

# Tolworth Sixth Form

*Committed to Excellence*



prospectus



## Welcome to Tolworth Sixth Form

*Tolworth Sixth Form has an outstanding record of academic success in both Advanced level and Vocational examinations. Our success is based on an exceptional level of personal support, academic challenge, guidance and commitment to each student. Our specialist team of tutors, teachers and welfare support staff are extremely committed and work hard to ensure each and every student achieves his or her full potential. This has become increasingly important as the Government's policy of 'Raising the Participation Age' requires everyone under the age of 18 to be engaged in education or training.*

*Each of our senior students is set individually tailored minimum and aspirational target grades for each of his/her subjects in his/ her programme of study. Progress towards these targets will be carefully tracked and monitored on a regular basis with support and interventions being put in place where necessary. These targets are based on what is statistically possible for students to achieve based on their GCSE results, plus the value-added additional extra achievement we know they can achieve here at Tolworth.*

*Tolworth Sixth Form has its own dedicated 6th form centre, a building offering students first rate facilities for quiet and social studying. We are not only proud of our academic achievements but also of the sense of community at Tolworth.*

*Students enjoy learning here and appreciate the positive relationships they experience with fellow students and staff.*

*We hope you will find that the information in this booklet answers any queries you may have about Tolworth Sixth Form.*

**Owen Rhead** Director of Sixth Form





## Application Process

Students who wish to apply for a place at Tolworth Sixth Form should complete the initial application form found on our website by the end of the second week in January. All applicants will be interviewed in the spring term of Year 11 to discuss their chosen programmes of study and any future plans.

**Should you wish to discuss anything in more detail please do not hesitate to contact our Admissions Officer for Tolworth Sixth Form on 0208 739 1374.**

## Bridging the Gap

All prospective students are required to attend a number of taster lessons in July. During this time students will be able to meet fellow students and teachers and develop their subject specific skills and knowledge required for a successful start to year 12.

## Tolworth Community

One of the greatest strengths of Tolworth Sixth Form is our sense of community. We are delighted that the majority of TGS students choose to stay with us for their post 16 studies and are rightly proud that we attract so many new students into our sixth form. We do all we can to ensure that everyone settles into the Sixth Form as quickly as possible. Teambuilding and social activities are organised throughout the academic year to help foster a sense of community. Sixth Form students readily take on positions of significant responsibility within school. At the end

of year 12 students can apply to become School Officials; opportunities include becoming Head Boy, Head Girl, Chair of the Charity Committee and Public Relations Officer to name but a few. Students also have the opportunity of developing their skills and experiences further by working with younger members of the school community. This might include organising sports activities, supporting lower school lessons or working as peer mentors.

## Enrichment

An essential part of life at Tolworth Sixth Form is giving students the opportunity to take part in an enrichment programme where they develop an individual profile of skills and experiences that will form part of their application for University, College or a future career.

The Enrichment programme is revised every year. A typical range of courses may include: First Aid, CSLA, Young Enterprise, Film Society, Salsa Dancing, Fitness, Sport and many others.

## Sporting Opportunities

Tolworth Sixth Form offers many opportunities for students to enjoy sport; either in representative teams or simply for recreation and fitness. We have popular and well-established girls, boys and mixed teams which represent the Sixth Form at Football, Rugby and Basketball.

Students are also entitled to a discounted rate that allows access to the extensive gym and leisure facilities at Tolworth Recreation Centre.





## Future Directions

Throughout their time at Tolworth Sixth Form students receive expert guidance and assistance to help them make the right decisions to achieve their academic and career goals. Students complete a detailed tutorial programme which outlines the options available to them. The school works in collaboration with a number of Universities, Colleges and Employers to give students the best possible start to life after studying at Tolworth Sixth Form. All students receive excellent, individual support in their applications to Higher Education or work.

The personal nature of the support enables students to successfully apply to a variety of universities (including increasing numbers to top universities including Russell Group and Oxbridge). Students feel confident and well prepared when applying to some of the most competitive courses including Medicine, Law, English and History. We have highly skilled staff with huge experience of the university applications process. The vast majority of students receive the maximum 5 'offers' from their chosen universities and most are accepted on to their 'first choice' of university course. The remainder successfully enter employment in a wide range of careers.

In the Sixth Form careers advice is provided by our careers advisor, who provides the best and most up to date advice available. Students will receive advice on university and course choices as well as possible career and job opportunities available either at the end of Year 12 or Year 13. Students will be invited for interview but can request an appointment at any time in Years 12 and 13.

## Tutorial Programme

The tutorial programme in the 6th Form focuses on the transition to Advanced level study and on preparation for Higher Education and employment. The main elements of the tutorial programme are:

- Study skills and self-management skills (reading, thinking, note-making, time-management, revision, stress-management and action-planning).
- Careers, preparation for employment and Higher Education (the costs and benefits of the different options post-18, career planning and advice, individual careers interviews on request and preparation for UCAS applications).

## Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme

Each Year a number of Sixth Formers work towards the award which involves a wide range of activities including expeditions, acquisition of new skills, physical recreation and residential trips. Employers and Universities particularly value applications from students with a Duke of Edinburgh Award.





## Young Enterprise

The Young Enterprise scheme provides students with the opportunity to set up their own business and gain an insight into how a successful business operates. Young Enterprise is open to all interested students in Year 12 who work in teams with friends, sharing out the roles of the company between them.

## Work Experience

Although the vast majority of Sixth Formers at Tolworth go on to university it is important for students to gain insight into the world of work and develop the skills needed for future employment. A week of work experience is compulsory for all Year 12 students following end of year examinations. Students are expected to arrange their own placements with the help and support from the 6th Form team and careers advisor.

## The Curriculum

As a comprehensive sixth form we welcome students with a wide range of attainment at GCSE and Level 2. We offer a broad range of academic and vocational courses at different levels to suit all of our students. We take seriously our responsibility to enrol students on to courses which will allow them to achieve and succeed to their potential and set the following entry requirements accordingly.

## Level 2 Courses

A level 2 GCSE and equivalent pathway is available for a limited number of students that have yet to attain 5 grades 9-4 or equivalent.

Students that have yet to pass GCSE English and Maths at grade 4 will be required to attend a GCSE resit class until this grade has been achieved.

## Level 3 Courses

To study for 3 Level 3 qualifications in Year 12, students should achieve a minimum of 5 GCSE passes at grades 9-4 or equivalent. In addition to this, individual subjects may have specific requirements. For example, to take Maths A Level you need at least a grade 6 in Maths GCSE. Please refer to the subject entries in the course booklet for these.

## Level 3 BTEC

Students should achieve a minimum 5 A\*- C GCSE passes or equivalents. Students completing a Level 3 programme of study should choose a minimum of 3 subjects. Most universities would expect 3 subjects to be completed at A Level with an additional AS.

## BTEC qualifications

Along with most schools and colleges, we offer a range of BTEC qualifications at level 3. The BTECs are well established and highly respected qualifications that not only attract UCAS points for University entrance but act as a springboard into employment. They offer a practical educational approach by applying learning to real-life situations. Students have to sit examinations and undertake a number of units for which they present evidence, based on actual work and studies. This allows them to demonstrate their skill and knowledge. BTECs provide a practical, real-world approach to learning without sacrificing any of the essential subject theory. They can be taken alongside A Levels. BTECs encourage learners to manage their time and be more independent, preparing them for the demands of University education as well as the workplace.







## The Extended Project Qualification Level 3

The EPQ involves a research project culminating in a 6000 word dissertation and presentation on any area of particular interest. This is the equivalent of an A/S qualification and is awarded a grade from A\*-E.

A number of students take on this project, developing their independent learning skills and expertise in a specific topic beyond the A level curriculum.

EPQ is highly regarded by Universities and is a valuable addition to a student's university application.

## Supervised Study

All Sixth form students are required to attend a number of regular periods of quiet supervised study each week. These sessions are timetabled and play a vital role in helping Tolworth Sixth Formers to keep up to date with their workload and prepare for examinations in a calm and structured environment.

## Challenge and Development

Each year we encourage our students to aim high and we are proud of the many students who go on to university, further education or into a career. Here at Tolworth students learn to develop academic skills in preparation for a successful life after sixth form.

We are ambitious for every student and our teachers help them to develop the skills and independence they will need to thrive once they leave us. We work hard to prepare them for the needs of an ever-changing world of work. Our excellent A Level results speak for themselves and students who plan to apply for the top universities are encouraged and challenged to develop their goals with confidence.

## Social Life

*Life as a sixth former is not just about studying; we offer many opportunities for the students to socialise and have fun: Students enjoy the Sixth Form Fresher's and Christmas parties, BBQs, regular UK and international trips. Sports Day and the 6th Form Prom are always a great way to end the year.*





At Tolworth Sixth Form we offer a range of vocational and traditional academic courses backed by strong academic monitoring and pastoral support.

If you feel you would thrive in a busy stimulating and lively atmosphere, secure in the knowledge that a solid framework of support allows you a good deal of independence, then contact Tolworth Girls' School & Sixth Form for more information.

**Tel: 020 8397 3854**

**email: [info@tolworthgirlsschool.co.uk](mailto:info@tolworthgirlsschool.co.uk)**

# Tolworth Sixth Form

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