course adopts a pupil-friendly active approach to the challenges of learning grammar, promoting active engagement and building on logical progression, whilst stimulating an interest in and understanding of France and the French speaking world.

Girls enjoy accessing the material on their mobile devices in lessons and from the outset they practise the four key skills of listening, reading, writing and speaking. The course provides a lively and relevant language learning experience with a clear grammatical and structural progression incorporating a range of learning techniques. French is used as much as possible as the normal means of communication in the classroom.

“I like French because our teacher teaches us lots of vocab and lets us all speak so we get a chance to practise.”

A Year 7 pupil

LANGUAGE LABORATORY

Studying languages at Withington has been made even more enjoyable with our state-of-the-art language laboratory. Girls from Third Form to Upper Sixth enjoy being able to study independently and practise listening and communication skills as well as using the popular telephone dialling facility for role plays and conversations. The Sanako 1200 software also allows girls to test vocabulary knowledge against the clock and learn new material with the voice insert function. ICT is integrated into the schemes of work and girls are encouraged to use websites to research material and improve their knowledge of the language. The Department subscribes to the acclaimed Linguascope website and pupils regularly use the Task Magic authoring package and websites such as [languagesonline](#) and [francetvinfo](#).

DEPARTMENTAL TRIPS

There is a biennial trip for Lower and Upper Fourth pupils to France. This takes place at the start of the summer holiday and gives girls the opportunity to discover more about French culture and to try out their newly acquired language skills. We stay in Paris and Poitiers and visit Parc Astérix, the Château of Blois, the Puy du Fou, which is a theme park with breath-taking historical re-enactments, and we finish our visit with a day in Futuroscope, a theme park based upon multimedia, cinematographic and audio-visual techniques of the future. At GCSE and Sixth Form level we have offered study trips to Montpellier and are hoping to reinstate our successful exchange partnership with the Lycée des Flandres in Hazebrouck.



GEOGRAPHY

All pupils study Geography for the first three years of the Senior School. The aims of the Department follow the guidelines of the national subject criteria including: understanding of geographical processes through the study of places and environments; examining the relationships between people and their environments, including the ideas of stewardship; examining management of resources and environments; developing sound values and attitudes related to geographical issues, including those related to global citizenship.

Our most important aim is to show Geography as a very visual, exciting, dynamic subject which is relevant for understanding the world we live in today. Lessons are always full of a stimulating variety of techniques and information. Literacy, numerical and graphical skills are all essential to the study of Geography. The main content areas look at geographical change on a range of scales, use contemporary issues and examples, link past processes to the present, and encourage the acquisition of a broad range of skills useful in future life. A variety of modes of teaching and learning are used as well as different assessment methods. Pupils are encouraged to discuss issues and support their viewpoints with real examples. Exciting role play and decision-making activities develop pupils' confidence and encourage them to be interested in what is happening in their world.

"I really like the orientation in Geography. We do practical things too, like going for walks and actually experiencing it."

A Year 7 pupil

KEY STAGE 3

Work is based on the content and objectives of the National Curriculum with additional material to meet the needs of our most able pupils. Examples of topics studied include: Is Earth running out of natural resources? What is development? Can we ever know enough about earthquakes and volcanoes to live safely?

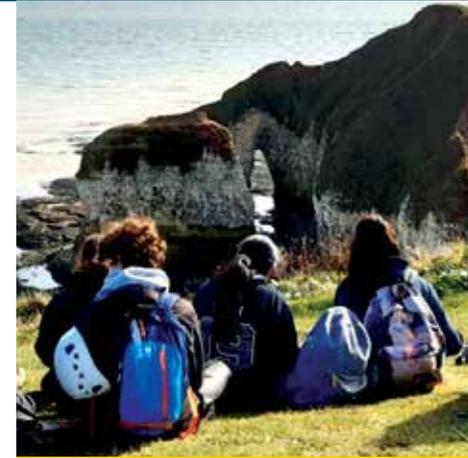
These form a base for many current issues and topical case studies. We aim to make the subject exciting and relevant and girls are made aware of current environmental issues and developments which involve conflicting attitudes and opinions.

Our lessons always involve a variety of techniques from simple statistical analysis through to photograph interpretation and careful report writing. Human Geography is constantly changing, and we ensure our material is well researched and up to date whilst in Physical Geography the dynamic processes are given special emphasis to help us understand our changing natural world.

FIELDWORK

An important emphasis is placed on fieldwork and the local environment is visited by each Year group to practise enquiry skills whilst Manchester city centre, Llandudno and the Derbyshire hills offer accessible locations for more in-depth work.

We encourage pupils to extend their interest in Geography further up the School by going on fieldtrips further afield. In recent years, Sicily and Iceland have been our exciting destinations, both places where Physical and Human Geography come alive!



GERMAN

German is taught as a dynamic, vibrant and relevant Modern Foreign Language. It is introduced into the timetable in Year 7, when girls who have chosen the language embark on our Key Stage 3 course, which equips them rapidly and accurately to express themselves in German on topics as diverse as food, hobbies, education and fashion. In Year 10 and beyond, German is an option subject and is taught to GCSE and A Level by specialist staff.

The four key skills of Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing are practised from an early stage. Our aim is to enable the girls to develop competence and confidence in German whilst also learning about the traditions and the way of life in the countries in which the language is spoken. The school is also equipped with a state-of-the-art language laboratory for use with GCSE classes.

“We do lots of fun activities like singing and we get to read our poems which helps us memorise what we have learnt.”

A Year 7 pupil

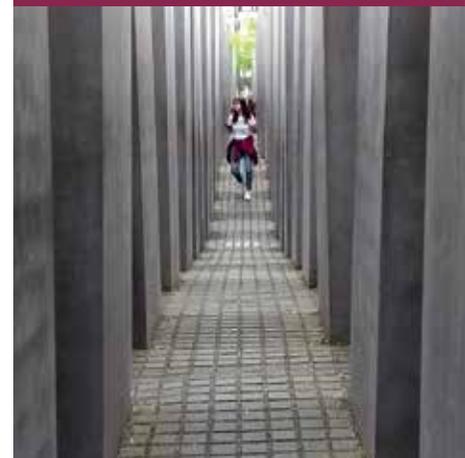
KEY STAGE 3 & 4

In Years 7, 8 and 9 we aim to give pupils a solid grounding in the main foundations of the language upon which we build in the GCSE years and beyond. We teach using the Zoom! course in Key Stage 3, and use interactive, electronic course books at GCSE and A Level which are tailored to the latest exam specifications. This allows students to access a wealth of features to support them in their learning, as well as providing opportunities for stretching and challenging their language skills. At all levels we encourage pupils to strive for an accurate command of the basics of German, and also to enjoy language learning and equip them to deal with situations in a German-speaking country.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR & TRIPS

We run a weekly German Culture Club for girls in Year 9, looking at traditions, songs and German-language media. For older girls, there is a weekly German Conversation Club.

When we are once again able to travel freely, we look forward to reintroducing both our Key Stage 3 trip to Berlin, where we visit local areas of cultural and educational interest, and our Language Study Trip for girls in Key Stages 4 and 5 in October Half Term, where we aim to combine language lessons with excursions to places of interest. Most recently, we went to Heidelberg.



HISTORY

In the Senior School, History is taught within a broadly chronological framework.

During the first three years all students study History for two periods a week. Lessons focus on deepening the students' knowledge of the past, as well as developing their skills in research, writing and debate. A wide variety of written and visual sources are used during lessons to bring the past to life and to develop skills in critical evaluation.

“We are learning about the Battle of Hastings which is really interesting. It decided the fate of England. Our teacher is really nice and lets us contribute our opinions!”

A Year 7 pupil

KEY STAGE 3

YEAR 7

The Norman Conquest and Life in the Middle Ages :

The Year 7 course begins with the question ‘What is History?’ and goes on to provide an overview of the years 1066 to 1485. There are detailed studies of the events of 1066, the development of castles and medieval village life.

Fieldwork:

Conwy and Rhuddlan castles (Spring Term).

YEAR 8

Looking in and looking out:

This course considers key moments in Tudor and Stuart Britain before finishing with a study of the Industrial Revolution. It also looks out at the wider world and involves a study of the development of the British Empire, with a specific focus on America, Africa and India.

Fieldwork:

Helmshore Mills Textile Museum (Spring Term).

YEAR 9

The Twentieth Century World:

This course begins with a study of the origins, influence and legacy of the transatlantic slave trade. The course then goes on to look at conflict in the twentieth century with a study of the First World War, the interwar years, Nazi Germany and the Second World War.

Fieldwork:

The International Slavery Museum, Liverpool (Autumn Term).



ICT & COMPUTER SCIENCE

KEY STAGE 3

The course taught from Years 7 to 9 includes elements from each of the three main strands:

Information Technology: girls acquire, or reinforce, the necessary basic IT skills using their device in the digital classroom (including word processing, spreadsheets, using the Internet and email).

Digital literacy: girls develop an understanding of the wider implications of the subject (including Internet Safety, Digital footprints, Data Protection and Copyright).

Computer Science: girls gain an insight into the fundamentals of Computer Science and computer coding (Scratch/Python).

Girls work towards their Bronze Inspiring Digital Enterprise Award (iDEA) and a growing number complete their Silver Award too!

FACILITIES & RESOURCES

Girls are encouraged to use their own devices, with Microsoft OneNote used for worksheets. Lessons take place within a whole-class suite of desktop computers which allows access to additional software. We also have sets of Raspberry Pi, micro:bit and MakeyMakey boards and a range of subject specific videos, interactive quizzes and activities are available via Moodle, which further enriches the pupils' learning experience.

“ICT is really fun and learning on devices also helps us get better at using them in other subjects.”

A Year 7 pupil

EXTRA-CURRICULAR

In addition to offering a range of other activities throughout the year including physical computing and Minecraft coding, we also enter a number of national competitions including: Bebras / TCS Oxford Computing Challenge run by the University of Oxford - girls are regularly placed within the top 5% nationally; Cyber First Girls Competition run by the National Cyber Security Centre (part of GCHQ) - our Year 8 team were placed in the top three schools in 2019 and were semi-finalists in 2020; Cyber Discovery programme run by the SANS Institute on behalf of GCHQ – girls are regularly invited to participate in the final stages.

KEY STAGE 4 & 5

GCSE Computer Science allows girls to develop an understanding of the main principles of how computers work and using computers for problem solving. Girls then apply their understanding to develop computer-based solutions to problems using algorithms and a high-level programming language (Python).

A Level Computer Science allows girls to study the foundational principles and practices of computation and computational thinking and their application in the design and development of computer systems. Girls develop a systematic approach to problem solving: Analysis, Design, Implementation, Testing and Evaluation through a range of programming exercises. Our primary programming language is Python, one of the most popular languages used in industry today.



MATHEMATICS

The Department for Education states:

'Mathematics is a creative and highly inter-connected discipline that has been developed over centuries, providing the solution to some of history's most intriguing problems. It is essential to everyday life, critical to science, technology and engineering, and necessary for financial literacy and most forms of employment. A high-quality mathematics education therefore provides a foundation for understanding the world, the ability to reason mathematically, an appreciation of the beauty and power of mathematics, and a sense of enjoyment and curiosity about the subject.'

At Withington we cover all aspects of the National Curriculum, however this is just the minimum of what we try to achieve. Each year our schemes extend and enrich the mathematical experience, creating students with exceptional mathematical skills and understanding. The programme of study focuses on developing mathematical fluency, reasoning and problem solving, and relates these skills to topics within number, algebra, ratio, proportion and rates of change, geometry and measure, probability and statistics.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

All girls enter the individual Junior, Intermediate and Senior UKMT Maths Challenges. We also participate in the UKMT Team Challenges. This year, our team of Year 7 and 8 girls won the regional UKMT competition, and the U18s were runners-up in theirs; both teams qualified for the National Finals in London!

Chess club meets weekly, giving younger players the opportunity to learn basic skills and those with more experience to improve their strategic play. Each day we run Maths Workshops, these are 'drop-in' sessions for individuals to seek help with any aspect of their work in Mathematics.

KEY STAGE 3

Year 7 topics:

Basic numeracy, basic algebra, standard form, angles, constructions, sequences, basic area and volume, equations, averages, statistical diagrams, circles, transformations, polygons and Pythagoras' theorem.

Year 8 topics:

Rounding and estimation, percentages, bearings, algebra manipulation, indices, equations, loci, congruency and similarity, straight line graphs, area and volume, probability, functions, plotting curves, compound measures, real-life graphs, factorising quadratics and cumulative frequency.

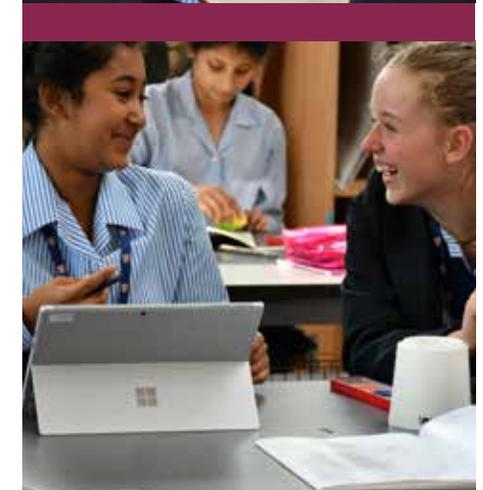
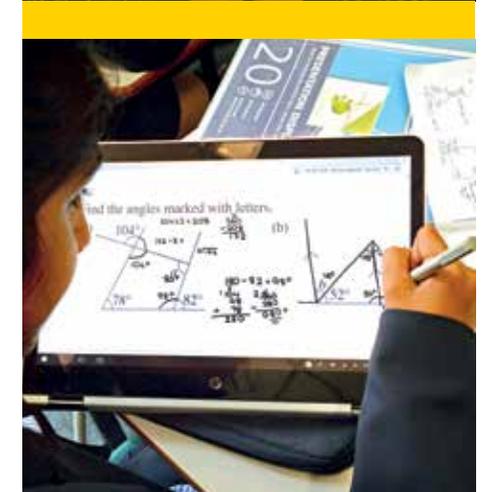
Year 9 topics:

Further algebraic manipulation, equations, percentages, Pythagoras' theorem, trigonometry, quadratic equations, measures of average and dispersion, formulae, degrees of accuracy, straight line graphs, simultaneous equations, transformations, inequalities, functions, proof, arithmetic sequences, completing the square.

KEY STAGE 4 & 5

At GCSE and A Level, students are taught all aspects of the programme of study set out by the Department for Education. Girls in Year 11 sit the Edexcel IGCSE (9-1) and over half the cohort also sit the AQA Certificate in Further Mathematics. In the Sixth Form approximately 60% of all pupils study A Level Mathematics, and one fifth of these also study A Level Further Mathematics; both of these courses are examined by Edexcel.

Senior Team Maths Challenge



MUSIC

The Year 7 course involves a study of a wide range of musical topics from the Elements of Music, Instruments of the Orchestra, Medieval Music to World Music. There are opportunities to perform individually and as a group throughout the year whilst pupils are also introduced to the use of GarageBand and Sibelius.

In Year 8 the emphasis is on Listening/Understanding and Composition. Over the year, the changes from Baroque to the present day are studied. Pupils continue to use the music computer program Sibelius and GarageBand.

In Year 9 girls are taught in half form groups. They develop their use of music technology through composition. The course involves listening, composition and performance.

INSTRUMENTAL LESSONS

Individual lessons on all standard orchestral and band instruments plus piano, guitar and percussion can be arranged with the experienced peripatetic music staff. These lessons are timetabled between 8.20am and 3.40pm with rotation of times across teaching periods. Thirty lessons are offered over the full year; details of music fees are given in a separate leaflet available from the Music Department.

KEY STAGE 3 MUSICAL ACTIVITIES

Year 7: Rhythmic Composition / Medieval Music

Year 8: Melody Writing / Baroque Raps

Year 9: Song Writing / Playing the Ukuleles

EXTRA-CURRICULAR

In 'normal times' there is a wealth of extra-curricular musical groups to join and where girls enjoy playing, learning and performing together. Sessions can be before school, at lunchtimes or after school.

Examples are: Middle School and Senior Choirs, Pop-up Choir, Chamber Choir, Brass Ensemble, String Ensemble, Chamber Ensemble, Folk Ensemble, Harp Ensemble, Percussion Ensemble, Clarinet Choir, Flute Choir, Stage Band, Garage Band, Middle and Senior Orchestra, String Group, Musical Theatre Group.

During these more unusual times the Music Department has been determined to keep Music 'alive' at Withington. Every 'Year Group Bubble' has the opportunity to participate in either a Voice Ensemble and / or Instrumental Ensemble.

Recordings/Filming will take place, tracks edited and mixed and 'Virtual Concerts' delivered – an exciting time to experience being a 'session musician'.

Examples: GCSE Composition; Summer Music Festival 2020; Junior Production of the musical *Olivia*; Recital Evening – Years 11 & 13; St Ann's Carol Service 2020; Senior Citizens' Christmas Tea Party; Senior Christmas Concert 2020 and the Junior Christmas Show 2020 *Scrooge*.

"I really like creating and performing our own pieces and then getting feedback, because it shows us where we need to improve."

A Year 7 pupil



PHYSICAL EDUCATION

FACILITIES

Physical Education is a vital element of our pupils' school experience and we are fortunate to have a new Sport and Fitness Centre, which provides indoor facilities including a large modern Sports Hall, a Gym/ Dance Studio, and a state-of-the-art fitness suite.

Emily Simon, the wife of one of our Founders, endowed our playing fields, which include an all-weather pitch and netball courts, both of which were resurfaced to the highest possible specification in 2019. These areas are floodlit to allow for matches and practices in the winter months. The pitch is marked for hockey in the winter and as eight tennis courts in the summer. There is also a large grassed area used mainly for lacrosse in the winter and for athletics and rounders in the summer.

These new and upgraded facilities provide something for everyone and we aim to inspire girls to enjoy lifelong participation in sport, reaping the benefit of the confidence, wellbeing, resilience and camaraderie that comes with it.

CURRICULUM

All Year 7, 8 and 9 pupils have two double periods of PE each week. There is netball, hockey, lacrosse and gymnastics in the winter and spring terms; and tennis, athletics and rounders in the summer.

Year 10 and 11 continue to have a PE lesson each week whether or not they are taking PE GCSE.

ELITE SPORT

Several girls train at the hockey Junior Regional Performance Centre and we have several players in the England Lacrosse Talent Pathway. In netball, our girls are represented in County squads, many are selected for Manchester Thunder and one student has been selected for the U17 England Academy. We also have girls who compete at national and county level in badminton, fencing, dressage and trampolining.

WITHINGTON GIRLS' SCHOOL

EXTRA-CURRICULAR

Team and recreational practices in hockey, lacrosse and netball take place at lunchtimes and after school. There are also many other sports clubs such as badminton, fitness, yoga or football.

This year, Withington's continued commitment to giving girls of all ability levels the opportunity to play, compete and enjoy team sports earned an award from the Greater Manchester Schools Games Programme whose competitions are designed to give pupils across the sporting proficiency range the opportunity to represent their schools and experience interschool competitions.

Alongside this, Withington's success in national and regional competitions in athletics, badminton, hockey, netball and lacrosse placed us in School Sport Magazine's 2019 list of the top 100 independent sports schools in the country. This puts WGS in the top 10% of all UK independent schools.

NATIONAL & REGIONAL SUCCESS

In netball, our U16 netball team reached the National Schools' finals and came third in the Country in 2019. In 2020, the U14s were National Finalists, U13A were Greater Manchester County Champions and in the South Manchester League, five of our six teams finished winners or runners up in a league of eight local schools. A superb record when you consider Withington has fewer pupils per cohort than most of our opposition schools.

At the Nationals, the U18 lacrosse team were placed in the top 16. At the North Schools Tournament the U12s were runners-up and U13s were third. In hockey, the U13 team reached the quarter final of the ISHC plate competition.

WHERE GIRLS SHINE



RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Religious Studies is taught throughout the Senior School. We aim to encourage an open-minded, respectful and tolerant approach to the subject and hope to inspire students to have a passion for learning about the faiths of others, as well as the wider world encountered through philosophy and ethics.

The approach to the material is academic, through investigation and analysis of the subject matter. One of the strengths of Withington is the comfortable and positive environment, which is achieved through the harmony which exists between those of all faiths and those of none. We study the major world religions, most of which are represented within the School community, and we value and welcome opportunities to learn from each other. The use of mobile devices is implemented into our lessons, as work is distributed on OneNote and students can use the collaborative area to share ideas.

Aspects of the courses studied will challenge students to reflect on their own ideas and opinions about the wider world around them, whilst considering and evaluating the ideas of others

“Learning about the different cultures and religions is great and the teacher takes on everyone’s ideas. It helps us to understand and learn about our friends and be closer to our form groups.”

A Year 7 pupil

KEY STAGE 3

Year 7 girls take an introductory course in the study of Religion, followed by discrete studies of Sikhism and Islam.

In Year 8 girls will study Christianity and Hinduism. This will be followed by a unit of work on Ultimate Questions: the topics encourage girls to think philosophically about questions concerning the meaning and purpose of life.

In Year 9 girls will explore Buddhism, before covering the basic principles of core ethical theories, and applying them to modern day dilemmas.

KEY STAGE 4 & 5

At GCSE, girls will build on their learning from Years 7-9 in their study of topical issues, considered from the perspective of different religions. These will include issues of war and peace, debates in medical ethics and crime and punishment. They will also explore the beliefs and practices of Christianity and Judaism.

Girls in the Sixth Form will study Philosophy, Ethics and Religion, through the OCR A Level Religious Studies. This will involve a study of key debates in philosophy and ethics, as well as an in depth study of Buddhism.



SCIENCE

KEY STAGE 3

From Year 7 to Year 9 inclusive, girls have one double period each of Physics, Chemistry and Biology taught in modern and well-equipped laboratories. A strong emphasis is placed on practical work so pupils gain an understanding of how Science works in a stimulating context.

In **Biology**, the Year 7 course takes the students through cell structure, including developing their microscopy skills, organ systems in living organisms, reproduction and ecosystems. In Year 8, the topics include digestion, drugs, photosynthesis, respiration and inheritance. We begin the AQA GCSE course in Year 9 and pupils study cells, transport, digestion and respiration.

The Key Stage 3 **Chemistry** course starts with the basics, including the use of the Bunsen burner; solids, liquids and gases; acids, alkalis and solubility. In Year 8, having investigated the properties of elements, compounds and mixtures, pupils deepen their understanding of reactions through salt formation and the reactivity of metals. They also develop increased awareness of environmental chemistry. The Year 9 pupils embark on the AQA GCSE course, learning about the periodic table and the relationship between atomic structure and chemical properties.

In **Physics**, Year 7 pupils study forces and energy and practise using graphs and equations for problem solving. Year 8 pupils study light, waves, sound and astronomy, carry out investigative work on shadows, take photographs using pinhole cameras, measure the speed of sound and compare musical instruments. We take an annual trip to Jodrell Bank to complement our astronomy course. Year 9 pupils study electricity, electromagnetism and microelectronics before starting the AQA GCSE Physics course specification.

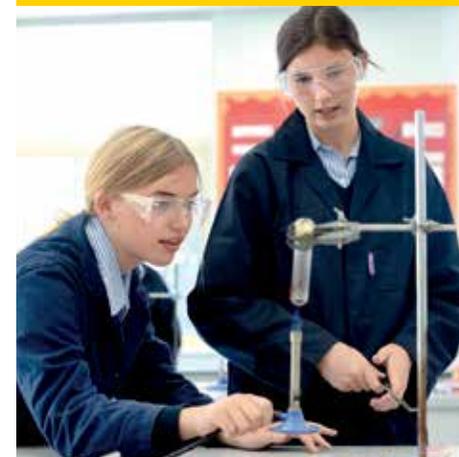
At the end of Year 9, pupils can choose between three separate sciences and a double award (Trilogy) course for the following two years. The GCSE is a linear course and all pupils take science examinations at the end of Year 11.

OTHER ACTIVITIES/CLUBS

Science Club gives pupils the opportunity to carry out fun experiments and take part in debates and quizzes. Girls of all ages are given the opportunity to enter national competitions and awards, and are encouraged to attend many of the lectures given by visiting speakers throughout the year.

“Science is such a fascinating subject as I have learnt so much of how everything works!”

A Year 7 pupil



SPANISH

FACILITIES

Girls are taught two modern languages from French, German and Spanish in Years 7 to 9 and continue with at least one of them to GCSE. The Viva series of books is used to introduce the pupils to the Spanish Language through both topics and grammar. Grammar is considered an integral part of teaching a language and it plays a central role. Wherever possible, Spanish is used in class to encourage the girls to develop their listening skills.

GCSE

Following completion of Year 9 the girls can opt for GCSE Spanish offered alongside the other Modern Foreign Languages. For the GCSE course, the topic work is taught through the Viva textbook. The different skills of Reading, Listening, Speaking or Writing needed to master a language are all practised during the four periods per week allocated to the GCSE. The grammar necessary is covered alongside these skills to ensure proficiency in Spanish. Once a week, classes are delivered in the newly equipped Language Laboratory where pupils get to use and refine their spoken Spanish.

All topics and grammar required for GCSE are taught by the end of February in Year 11, after which pupils go through the revision process in preparation for the GCSE exam.

TRIPS

In order to enhance learning in School, an Exchange is organised every year to Barcelona offering first-hand experience in both the language and the culture. In addition, day trips are organised in Manchester to HOME or Instituto Cervantes to see films or attend lectures conducted in Spanish.

“Our teacher makes the lessons fun at the same time as learning, which is always in steps and doesn’t seem overwhelming.”

A Year 7 pupil



EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

From Junior Football Club before school on Monday morning to PhilSoc after lessons on Friday; from the Dance Club to the Debating Society, there are more than 100 extra-curricular activities across a huge range of interests for pupils to choose from at Withington.

Lunchtimes every day of the week afford girls the opportunity to engage in netball, rounders, athletics, tennis, lacrosse, hockey and fitness training with further sessions scheduled after school. Clubs cater for passions as diverse as science, classics, chess, art, debating, engineering and film making.

At Withington we aim to help our girls develop into fully-rounded young adults. As such, we do not simply focus on girls' academic development but also place great importance on providing extra-curricular opportunities.

HOUSES

All girls join one of the four school Houses as soon as they arrive in School - then Inter-House competition begins!

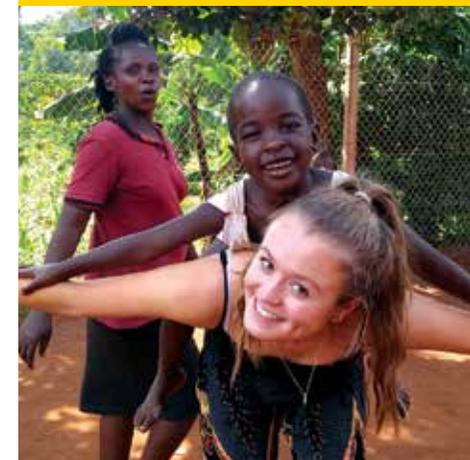
The Winter Shield is awarded on the results of winter games sports matches. The House Play, House Quiz and House Carol competitions give opportunities for girls to compete and the Sports Day, Swimming Gala, Music Festival and Festival of Spoken English and Drama are all competed for on a House basis.

CHARITY FUNDRAISING

Last year over £34,000 was raised for a range of charities. One of the main fundraising events is a spectacular Dance Competition organised every two years entirely by the girls. All girls are involved in Charity Fundraising with their Form or Year Group. Practical involvement in helping to meet the needs of others is an important part of life at Withington.

“WGS is bursting with varied opportunities such as art, music and sports clubs and it is very inclusive and a great way to make new friends!”

A Year 7 pupil



EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

SCHOOL TRIPS

The number and variety of trips is ever-increasing. Most departments organise trips to lectures, theatres, galleries, etc. and fieldwork is now an integral part of several GCSE and A Level courses.

Recently there have been ski trips, classics, history and language trips; choir and sports tours and expeditions for older girls to The Gambia, Kenya and Uganda.

DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD

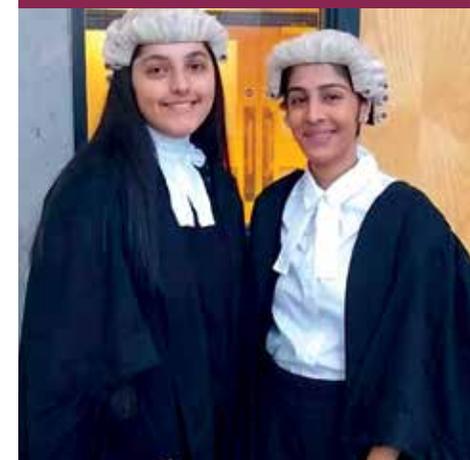
Girls can participate in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, which fosters independence and self-reliance, from the age of 13. The majority of Year 9 pupils choose to be involved at Bronze level, and they are trained in school for the Expedition section, while covering the other sections of Service, Physical Recreation and Skill in their home areas, as well as in school clubs. Continuation to the Silver in Year 10 and Gold Award in the Sixth Form is very popular.

SIXTH FORM VOLUNTARY WORK

Many members of the Sixth Form volunteer to help in either a local nursery, primary school, special school, home for the elderly, hospice or hospital in their free time. We are very proud of this involvement in the community of Withington, where benefit is both given and received by those involved.

“Being in WGS has felt like the best few weeks of my life! I've made so many new friends and settled very quickly into the WGS life. I love all the extra-curricular activities. The clubs here are amazing. They range from netball to lacrosse, hockey to chess, coding to music theory and many, many more. The opportunities that Withington offer are amazing!”

A Year 7 pupil



EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

The timetable below gives an overview of the typical extra-curricular activities on offer in each year. Girls are given a detailed timetable

indicating which clubs are available to them and are encouraged to get involved in at least one activity; most girls take part in many more.

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
BEFORE SCHOOL	Clarinet Choir	Flute Choir (Grades 1-4)	Flute Choir (Grades 5 - 8) Percussion Ensemble	Saxophone Ensemble Y7 - 9 Musical Theatre Group	Y7 - 9 Middle School Strings
1 ST LUNCH 12.05-12.35	Y7 Lacrosse Y9 - 10 Hockey Y11 - 13 Netball ABRSM Aural Class Harp Ensemble Chemistry Workshop	Y7 - 9 Fitness Y9 - 10 Netball Y11 - 13 Hockey SciSoc Lunch and Learn Advanced Gymnastics	Staff Fitness Y7 - 13 Yoga Y7 Hockey Y7 - 9 Debating Y7 - 13 Badminton Y10 - 13 Lacrosse Y11 - 12 Gambia	Y7 Netball Y8 Hockey Y10 - 11 Fitness	Y8 Netball Y12 - 13 Fitness Y7 - 9 Drama Club
2 ND LUNCH 12.35-1.05	Y7 Art Club Y7 Reading and Writing Club Y10 - 11 Reading Club Grade 5 Theory Y7 - 13 Chess Club Maths Workshops Pets Club Junior Arts Award (to Form I) Pop-up Choir Brass Ensemble Y10 - 11 Lego League	Intermediate Gymnastics Y7 - 11 Zumba Y8 - 9 Art Club Y10 - 11 German Conversation Club Y12 Overseas Trip Regular Meeting Y7 - 13 Scrawl 3D Modelling Y7 - 13 Stage Band Y7 - 13 Jigsaw Club HistSoc / PolSc Games Club Maths Workshops Pets Club	Y7 - 8 Classics Club Y7 - 9 German Culture Club Y8 - 9 Lacrosse Y10 - 13 Volleyball Y7 - 13 Percussion Group Y7 - 13 Folk Ensemble UKMT team training Maths Workshop Pets Club Y7 - 13 Eco Society	Y7 Recreational Netball Y7 - 9 Middle School Orchestra Y10 - 13 MUN Y7 - 10 Musical Theatre Group Y7 - 13 Revive Maths Workshop Pets Club Y7 - 13 Knit, Knot & Natter Sixth Form Fitness	Y7 - 8 Scientific Society Y7 - 9 Middle School Choir Y7 - 13 Football Exam Class Choir / Chamber Choir FemSoc Maths Workshop Pets Club
AFTER SCHOOL	Y7 - 13 Table Tennis (5 - 6pm) Y8 - 9 Lacrosse Y10 - 13 Hockey Y10 - 13 Senior Choir Y7 - 13 Tech Club Arts Award Bronze	Senior Orchestra Y7 Hockey Y8 - 9 Netball Y10 - 13 Netball Y10 - 13 Senior Debating Staff / Y12-13 Zumba Arts Award Silver	Y7 Lacrosse Y8 - 9 Hockey Y10 - 11 Greek Maths Workshop Y10 - 13 Debating Staff, Y11 - 13 Yoga	Y7 Netball Y10 - 13 Lacrosse Senior Orchestra (Autumn term only) Y12 Young Enterprise Mock Trial	PhilSoc Senior Dance Club



In 2020 - 2021, most of these activities are still running, but have been modified to take place in year group bubbles or remotely.