



IN GAUDIO SERVIAMUS

THE LAURELS
SCHOOL

Prospectus

LOVE TRUST RESPECT
EXPLORE CHARACTER
DEVELOPMENT
TUTORIAL FORTITUDE
PRUDENCE JUSTICE
SELF-CONTROL
ELOQUENCE EDUCATE
DISCOVERY INDIVIDUAL
WIDER CURRICULUM
PERSONAL FULFILLED
ACADEMIC PATIENCE
KINDNESS INSPIRED
TEACHING INTEGRITY
ETHOS CATHOLIC
GROWTH PARENTS
HONESTY ADVENTURE
IN GAUDIO SERVIAMUS



Linda Sanders has over 25 years' experience in education. Prior to her appointment as Headmistress at The Laurels, she was Deputy Head of a prestigious independent girls' school in Spain for 11 years. Linda has also helped establish a highly successful independent school for girls in Lima, Peru. She is an executive member of the Association for Character Education and is a passionate advocate of education of the whole person which leads to personal fulfilment.

QUALIFICATIONS ARE IMPORTANT BUT EDUCATION IS SO MUCH MORE THAN THAT. THE MISSION OF OUR SCHOOLS IS TO NURTURE AND DEVELOP THE INDIVIDUAL CHILD, WITH THE ULTIMATE AIM THAT OUR PUPILS GROW UP TO LIVE TRULY FULFILLED AND HAPPY LIVES. WE OFFER A SERVICE TO PARENTS SO THAT THEIR CHILDREN BECOME YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN OF VIRTUE. EXPERIENCE SHOWS THAT GOOD CHARACTER AND MORAL INTEGRITY HAVE A POSITIVE IMPACT ON ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE AND SO CHARACTER EDUCATION UNDERPINS OUR RIGOROUS ACADEMIC PROGRAMME.

Welcome

Welcome to The Laurels School, an independent school in the heart of London for girls aged 11 to 18.

At The Laurels we are committed to excellence, not for its own sake, but because we wish our pupils to fulfil their potential through the cultivation of moral, intellectual and social virtues.

Based on Catholic principles, a Laurels education is exceptional because it prepares young women not merely to make a living but to live a deep, rich and satisfying life.

A unique tutorial system, a stimulating curriculum and a relationship with parents based on mutual respect and trust means that our pupils can achieve their highest goals: to become the best possible person they can.

If you would like to know more about a Laurels education for your daughter please get in touch. We would be delighted to meet you and tell you more about this exciting educational opportunity.

Linda Sanders
Headmistress



Introduction

THE LAURELS SCHOOL IS SET IN BEAUTIFUL GROUNDS IN THE LEAFY RESIDENTIAL AREA OF CLAPHAM PARK



The school building was built in the mid 1800's as part of Thomas Cubitt's Clapham Park estate. The school is set in beautiful, spacious grounds. The Laurels is easily accessible via public transport, with excellent links to a choice of rail and underground services. A shuttle service to Clapham Junction is offered to Year 7 pupils.

In Gaudio Serviamus



THE LAURELS
SCHOOL

Our motto, *In Gaudio Serviamus* – translates as – may we serve joyfully. We are here at the service of others: the Church, our school, our families, friends and our wider society. We wish to serve everyone cheerfully. Our school shield is a laurel wreath within a circle of twelve stars. The laurel wreath is symbolic of victory. In Greek mythology, Apollo is represented wearing a laurel wreath and in ancient Greece wreaths were

awarded to victors both in athletic competitions, including the ancient Olympics, and in poetic meets. In Rome they were symbols of martial victory, crowning a successful commander during his triumph. The stars symbolise The Blessed Virgin Mary in the Book of Revelation (12:1). "And a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars."



Academic Life

THE CURRICULUM IS BROAD, BALANCED AND ACADEMICALLY RIGOROUS

The emphasis is on learning to think and cultivating a spirit of intellectual adventure through exposure to 'the best that has been thought and said.' The Liberal Arts approach is designed to enable pupils to join with the great minds of history, rising above their current situation and culture in order to appreciate what is deepest in our human condition: the meaning of love, commitment, sacrifice and generous service to others.

A Laurels education teaches a respect for the proper and responsible use of words, a sincere spirit of enquiry and the recognition and appreciation of the Good, the True, and the Beautiful. The benefits of such an approach – a broad understanding of reality, clarity in thought, excellence in writing, and effective speaking skills – are of great benefit in higher education and crucially to all professions.

A VISION OF THE WORLD

The curriculum is rooted in a perspective that sees the abundant goodness of the world, as a fundamental governing principle; a perspective that sees the nobility and heroism of individuals in struggles throughout history.

This truth naturally leads us to reflect upon all the human riches of our past and the world of today as ways to discover God in the ordinary things, to know and 'serve Him in and from the ordinary, secular, and civil activities of human life.' Girls at The Laurels are taught to refrain from narrowly embracing one ideology, political agenda, philosophical school or approach to the rich drama of human history and thought.

**“HEAVEN AND EARTH SEEM TO MERGE ON THE HORIZON. BUT WHERE THEY REALLY MEET IS IN YOUR HEARTS, WHEN YOU SANCTIFY YOUR EVERYDAY LIVES.”
ST JOSEMARÍA ESCRIVÁ**



Personal Development

THE AIM OF THE LAURELS IS TO DEVELOP THE WHOLE CHILD

The Laurels offers pupils a unique Character Development Programme, grounded in Catholic principles, which permeates all aspects of school life. Pupils are supported in order to achieve their full potential through the Tutorial System in a climate that balances freedom with responsibility. Parents are closely involved with and supported in their daughter's academic and personal development.



Character Education

QUALIFICATIONS ARE IMPORTANT BUT EDUCATION IS SO MUCH MORE THAN THAT

Character education underpins the rigorous academic programme and quest of our school to nurture and develop the individual child. Our aim is that our pupils live truly fulfilled and happy lives. We offer a service to parents so that their daughters become young women of virtue and integrity.

Our Character Development Programme is based on the virtues of Faith, Hope and Love and on the four traditional pillars of Christian character:

- Justice** Respecting the rights and needs of others
- Fortitude** Personal resilience and adaptability
- Prudence** Sound judgement
- Self-Control** Temperance



The Arete Programme

THIS PROGRAMME UNDERPINS THE ENTIRE CURRICULUM AT THE LAURELS



The Arete Programme is not just another set of lessons but rather a way of learning, studying and thinking. It aims to help pupils achieve *eudaimonia* through *arete* – happiness through excellence. The Arete Programme has a personal and a civic aspect helping pupils' personal flourishing and social relationships. The programme will help pupils bring different parts of their learning and life together to help them be the best they can be. The Arete Programme is delivered through school life and through the following branches:

The Academic Branch Acquiring good habits of mind and the ability to think well

The Character Education Branch Nurturing the gift of self through the study and practice of the virtues

The Philosophy Branch Learning to take part in philosophical enquiries and apply philosophical thinking to all aspects of life

The Enrichment Branch

A programme of visiting speakers, off-site visits and the opportunity to join the Duke of Edinburgh's Award programme

Tutorial System

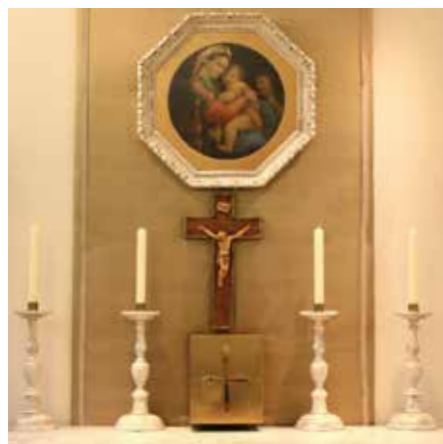
THE PERSONALISED TUTORIAL SYSTEM IS THE MOST DISTINCTIVE FEATURE OF THE LAURELS

The goal of the Tutorial System is to help each pupil, through fortnightly one-to-one meetings, reach her full potential in every area of her life. Tutors stay in close contact with parents throughout the year.

The focus is on leading each pupil to think for herself and to work on acquiring the balanced strengths that she will need in adult life. Through her rapport and friendship with the pupil, the tutor provides an effective service of personal example, guidance and advice.



Catholic Ethos



THE CATHOLIC ETHOS IS AT THE HEART OF THE LAURELS AND INFLUENCES EVERY ASPECT OF THE SCHOOL

Religious education is in accordance with the teaching of the Catholic Church. While we welcome girls of all faiths, we seek to cultivate in pupils a profound sense of being a child of God and an awareness of the personal call to holiness that God has addressed to them.

The chaplain is a priest of Opus Dei, a personal prelature within the Catholic Church. Mass is celebrated regularly in the school Oratory and the Sacrament of Reconciliation and spiritual guidance are available. The timetable is designed to allow pupils to attend Mass, if they so wish.

Partnership with Parents

THE LAURELS SCHOOL WORKS CLOSELY WITH PARENTS TO HELP EACH GIRL ACHIEVE HER FULL POTENTIAL IN A CLIMATE OF TRUST, OPENNESS AND RESPECT

Parents are the first and most important educators of their children but the influence of school is also crucial. At The Laurels we regard each girl's development as a joint project between her parents and us; we know that, by working together, our whole contribution will exceed the sum of its parts. We keep in close contact with parents throughout a girl's education and run a large number of events

designed to make our partnership more effective, including regular meetings with personal tutors as well as talks and courses covering aspects of parenting. All parents are members of The Friends of The Laurels which organises social events throughout the school to help parents to forge new friendships and engender a 'family spirit' within the wider Laurels community.



Sport

THE LAURELS PLACES A HIGH VALUE ON SPORT. THE MAJOR TEAM SPORTS ARE NETBALL, FOOTBALL AND HOCKEY. WE ENCOURAGE GIRLS TO FIND A SPORT THAT THEY ENJOY

Physical Education is an integral part of life at The Laurels School. We are driven by the Sport for All ethos and offer opportunities for every pupil to find an activity that inspires her to achieve her potential, at whatever level that may be. We encourage pupils to develop a lifelong passion for sport and physical activity. Coaching is provided by our Head of Sport and PE staff along with external specialist sports coaches.



We have access to local amenities to deliver an active and varied sports programme. Our curriculum offers Athletics, Badminton, Basketball, Cross Country Running, Dance, Fitness, Gymnastics, Hockey, Netball, Rounders, Swimming, Tennis, Trampoline and Volleyball. We have a busy co-curricular and competitive programme with fixtures and competitions throughout the year. Our teams have already been crowned local champions.





Wider Curriculum

OUR RICH AND VARIED WIDER CURRICULUM ACTIVITIES OFFER PUPILS MANY WAYS TO NURTURE THEIR PASSIONS AND TALENTS AND TO DEVELOP THEIR SPIRIT OF SERVICE, LEADERSHIP AND TEAM BUILDING SKILLS

MUSIC & DRAMA

Complementing our Music and Drama curriculum, many pupils also learn a musical instrument at school. We provide tuition for Clarinet, Flute, Piano, Saxophone, Violin and Voice to name just a few. Concerts and performances take place regularly and our School Production, Christmas Concert, Spring Music Festival and Summer Showcase are always popular and a huge success.



CLUBS & SOCIETIES

There is a wide range of clubs and societies available such as: Debating, Dance, Drama, Duke of Edinburgh's Award, Football, French, Gardening, Journalism, LAMDA, Music and Singing, Netball, Public Speaking, School Production and Science Technology, Engineering & Maths. Supervised Study is available for pupils each day.

DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD

We offer the Duke of Edinburgh's Award at The Laurels School. There are three levels of programme which when successfully completed lead to a Bronze, Silver or Gold Award.

SPIRIT OF SERVICE

An essential part of life at the Laurels is developing an awareness of the needs of others through our outreach and volunteering activities.

SPEAKERS, VISITS & TRIPS

We regularly invite eminent speakers and experts from the arts, sciences and public life to enhance pupils' experience of life outside school. We organise a range of trips to theatres, art galleries and museums which are designed to support the academic curriculum. There are opportunities to travel further afield, and abroad, through cultural exchanges and activity trips.

PACT Educational Trust



THE LAURELS SCHOOL

THE LAURELS SCHOOL IS ONE OF FOUR SCHOOLS FOUNDED BY PACT EDUCATIONAL TRUST. ALL FOUR SCHOOLS ARE UNDERPINNED BY A CATHOLIC ETHOS AND A UNIQUE CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME THAT PERMEATES ALL ASPECTS OF SCHOOL LIFE

PACT Educational Trust was founded in 1993 by a group of Catholic parents and educators to establish schools and other means of supporting families whose deepest desire is that their children grow into men and women of integrity committed to living their whole lives by Christian principles; men and women who, among the exhilarating, and challenging opportunities that the future presents, are resolved to be the exemplary citizens and inspirational leaders that our society needs.

The Trustees and founders believe that parents should be at the heart of the education of their children and that it is the role of schools to be of service to the family in trying to achieve this goal.

PACT has, to date, founded four independent schools. In 1996 it set up Oakwood School in Purley, Surrey and in 2004 Oliver House School in Clapham, South London. In September 2013 PACT launched two secondary schools, The Cedars for boys and The Laurels for girls, in Croydon and Clapham respectively.

PACT is governed by a Board of Trustees, all of whom give their services without any financial reward.

The PACT Board is the governing body of Oakwood, Oliver House, The Cedars and The Laurels. They meet regularly to discuss all aspects of school life, and the meetings are also attended by the CEO of the charity and the Headteachers of each school.



Charter of Educational Principles

1 PACT recognises that since parents are the first and the most important educators of their children, they have the right to choose the type of education they want for their own children, in accordance with their philosophical, cultural, moral and religious convictions (ref. Article 26 of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights).

2 PACT exists to encourage, integrate and coordinate the involvement of parents, teachers and pupils in the setting up and development of schools which aim to provide each pupil with a full and balanced education in intellectual, cultural and spiritual matters.

3 The main objective of each PACT school is the all-round education of its pupils. A personalised Tutorial System will ensure that each pupil develops his or her talents to the full and acquires a sense of individual and social responsibility.

4 Academic education should aim at excellence across the whole range of intellectual disciplines. The acquisition of knowledge and the ability to reason should be fostered in formal class teaching as well as in small groups and through individual attention. Science and arts subjects should not be seen as independent from each other, but should be presented as parts of a whole, structured according to real life. Each educational discipline should stimulate pupils to discover not just individual truths, but also the greater truth which exists in all things.

5 Character formation should be based on the exercise of freedom with the consequent responsibilities and should have the following main objectives:

- to encourage the fullest development of virtues such as sincerity, hard work, perseverance, self-discipline, fortitude, temperance and cheerfulness
- to develop emotional responsibility in order to establish mature relationships
- to demonstrate, through the example of those in authority, that the exercise of power carries with it obligations of service and, therefore, deserves cooperation and respect
- to teach that work well done is a principal means of personal and social improvement.

6 Spiritual training should not seek to impose doctrine, but should always respect sincerely held beliefs; it should therefore be able to be shared by all those who, irrespective of creed, recognise the spiritual dimension of man. For Christians, spiritual training should have the following main objectives:

- to develop a profound sense of one's condition as a child of God
- to be conscious that all Christians have received a personal call to sanctity and to enable them to realise the fullness of their faith in their own lives and every-day work
- to teach that charity is the most important Christian virtue and that it is in our dealings with others that opportunities arise to provide human, professional and apostolic service. Religious training should correspond faithfully to that of the Catholic Church.

7 PACT schools should seek to share their resources with the greatest number of people. Each PACT school should become a social and educational centre for the community which it serves, through Family Enrichment Programmes and other social and civic initiatives.

8 The participation of parents, teachers and pupils in PACT schools should lead them:

- to share the educational objectives of the school and to take on associated responsibilities
- to accept, respect and defend other people's freedom
- to uphold family values and the integrity of marriage

9 In PACT schools, there should be no discrimination on social, cultural or financial grounds. On the contrary, any differences should be seen as a means of mutual enrichment.

DESIGN | LOUISE PHILLIPS | 2016
PHOTOGRAPHY | SIMON JARRATT | IMAGEXPERIENCE™
PRINT | IMPRESS PRINT SERVICES LTD

Patrons



LORD AND LADY NICHOLAS WINDSOR ARE THE PATRONS OF PACT EDUCATIONAL TRUST

Our patrons have supported the work of the trust for several years and are delighted by the success of the schools. Lord and Lady Nicholas hosted The Circus Ball at Kensington Palace in 2015 to launch the BroadOak Bursary Fund. Its purpose is to offer our system of personalised, character-based education to as many families as possible.

Four Schools. One Mission.



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