



**THE CEDARS**  
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



## Welcome

Welcome to The Cedars School! Founded in 2013, we are still a relatively new school but our rapidly growing popularity has recently necessitated a move to larger premises where we have been able to expand the size of our intake.

Our aim is to work closely with parents to help each boy to become the best young man he can be. We combine a rigorous academic programme with a tutorial system which allows for an individualised approach to the intellectual and personal development of all our students. Our rich co-curricular offering ensures that boys receive a rounded education which broadens their horizons and helps them to discover their passions and strengths.

At the heart of the school is the idea of personal growth within a framework of Catholic principles: helping each boy to acquire the moral, intellectual and social virtues that are so important for a happy and fulfilled life.

The best way to understand the school is to come and see it for yourself, so if you would like to discuss a Cedars education for your son, please get in touch and I will be delighted to meet you and to show you around.

**Dominic Rose**  
Headmaster





## Our new home in SE19

**IN SEPTEMBER 2021, THE SCHOOL MOVED FROM LLOYD PARK, CROYDON, TO NEW, LARGER PREMISES IN THE CRYSTAL PALACE AREA.**

The new school site combines Victorian Gothic splendour with modern facilities. The large main building, which dates from the mid-19th century, has been completely remodelled inside to provide light, airy teaching spaces and attractive communal areas. Separately, a dedicated Science & Technology block contains well-equipped laboratories and a design and technology suite.

The school has very good sports facilities comprising of an extensive number of football and rugby pitches, plus a large sports hall and fitness suite. Our main site is also supplemented by Dulwich Sports Ground for fixtures and after school training as well as Crystal Palace National Sports Centre during curriculum time.







## Developing the mind

**THE CEDARS IS AN UNASHAMEDLY ACADEMIC SCHOOL, NOT BY VIRTUE OF SELECTION, BUT BECAUSE OF ITS AMBITIOUS AND RIGOROUS PROVISION WHICH PROMOTES STRETCH AND CHALLENGE FOR ALL OF ITS STUDENTS.**

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'. Our Eudaimonia programme is designed to enable pupils to rise above their current circumstances to meet with the great minds of history, and thereby to appreciate what is most important in our humanity: the meaning of love, commitment, sacrifice and generous service

of others. A Cedars education teaches 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. Such an approach benefits students by developing clarity of thought and expression in writing and speaking.

## Eudaimonia

For the ancient Greeks, eudaimonia (εὐδαιμονία), was the highest good and ultimate purpose of human activity. At The Cedars, this is the name we give to our approach to the academic curriculum which emphasises the big ideas which can easily be lost amid the minutiae of

exam specifications. It also brings out the connections between different academic disciplines, and seeks to develop fluency of thought. It is not just another set of lessons but rather a way of learning, studying and thinking.





# Developing character

**A CEDARS EDUCATION  
AIMS TO LEAD EACH  
BOY TO BECOME A  
GREAT YOUNG MAN  
THROUGH HELPING HIM  
TO DEVELOP HIS FULL  
POWERS OF MIND AND  
CHARACTER.**

Our personalised approach allows us to provide opportunities for leadership and service that play to an individual's strengths, while taking him out of his comfort zone.

## TUTORIAL SYSTEM

Our tutorial system is the most distinctive aspect of The Cedars and is almost unique among UK day schools. Every boy in the school is allocated a tutor with whom he meets regularly on a one-to-one basis. The goal of the tutorial system is to help each student to reach his full potential in every area of his life. The focus is on leading boys to acquire the balanced strengths

that they will need in adulthood by providing a powerful service of personal example, guidance and advice. Tutors stay in close contact with parents.

## PARTNERSHIP WITH PARENTS

Parents are the first and most important educators of their children, but the influence of school is crucial.

At The Cedars, we regard each boy's development as a joint project between his parents and the school. We know that by working together our collaborative contribution will exceed the sum of its parts. We endeavour to promote a 'family atmosphere' within the entire school community by facilitating opportunities for friendship between our parents.







# Developing the spirit

**In Gaudio Serviamus**



Our school motto means “Let us serve joyfully”, and that spirit of joyful service is evident in the daily life of the school. It also points to a deep and abiding truth about our human condition: that it is ultimately through self-giving that our life finds its meaning and purpose.

This is summed up in a document of the Second Vatican Council with the words “Man can only find himself in a sincere gift of self”, a quote from Gaudium et Spes that was frequently cited by St John Paul II.

The Cedars is a diverse community which welcomes students of all faiths and none. We value our rich ethnic, cultural and religious diversity for the benefits that it brings us all.

Our Catholic ethos is at the heart of the school. We seek to cultivate in students a profound sense of being a child of God and an awareness of the personal call to holiness that God addresses to each of us. Boys are actively encouraged to exercise their freedom and in practical ways, such as attendance at Mass, their freedom of conscience is respected.

Religious education is in accordance with the teaching of the Catholic Church and our approach is to propose rather than impose. Other faiths are also studied with the taught curriculum. Mass and the Sacrament of Reconciliation are available every day for boys who wish to participate in them. Chaplains at the school are priests of Opus Dei, a personal prelature within the Catholic Church.







## Developing interests

**THERE IS AN EVER-GROWING RANGE OF CLUBS AND SOCIETIES WITHIN THE SCHOOL, AND BOYS ARE ENCOURAGED AND SUPPORTED TO TAKE THE LEAD IN SETTING UP NEW CLUBS WHERE DEMAND EXISTS.**

Sport and music both play major roles within the co-curriculum but there are many other activities available from debating to chess to cookery to the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. Our location enables us to take trips to theatres, art galleries, museums and thinktanks, as well as hosting a wide range of speakers at school. There are also opportunities to travel further afield on sporting,

musical and cultural trips in the UK and abroad. Every boy is allocated to one of five houses: Effra, Falcon, Fleet, Ravensbourne or Tyburn, and there are numerous opportunities to take part in house competitions and activities. Students earn points for their houses through participation in these events as well as for achieving excellence in other areas of school life.







# Sport

**SPORT HAS A HIGH PROFILE AT THE CEDARS. THE MAJOR TEAM SPORTS ARE RUGBY, FOOTBALL AND CRICKET. BOYS ALSO TAKE PART IN A WIDE VARIETY OF OTHER SPORTS**

Sport is an important part of school life. Along with the physical benefits, sport supports the school in its aim to develop young men of courage, cheerfulness and camaraderie. Games lessons take place twice a week in addition to weekly Physical Education lessons, squad training

sessions and after-school sport. While the focus of Physical Education is developing general fitness, Games lessons are used for training in the school's main sports of Rugby, Football and Cricket. The Director of Sport and PE staff are supported by specialist sports coaches. Matches are played on

our well-maintained sports grounds and we play weekly fixtures against the best sporting schools in London and the South East in the major sports, tennis and athletics. A number of our boys have been selected to play at county level.







# Music

THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT IS AT THE VERY HEART OF THE CEDARS AND PLAYS AN IMPORTANT PART IN THE EVERYDAY LIFE OF THE SCHOOL.

During Years 7 and 8 boys have the opportunity to improve their performing, composing and listening skills through the study of a wide variety of musical genres. Music is a popular option at GCSE, and more recently we have introduced Music at A Level. Outside the classroom, musical opportunities abound with numerous ensembles rehearsing weekly.



We have a school orchestra, two bands (Junior and Senior), string ensemble, brass ensemble, guitar ensemble and three choirs (Upper voices, lower voices and Cedars Voices). A large proportion of boys learn an instrument at school and we have a dedicated team of visiting music teachers who provide lessons on all instruments.

Opportunities for performance abound for beginners and experts alike, whether as individuals or members of one of the growing number of ensembles and bands that flourish within the school.





## Sixth form

**OUR SIXTH FORM BOYS BELONG TO THE FIRST COHORTS OF YOUNG MEN WHO ARE LAYING THE FOUNDATIONS FOR THE FUTURE AND SETTING A TONE OF EXCELLENCE IN SERVICE WHICH FUTURE GENERATIONS WILL BUILD UPON.**

We offer a wide range of A-level subjects: Art, Biology, Chemistry, Economics, English Literature, Extended Project Qualification, Further Mathematics, Geography, History, Latin, Mathematics, Physical Education, Physics, and Spanish. Sixth Form boys are encouraged to take responsibility and initiative for their learning and pursue areas of interest beyond the confines

of the classroom and the course specification. Boys develop their study skills, effective time management and personal organisation, and critical thinking, and prepare for university and career plans with the support of their Tutor and the Head of Sixth Form. They develop presentation and public speaking skills via the Becket Seminars, in which they explore topics of interest beyond the A-level

curriculum. They are encouraged to take part in academic competitions, lectures, and university study days.

A broad co-curriculum encourages boys to appreciate the interconnectedness of knowledge and to foster broad academic and cultural interests: As prefects and House Captains, and by taking a leading role in music, sport and extra-curricular clubs and activities, boys

develop talents, grow in virtue, and set a good example for boys lower down the school. All Sixth Form boys spend the equivalent of an afternoon each week on a community service project. A wide range of volunteering opportunities are available: offering their time and talents in a local care home or supporting Maths and English in a nearby primary school; acting as a mentor for a pupil in the lower school or running clubs or sports events.

In this way, and by spear-heading whole school charity events and foodbank collections, our Sixth Form boys are encouraged to develop their qualities of leadership in service, and so put into practice the school's motto: *In Gaudio Serviamus*.





## Sixth form

THE EUDAIMONIA PROGRAMME PROVIDES A BROAD CULTURAL FORMATION THROUGH WHICH THEY ARE INTRODUCED TO THE VARIED APPLICATION OF SPECIALISED KNOWLEDGE IN A HOST OF PROFESSIONAL SETTINGS.



Within the Programme, a module on Virtuous Leadership - designed especially for The Cedars Sixth Form - is geared towards helping boys to understand the role cardinal virtues can play in leadership in a range of roles: the workplace, at school, in social and professional environments. It helps them to acquire a mature idea of what it is to be an adult, a competent professional and

someone capable of forming successful and healthy relationships. Theology, Philosophy & Ethics provides all Sixth Form boys with an introduction to some major themes in philosophy, anthropology, ethics, theology, and the social teaching of the Church, and provides a coherent framework for health and relationships education. Our Catholic Voices module – developed

especially for the school - aims to introduce boys to practical techniques for finding common ground with people whose religious and moral beliefs differ sharply from one's own. Through a range of media case studies e.g. a TV news item on abortion, or a newspaper article about euthanasia, boys work in groups to establish the basis for dialogue and mutual understanding, while explaining Catholic teaching on moral issues

with clarity but without contention. Online careers platforms, visiting speakers, presentations, and university taster programmes provide boys with a broad appreciation of the range of opportunities open to them beyond A-levels: traditional undergraduate and degree apprenticeships and apprenticeship programmes, study abroad, as well as gap year opportunities.





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