

Coombe Girls' School is going from strength to strength and we're feeling excited and confident about the future. We can offer your child a unique learning experience in a vibrant, happy, stimulating atmosphere, where academic success and personal growth are part of the culture. Why not call us now to arrange a visit and come and see for yourself?

**COOMBE**  
preparing you  
for a world of  
opportunity

Coombe Girls' School  
Clarence Avenue  
New Malden  
Surrey KT3 3TU

Telephone: 0208 942 1242  
Fax: 0208 942 6385  
Email: [jwilli14@rbksch.org](mailto:jwilli14@rbksch.org)  
Website: [www.coombegirlsschool.org](http://www.coombegirlsschool.org)

Coombe Girls' School





## Welcome to Coombe Girls' School

As a parent, you want the very best for your daughter. When it comes to education, you'll be looking for a special place, somewhere she can become academically successful, socially confident, culturally aware, stimulated and motivated. Above all, you're looking for a place where your daughter can be truly happy during these crucial formative years ahead. In short, you're searching for an excellent school.

By any measure, we are exactly that. Our combination of academic success and progressive teaching methods has gained us a first class local and national reputation and official recognition as one of the country's 'Leading Edge' and 'Specialist' schools. You can feel it in the unique atmosphere of the place; it's vibrant and challenging, diverse and forward-looking, stimulating and supportive. And you can see it in the smiling faces of the pupils; we're helping them grasp the opportunity to realise their huge potential.

We're immensely proud of our school. After paying us a visit, looking at our examination results and our facilities, and above all talking to members of staff and pupils, we hope that you'll be keen for your daughter to become a part of our future.

*Carol Campbell, Headteacher*

## Building a reputation

Established in 1955 and nestling in the leafy suburb of New Malden, Coombe Girls' School has built on a tradition of success to establish itself as one of the leading non-selective state schools in the country. With a catchment area that includes four boroughs in the south eastern suburbs of Surrey, the school is located in an affluent district where expectations are high and state schools are competing directly with independent schools as well as with each other. In this context, it's a further measure of our excellent reputation that each year we are heavily oversubscribed for places. The reasons for this? Successful and happy children who are the result of our dynamic and caring approach to their education.

In this country, the education system is changing and gearing itself for the challenges of the 21st Century. At Coombe Girls' School, we're looking to the future and taking our place at the forefront of these changes, which is why in 1999 the Department of Education awarded us 'Beacon School' status, a scheme designed to raise standards in schools by sharing and spreading good practice. In 2002, we became a 'Modern Foreign Languages Specialist School' and, the following year, we were one of only 103 schools across the country selected to join the Leading Edge Schools' Programme, further recognition of all our hard work in ensuring that our pupils benefit from the latest advances in education.

'I used to think Physics was boring but my teacher made it really interesting and fun' Year 9 student



## A culture of success

Our pupils study in an atmosphere of achievement where success is part of their day-to-day experience. Their academic success speaks for itself with well above average results right across the curriculum. So how do we help to create focused individuals who are confident in their own abilities and committed to lifelong learning?

It starts with the teachers. Coombe Girls' School has an excellent reputation which makes good teachers want to work here. So we really can pick and choose our staff – and we employ only the very best. That means dynamic, energetic, forward-thinking individuals who are dedicated to their profession and to their pupils; inspirational teachers, the kind whom pupils will remember and appreciate long after they have left school.

Our teachers are committed to the latest teaching methods and have collaborated to create a challenging, motivating curriculum to provoke pupils' enthusiasm. They'll really bring their subjects to life in a way that only gifted teachers can, and to which the pupils are bound to respond.



The curriculum is varied and balanced across all school years and its flexibility comes into play according to pupils' choices at Key Stage 4 (Years 10-11). Throughout their time at the school, pupils benefit from carefully planned and structured programmes of study and detailed progress reporting, as well as constant self-assessment and guidance to ensure that nothing is left to chance in the search for individual and collective success.

We believe in celebrating and rewarding success and our prizegiving ceremonies provide encouragement and incentive not merely for academic excellence but also for good conduct, community involvement, effort and improvement. In our experience, once a student has tasted success in one aspect of her life, the thirst for further achievement provides a huge motivating factor: 'success breeds success' as they say.



## Personal growth, individual progress

At the heart of our ethos at Coombe Girls' School is the knowledge that every child is different and the belief that their needs as individuals are to be respected, their aspirations encouraged and their personalities allowed to grow and be expressed. As well as helping to ensure academic success, our responsibility is to help our girls become fully rounded, positive and creative members of society.

This ethos is reflected in our rich and diverse curriculum which includes courses in Citizenship, Personal and Social Education and careers advice. Our pupils benefit from a curriculum of pastoral care and support, including active tutoring, peer mentoring and academic mentoring, helping them benefit from others' experience. It's a progressive way to keep track of pupils' progress, as well as giving them the opportunity to experience a range of semi-professional relationships that are a useful preparation for life after school.

Finding one's own voice and learning to work as a team are important aspects of growing up. Both as an individual and collectively, there are plenty of opportunities for self-expression and self-direction within the school. For instance, our Student Council is elected by the pupils themselves, providing them with a chance to air their views and make a difference to the running of their school. Similarly, our annual election for sixth form leaders is exhilarating, with candidates making speeches and canvassing votes, thus ensuring that our elected Head Girl and Head Boy really do represent the pupils.

Of course, with freedom comes responsibility. We operate a clear Behaviour Management Policy which ensures that a purposeful learning environment is maintained at all times. Pupils know what is expected of them and they respond very well. We also have a strict uniform policy.

We know that success is most likely when a child's school and home are working together towards the same aims. So we've created every opportunity for you as a parent to get involved and stay informed, whether it's through the frequent events at the school or the very active Parents and Friends Association.



'My tutor's so encouraging – she's really built up my self confidence' Year 8 student

## Coombe and the community

We pride ourselves on the harmony and communication between the rich and diverse cultures within our school. We're continually celebrating this diversity and making sure that our curriculum and our extra-curricular activities help to develop a real global awareness in our pupils. And with our Specialist Language School status, you'll find that we're more interested in different cultures than most schools.

We also believe that it's important for our school to be rooted within the wider community that we serve. We're always doing what we can to make sure that our pupils benefit from these links, for example building a web of support from local businesses as destinations for pupils on work experience placements. Our participation in the Leading Edge scheme puts us into contact with other high achieving and independent schools such as King's College School, Wimbledon, and we've developed similar links with local schools and higher education institutions so that we can work together and share knowledge and expertise.

'Coombe provides a constructive working environment that is both fun and challenging. There are plenty of opportunities for success' Ofsted Report



## A cultural life, a sporting life

We're dedicated to music, art, drama and sport. As well as giving our pupils a vital opportunity for self-expression and teamwork, the development of enrichment activities and the raising of cultural awareness and artistic appreciation will add to their adult lives immeasurably.

Many of our pupils study a musical instrument and our orchestras and choirs are flourishing, with a regular programme of events and concerts, as well as biennial trips to perform in Europe and further afield. In drama, we have regular school plays involving pupils throughout the school, as well as one-off performance extravaganzas such as our annual Sixth Form Showcase performance which raises thousands for charity. The Drama Club and Creative Writing Group are just two of the many extra-curricular organisations at the school. On the sporting field, we offer a wide range of sports and our school teams and individuals have found success at local, county and national levels.

These activities and events often involve practice, rehearsals, performances and competitions outside of school hours and you'll find that our dedicated staff are always prepared to go the extra mile to ensure their success.

My teachers have always been right there behind me'  
Athisha Lohendran, Olympic rower, Year 12 student



## A place to enjoy

We're dedicated to providing the very best environment in which our pupils can learn and develop. Our facilities are good and set to improve further; in addition to the recently-built facilities for the Sixth Form, Technology, Media Studies, Art, English and Science, our new Performing Arts Centre and Sports Centre will provide exciting opportunities for our pupils.

We're keeping up with the technological revolution. Pupils at Coombe Girls' School benefit from a full complement of computers and IT and there's an impressive library and Learning Resources Centre, offering a place to research and study from 8am until 5pm. There are two places to eat, including the Planet Café which is available throughout the day, including breakfast.

At Coombe Girls' School, we consider ourselves fortunate. The extra government funding allocated to us due to our Leading Edge and Specialist School status means that our pupils, unlike those at other schools, will never feel that they are missing out because of a lack of facilities or resources. It's one of the many rewards of our ongoing success.



## Looking to the future

Our motto is 'Preparing you for a world of opportunity' and whilst we're busy making the most of each day, we've always got one eye fixed firmly on the future.

After their GCSEs, many pupils choose to stay on for the highly-regarded Coombe Sixth Form, where they are joined by an intake from other schools attracted by our good reputation. Most of our sixth formers continue on to higher education, but for those pupils choosing employment, our Careers Department has expanding links with a range of employers and outside agencies. Furthermore, our good reputation acts as a recommendation to potential employers.

Whatever a pupil's aspirations and ability, we understand that each one is different. We outline the options available to them and we provide all the help and support they need to take these important decisions and make the right choices.

