We are citizens of the world.
We welcome change with open arms.
We value integrity, honesty and fairness.
We enjoy challenges.
We are naturally curious.
We think on our feet.
We love to communicate.
We are proud to be developing a lifelong love of learning.

We are Coombe.
“Students who join the school at the start of Year 7 are doing exceptionally well and they continue to do so as they move through the years. Current information on achievement shows that they are making rapid and sustained progress.”

Ofsted 2013 Inspection Report: judged as an Outstanding School

“Teaching is of exceptionally high quality. Teachers have high ambitions for their students. They support them very well to ensure they succeed in their next stage of education or employment.”

Ofsted 2013 Inspection Report: judged as an Outstanding School

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Moving up to senior school is a giant step in the journey of your daughter’s life, but it shouldn’t be a leap into the unknown. As a parent you’ll want to be absolutely confident that you’re doing the right thing for her, by sending her to an outstanding school that will set her firmly on the path towards higher education and onto a lifetime of success. Rest assured, Coombe is that school.

Our motto is ‘preparing you for a world of opportunity’ and we’ll do everything to provide your daughter with a happy and fulfilling school life that’s the perfect foundation for a successful future. What that future will look like is hard to tell; the rapid pace of technological change means that many of your daughter’s generation will be working in jobs we can’t even imagine yet. But for pupils at Coombe Girls’ School, who have been well equipped to prosper in this challenging new world, it’s a wonderfully exciting prospect.

Ours is a truly outstanding school and Ofsted has assessed us to be exactly that in each of their past four inspections, the last of which took place in May 2013. As a result, we’re part of a small and elite group of schools to have held an Ofsted ‘Outstanding’ status for this duration of time.

However, what’s more important is that Coombe Girls’ School has a powerful sense of identity and purpose with a unique atmosphere: happy, friendly, united, successful, international and forward-thinking. We provide a learning environment where your daughter can not only fulfil her academic potential, but also develop the confidence, independence and love of learning to help her grasp all the opportunities that will come her way. Vibrant, dynamic and ambitious, Coombe will give her the stimulation and motivation to succeed, and the support and community she needs to become a well-balanced individual and a valuable member of society.

This prospectus will give you a flavour of our wonderful school, but to really understand us, you need to pay us a visit. We’ll be delighted to show you around and we believe that once you’ve seen it for yourself, you’ll be keen for your daughter to share her exciting future with us.

Deborah Walls
Head of Coombe School and Sixth Form
It’s our world and we’re fascinated by it. We explore its ideas and issues, from the school gates to the furthest ends of the earth.

We’re focused on helping every pupil gain the learning skills and attitudes she needs for a successful and happy future. We’ve brought all our thinking together in the Coombe Learner Profile, parts of which you can read above and throughout this prospectus. To find out more please visit www.coombegirlsschool.org
An outstanding school

Building on its long tradition of success and with an ambitious vision for the future, Coombe Girls’ School is both locally renowned and proud to be included among the very best schools in the country.

The finest of reputations

Since it was founded in 1955, Coombe Girls’ School become a well-loved institution, providing an excellent education for generations of girls. In an area that is well-served by independent and grammar schools, Coombe has excelled among the competition. The fact that it’s consistently oversubscribed is a measure of our excellent reputation for producing happy, successful and aspirational individuals.

Nationally renowned

Over the years, our progressive approach and the continuing excellence of our academic results have attracted plenty of attention from across the UK’s educational community. Our expertise is welcomed in local schools and we’re regularly visited by everyone from our local MP to senior government Ministers. Our dedication to raising standards is reflected in the national schemes for which we’ve been selected. In 2012 we gained Academy status.

Our vision of the future

We’re happy to be recognised for our success, yet we stay entirely focused on doing what we do best; providing local girls with a happy childhood and a highly successful education. With a well-defined learning profile, personalised approach and highly talented staff, we’re a school with a dynamic vision preparing girls for confident, successful and aspirational futures.
We’re naturally curious and becoming ever more so. We ask the right questions, do our own research and trust ourselves to learn independently. We’re proud to be developing a lifelong love of learning.

Find out more at www.coombegirlsschool.org
A lifelong love of learning

With our excellent teachers and a personalised approach to learning, we aim to ensure that all our girls fulfil their true potential and develop the love of learning that will make the rest of their lives a journey of discovery.

First-class teaching

Great schools revolve around excellent teachers and at Coombe our outstanding reputation helps us attract the very best teaching staff. Dynamic and inspiring, they bring their subjects to life in all kinds of ways to capture their pupils’ imaginations. Thoroughly dedicated, they always go the extra mile to help every pupil achieve her very best.

Balanced curriculum

We offer a broad and varied range of academic subjects, which allows every girl to discover the disciplines which suit her as an individual. Our teachers help our pupils choose to study the subjects they enjoy and at which they excel, and that they need to carry them along life’s future path.
Keeping it personal

Every pupil is different, with different strengths and potential. At Coombe we value each pupil and identify her individual skills, needs and interests. Then we shape our teaching to suit her. Working closely together with her, we build a personalised learning timetable that harnesses her strengths, motivates her and makes it easier for her to fulfil her potential and achieve the success she deserves.

Staying on course

We know that constant tracking helps maintain standards and our target grade system lets you and your daughter keep a close eye on her progress. Regular one-to-one reviews, backed up by academic study skills support whenever necessary, all adds up to a personal and highly supportive system.

Working with you

As a parent, you’re probably aware that your involvement is crucial in ensuring that your child succeeds. We’ll help you work with us and stay informed and it will really help your daughter’s progress. We’ll also encourage you to join in with the school’s vibrant social and extra-curricular events, organised through the Parent and Friends Association.

“Our personal approach to learning really works. By playing to her unique strengths we boost each girl’s confidence, and let her ambitions take shape.”

—Teacher
Ready for success

Every single one of our girls has the opportunity to succeed. Achievement is woven into the fabric and ethos of the school, as you can see from the continuing excellence of our results.

Time to celebrate

In our experience ‘success breeds success’ and regular recognition and rewards provide continuing motivation and incentives for our girls. We’re always quick to celebrate and reward success and our prizegiving ceremonies provide encouragement and incentives, not only for academic excellence but also for effort, improvement and good conduct.

Challenging the most able

If your daughter wants to progress more quickly, we won’t hold her back. Our curriculum has been carefully developed to enable gifted pupils to receive appropriate challenges and fulfil their potential. In addition, our successful partnership with local independent King’s College School, allows our two sixth forms to work together in various subject areas as well as Oxbridge entrance.

Keeping track

Our personalised approach to learning is centred on close individual tracking to ensure that every pupil is fulfilling her potential. We track all aspects of girls’ learning closely. Numeracy and literacy are monitored term-by-term and our team of specialist staff provides excellent support for girls with special educational needs.

Setting standards

The school’s uniform is respected in the community and our girls wear it with pride. Expectations throughout our school are very high and our girls more than meet them. Visitors to our school often comment on the calm, purposeful and focused atmosphere in our community.
We understand that all schools are a work in progress. We’re realistic about our strengths and honest about the places where we can improve.

Find out more at www.coombegirlsschool.org
Every pupil is unique

Your daughter is an individual. As well as fulfilling her academic potential, we’ll also provide a supportive and encouraging environment in which her aspirations can grow and her unique personality will flourish.

The Coombe Ethos

Our ethos shapes the day-to-day life of the school. Through our curriculum we aim to help your daughter become a good citizen: with integrity, honesty and fairness; a principled individual, open-minded, caring and respectful; a true leader, showing independence, enterprise and adaptability. We will guide her towards taking responsibility for herself and for others.

A sense of community

We believe that everyone has a vital role to play in the development and wellbeing of others. Your daughter’s wellbeing is our priority and our outstanding pastoral care system is here to make sure that her time with us is a happy one. Each tutor group has the same form tutor for five years, which means that a productive and caring relationship is able to develop. Our form tutors know their girls well, so can notice any difficulties that may arise. Our Heads of Year provide another layer of friendly support, as do all of our teachers. Our prefect system encourages older girls to take an active role in helping younger ones.

Finding their voice

Girls need to know that their opinions are valued and at Coombe we give them plenty of opportunities for their voices to be heard. As well as various elected tutor group roles, we encourage girls from every year group to give their opinions about a whole range of subjects through ‘pupil voice’. Wherever possible, these opinions help us to shape policy; giving them a stake in the decision-making process engages girls with the dynamic development of the school.

Tomorrow’s leaders

Teamwork and leadership are essential skills for every pupil to acquire. We provide a structured programme to help our girls develop new skills and roles. In the lower years, they enjoy being engaged and proactive, through a variety of elected roles within the tutor and House groups. Our peer mentoring scheme and prefects system enables girls to enjoy new levels of responsibility. And from public speaking to sport, many of our extra-curricular activities help our pupils define themselves both as individuals and part of a team.
School life is never just about what happens in the classroom. With our rich cultural and sporting life and our huge range of clubs, your daughter will quickly become involved in new interests, activities and hobbies.

**Music**

With large numbers of pupils studying an instrument, music is flourishing at Coombe. Our Music Department hosts orchestras, choirs and a jazz band, providing the energy that drives the creative programme of events and concerts that keep our budding musicians stimulated.

**Drama**

We love to put on a show. Drama brings us all together and we regularly stage school plays and one-off extravaganzas involving pupils from all age groups. Our Performing Arts Centre provides the perfect setting for many of these performances and is also home to our famous Drama Club.

**Art**

Our Art department is another creative hub within the school. Regular exhibitions add vibrancy and colour to our corridors and communal spaces. All pupils are encouraged to develop their creativity, and enjoy the pleasure of seeing their imaginations shape their environment.
Sport for all

An active sporting life is a healthy life and at Coombe we’re passionate about sport. From hockey to netball and badminton to swimming, our girls enjoy a wide range of sporting activities and we’re proud of the success that our teams and individuals regularly achieve at local and national levels.

Join the club

We offer a wealth of extra-curricular clubs during lunchtimes and after school. We believe that variety is the spice of life and we encourage our girls to try everything of interest to them. As well as laying the foundations for new skills and hobbies that can last a lifetime, these activities also help the girls to forge new friendships.

Duke of Edinburgh Award

As well as being highly rewarding in its own right, this renowned scheme makes impressive reading on any school leaver’s curriculum vitae. We offer a full Duke of Edinburgh Awards Scheme culminating in our Sixth Form and it’s ideal for developing the girls’ leadership and teamwork, and encouraging them into the great outdoors.

Over land and sea

Travel broadens the mind and we offer an impressive range of residential trips to get our pupils out exploring the world. Many of these are organised through different subjects and span all kinds of destinations, from New York to the South of France. It’s all part of preparing them for a world of opportunity.
We’re people who value integrity, honesty and fairness. We take responsibility for our actions and we’re always respectful of the dignity of others, whether individuals, groups or communities.

Find out more at www.coombegirllsschool.org
The Coombe community

Our sense of togetherness is a precious quality at Coombe. The school is a thriving community to which we all belong. We encourage everyone to work together and develop an active role in the life of the school.

A network of friendships
We believe that to create a real feeling of community, it’s important to encourage girls to interact with others who are not necessarily part of their usual friendship, year or tutor groups. Our House system, Peer Mentoring and one-to-one reading scheme all help forge these important connections and create a sense of shared responsibility and respect.

A melting pot
We believe that our school promises a bright future for 21st Century Britain, with girls from a wide range of cultures and backgrounds coming together in a hugely successful and inspiring way. We’re immensely proud of the diverse and harmonious world that is Coombe Girls School. As a community, we relish our diversity and celebrate intelligent and cosmopolitan attitudes.

A local school
An outstanding local school with a high profile, we have strong roots within the community. We’ve forged close links with many local business who provide aspirational opportunities for our girls. Connections with local media, organisations and charities also provide avenues for us to become involved in local events within the community.

Well connected
Our keen sense of community also extends to our educational links. We benefit from a groundbreaking federation with Coombe Boys’ School that sees us sharing knowledge, expertise and best practice. Likewise our partnership with renowned independent King’s College School, Wimbledon reflects our willingness to look beyond ourselves to grow, educate and develop.
We are citizens of the world. We understand global interdependence, we appreciate diversity, and we have the confidence and skills to let us relish the challenges of our future in a global society and workplace.

Find out more at www.coombegirlsschool.org
Any questions?

The people who really know our school are the pupils themselves. So we asked members of the pupil-elected School Council to answer some of the most common questions.

“What’s so unique about Coombe Girls’ School?”
Lots of things. First of all it’s got a great atmosphere because it’s such a friendly place, and that comes not just from the pupils but the teachers as well. Also it’s definitely cool to succeed and do well, so everyone’s trying their hardest to be the best they can be.”

“How easy is it to settle into Year 7?”
Really easy. Everyone’s friendly, the teachers are very welcoming, and the My Journey project was great fun and good for making friends. Plus there are lots of activities to get involved in straight away, and you quickly learn to find your way around and feel at home.”

“Are there plenty of computers here?”
Yes. As well as our dedicated ICT department, there are computers and interactive whiteboards throughout the school, as well as in the Learning Resource Centre which stays open after school every day for personal study.”

“What’s the food like?”
Great! You can choose from our two different eating places, including the Planet Café which is really popular – it’s open from breakfast and has loads of tasty but nutritious options.”

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“What about outside space?”
We’re really lucky to have so much of it. As well as our Japanese and wildlife gardens, our campus has lots of outdoor seating, and many of us eat lunch on the benches and out in the playing fields during the summer.”

“How has the school helped you think about your future?”
We’re given lots of help to choose which GCSE subjects, with open evenings, careers advice and the Y12s providing their insight to the younger years. For the Y12s, UCAS days and Uni visits are all about helping us choose the next step that’s right for each of us.”

“How would you sum up Coombe?”
We talk about the ‘Coombe-unity’ and it feels as if you’re part of something bigger than yourself, like one big family that’s friendly, lively and loads of fun. And the school motto is perfect because it really does ‘prepare you for a world of opportunities’!”

“What is your highlight of the year?”
It’s really hard to pick one, but some of our favourites would include the Christmas Panto, RAG Week, Enterprise Week, school elections, and of course all the school trips throughout the year.”

If you have any other questions, please get in touch with us at enquiries@cgs.rbksch.org
Shaping her future

Even while we’re helping your daughter enjoy her school days, we’re always thinking about her future. We’ll provide her with all the advice and support she needs, to ensure that her successful journey continues after her time with us.

Big questions, big decisions

Which GCSEs or A-Levels to study? What university course to apply for? Which career path to take? Your daughter will be making some life-defining decisions while she’s with us, and our understanding of her as an individual will enable us to help her make the wisest choices. With an impressive expertise in higher education, employment and careers, we’ll provide everything she needs to achieve whatever she’s aiming for.

Coombe Sixth Form

Our Sixth Form is a thriving, vibrant and aspirational choice for our pupils. Most of our girls progress there, and are joined by pupils from thirty other local schools and establishments, all attracted by its excellent reputation. From there, our Sixth Formers progress to an impressive range of career paths, from Russell Group and Oxbridge to other universities and apprenticeships. Coombe Sixth Formers are active members of the school community and provide influential role models to which our younger girls can aspire.

The world of work

Each year a few of our pupils decide that further education is not for them, and choose to enter the world of work after their GCSEs. With our great reputation and links with local businesses, we help them find relevant apprenticeship or training opportunities to lead them successfully into the world of work.

“We do everything we can to make sure that every girl makes the right choices and finds the next step that’s perfect for them.”
—Teacher
Joining us at Coombe

We’d love to become part of your daughter’s future and we hope she’s excited by the prospect of joining our outstanding school. Of course, you’ll both understand us much better by paying us a visit and letting us show what we can do for her.

For more information or to arrange a visit please contact:
Coombe Girls’ School
Clarence Avenue
New Malden
Surrey KT3 3TU
Tel: 0208 942 1242
Fax: 0208 942 6385
Email: enquiries@cgs.rbksch.org
www.coombegirlsschool.org
Welcome

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