



Whitgift and the Community

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Whitgift and the Community

Introduction:

As one of the leading Independent schools in the country, Whitgift recognises its responsibilities both to its own pupils and to the wider community.

It is an integral part of a pupil's education that he should be provided with the leadership and guidance which will enable him to have a better sense of his own worth, and to understand the needs of others, both in the School community and, more importantly, in society as a whole.

Similarly, it is important that a school such as Whitgift plays the fullest part in supporting the local and wider community – a role which is in keeping with the charitable aims of The Whitgift Foundation. This document describes the numerous activities undertaken by the School in support of our neighbours in the local community and of those who are less privileged.

Whitgift School is also fortunate to be part of The Whitgift Foundation which provides a significant bursary provision so that pupils whose parents would not normally have the financial means, are able to access an education at a leading independent school and enjoy the same opportunities at the School.

In reading this document, please bear in mind that Whitgift's role in the community is constantly developing and this document, whilst attempting to summarise the School's many links, cannot include every aspect of the School's involvement and provision.

a) Scholarships and bursaries

Whitgift School has amongst the highest number of scholarships and bursaries awarded to pupils of any independent school in the country. This allows access to the School for children from a very broad range of backgrounds and the School properly reflects the diversity of its cosmopolitan surrounding area. With the expansion of boarding at the School in 2013, the opportunity to apply to attend Whitgift is now available to all.

The School is inclusive and prides itself on taking pupils regardless of their financial situation. The School has taken children in care as well as numerous pupils who do not have the financial means to attend independent education elsewhere. Scholarships can be supported by bursaries or pupils can qualify for a bursary on its own. Further

information about scholarships and bursaries is available directly from The Whitgift Foundation or by contacting Whitgift School.

This year we are forecasting £2,150,000 on bursaries and £1,800,000 on scholarships, totalling £3,950,000. This comes from fee income of £24,000,000 which equates to 16.5% of fee income.

b) Primary school children

Whitgift School Primary Project

Formerly a partnership set up in 2000 consisting of the Croydon Advertiser, Croydon Business and Education Partnership and Whitgift School, the Primary Project is now funded completely by Whitgift School. It gives primary schools, from a wide area, the chance to attend Whitgift for one week per year to use the facilities of the school for Computing/ICT and a variety of other subjects. A dedicated computer suite is given over to the primary school pupils full-time, enabling one full class per week to attend.

During the week, the young pupils are introduced to various aspects of Computing/ICT including coding (with *Scratch*), website design, graphics work, animation, control and simulation, music composition with Silbelius, DT, Logo and movie making which is becoming a major feature of the week's work. The ICT work undertaken is based on the topic that the pupils are studying at the time they attend the project.

In addition to their work on the computers, pupils are given exposure to some of the wildlife found at the School. During the week a member of staff from Whitgift provides the primary school pupils with drawing improvement sessions. The main focus is making observational drawings of the birds on-site at the School, giving the children confidence to draw from life and to observe birds in their natural habitat. The provision of the Water Gardens at Whitgift gives an outstanding opportunity to continue educating young pupils in the art of drawing and also provides an opportunity to experience an unusual ecological habitat.

In addition to Art and ICT, during the week the pupils have Languages, Design Technology, Music, Science and PE lessons taught by specialist staff. Members of staff from Whitgift School are given a timetable allowance to assist with this scheme.

The project is fully booked each year, with many schools asking for more than one week. The scheme benefits almost 40 primary schools each year and is run entirely free of charge by Whitgift. Over 1,000 primary and prep school children attend the Primary Project each year.

Whitgift Primary Project – Autumn Concert

Although some of the pupils who take part in the Whitgift Primary Project have already experienced a varied and exciting music curriculum at their local primary school, others have had no specialist music education. Schools are given the opportunity to choose either a practical music session (involving singing or African Drumming), or a Music Technology lesson based around the *Sibelius* 'music writing' programme as part of their week in school.

In addition, the children have the opportunity to attend other initiatives such as the Fairfield Halls Concert each autumn. Local primary schools are invited to attend, free of charge, a concert which features a mixture of classical and modern music and is run by the Primary Project team and the Whitgift Music department. Over 1,300 local primary school pupils from more than 20 schools attend the Concert with their teachers each year.

Whitgift also invites local primary school pupils to attend Arts Festival events such as art exhibitions, drama productions, concerts and visits by celebrities. In recent years, Primary Project pupils visited the School's (then) artist in residence, Sam Holland and enjoyed learning about sculpture. Pupils also had the opportunity to meet the poet Valerie Bloom, *X Factor* and JLS star Jonathan ('JB') Gill and London 2012 Olympics Discus Finalist Lawrence Okoye.

A number of pupils from different local primary schools met the composer Tarik O'Regan when they participated in music workshops with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. These workshops were then reviewed by HRH, Duke of York during a visit to Whitgift.

Whitgift is always open to requests from local schools to visit and make use of the expertise of staff and the facilities. For example, recently the Japanese department ran a Japanese language and culture workshop for a local primary school and other schools have visited to see and sketch the wildlife.

Science skills for Primary Schools

In the past Whitgift has sponsored on an annual basis a local science project called *Sensational Science*, run by a former Whitgift Head of Science.

This programme was replaced by STEM Primary Outreach which involved Whitgift pupils delivering a series of lessons to local primary schools covering topics involving Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM). These lessons are taught at the schools and culminate in a Science Magic Show with demonstrations led by Whitgift pupils to enthuse and amaze the younger pupils. This programme has now expanded from 6 outreach days each year to become a weekly programme delivered by a Science teacher allocated to the Primary Project, who will visit local primary schools to deliver this STEM programme and lend resources.

c) Supporting the underprivileged, the disabled and the elderly

Whitgift School Charities

At Whitgift, our charitable fundraising is an integral part of a pupil's education and development at the school. We are not simply individuals, but members of Form groups, Houses, the wider school community, families, and our society. Our links to others are important and our charity work reflects that link. We strive to choose charities for which our support will really make a difference as well as those we feel most strongly reflect Whitgift values.

Our fundraising takes place at various points throughout the year. We hold a Charity Afternoon for the Upper School at the end of the Michaelmas term and a Charity Day

for the Lower School in the Trinity term. In addition to this we also have smaller events throughout the year for students, such as the First Form Charity Challenge and Disco, Prefects' Poker, Cake Sales and Tough Guy Endurance Race, plus evening functions which cater for parents and friends outside of school, such as the Lent term Comedy Night, introduced in 2010, which features popular comedians such as Dominic Holland, Lee Mack and Harry Hill, and the ever-popular charity concert showcasing Whitgift's finest musical, dance and entertainment talent.

We alternate our focus on a yearly basis between international and UK based charities. For international charities, the School has developed a particular link with *Tapologo*, a South African AIDS programme, which pupils from Whitgift have the opportunity to visit every other year (the most recent visit took place in October 2012). In 2015/16, we will be supporting international charities *Soweto Kliptown Youth* in South Africa and *Help the Cambodian Children*. In October 2012, 60 pupils travelled to Nepal to assist in charity work at a *Childreach* project.

Domestic charities have included The *NSPCC*, *Barnardo's*, the *Alice Faith Mittelman Foundation*, *Get Kids Going*, *Shooting Star* and *The RNLI*. Support for *The RNLI* followed the tragic death of a Whitgift pupil, Charlie Hutton, and the Hutton family organise an annual hockey festival held at the School to raise funds for this charity.

While we focus on just two charities a year in order to have a significant impact in specific areas or projects, we also run additional fundraising and schemes. For example, we collected old mobile phones for the Headmaster of Warlingham Park School who was working with the charity *Cricket Without Boundaries* which supports school children in the more remote parts of Kenya. We recently donated a large number of Physics textbooks to *Books4Africa*, a charity that sends books to African schools. The School Nurse organises staff fundraising throughout the year for *Smile Train* and a contribution is made at Christmas. The Learning Support department have run a sponsored 'spell-athon' in aid of *Help for Heroes* and some Sixth Form pupils supervised *Operation Shoebox* to support troops in Afghanistan in 2009 and 2010. We will be doing another Shoebox Appeal this December. Since 2012, the School has also organised an annual Easter egg collection for children in Croydon, collecting over 300 eggs for distribution by *Croydon Commitment* and *Nightwatch*.

Whitgift staff participate in a wide range of fundraising activities to support both the School charities and other charities. In recent times, these have included a charity skydive, cycle riding and cross-country skiing.

Whitgift's Design Technology (DT) department have a club involving Whitgift pupils called 'The £100 Club'. It is run by one of the department teachers and aims to raise funds for charity by producing goods and selling them on for profit. Over £400 was raised in 2015 for the schools nominated charities.

Additionally within the DT department, scrap wood is collected and sold as fire wood. Donations are made to the *Smile Train* charity.

Whitgift House

Whitgift House is a residential care home for the elderly provided as part of the Whitgift Foundation. Whitgift pupils visit the House on a regular basis throughout the year, engaging with the elderly members of this community and providing

entertainment such as musical performances and renditions of Christmas Carols, recitations of short stories and poetry, Corp of Drums performances and card tricks.

Red Gates

Whitgift's Estates Manager, Mr James Stremes, and Head Librarian, Ms Atiya Afghan, are Governors of Red Gates School for children with severe, profound and multiple learning difficulties and autism.

d) Croydon partnerships

Exhibitions

In 2009, Whitgift staged a major exhibition called *Hidden Treasures of the Mary Rose*. The Exhibition was the idea of the Headmaster's and was sponsored by The Mary Rose Trust, Croydon Council, The Whitgift Foundation and Whitgift School. *Hidden Treasures* displayed a wide range of exhibits from the Mary Rose, many of which had never been available to the public before. The Exhibition had an educational focus and was provided free of charge to all primary age children in the Croydon borough. Over 9,000 school children visited and experienced workshops provided by Whitgift staff and volunteers. The Whitgift Foundation and the School provided significant financial support and facilities in order to stage this major exhibition which attracted 32,000 people, making it the most popular exhibition ever held in Croydon.

The Headmaster was the Exhibition Director and the exhibition was staged 'in-house' using Whitgift staff and volunteers from the school and local community. The Exhibition was featured in the BBC's *The One Show* and in a wide range of media including television, the radio, newspapers and magazines. *Hidden Treasures* was visited by high profile figures including the School's patron, HRH The Duke of York, and helped raise awareness of The Mary Rose Trust's appeal for funding and the profile of Croydon as a cultural centre.

In 2016, Whitgift will host a major exhibition '*Remembering 1916 – Life on the Western Front*' to mark the Centenary of the First World War. There will be a particular focus on 1916, a pivotal year which saw a number of significant battles, including the Battle of Verdun, and the Battle of the Somme, one of the most famous in British military history. The Exhibition will feature a number of special presentations, including the world before the War, and the re-creation of an Edwardian room and will be open to members of the public.

CCF

Whitgift has CCF partnerships with Thomas More School and also St Andrew's School as part of a government initiative for which Whitgift is one of the leading participants, and the only school to have fostered two partnerships. These local maintained sector schools now have over 60 boys and girls benefiting from joining Whitgift's Combined Cadet Force at no expense to these schools. These pupils and some staff from these schools attend CCF every Tuesday at Whitgift, joining the Army, Navy or RAF sections, and are fully integrated with the Whitgift boys. In these, they get the opportunity to participate in activities such as drill, shooting, battle craft and map reading, as well as CCF trips and camps. The Whitgift CCF have also hosted the Croydon Turnaround Project for young offenders on several occasions. Last year, pupils were given the opportunity to plant poppies at the Tower of London.

The CCF partnerships have been running now for over six years and are greatly appreciated by the participating schools and their pupils.

e) Music links with the community

Whitgift Chamber Orchestra

The Whitgift Chamber Orchestra, an orchestra based at Whitgift and directed by our Director of Orchestral Music, was established to provide talented orchestral musicians from Whitgift and neighbouring schools the opportunity to play music to a very high standard. The orchestra rehearses weekly at Whitgift and is funded entirely by the School, ensuring that there is no charge to its members. Numbers of pupils involved from other schools varies each year but has been as high as 15 talented musicians from several schools in the Borough. Such has been its success that the orchestra has been invited to appear at such prestigious venues as the Festival Hall, Addington Palace, Goodwood House and Leeds Castle. The Orchestra has frequently performed with the London Mozart Players and, more recently, regularly performs with The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra either at Cadogan Hall in London or at Whitgift School.

Music Course For Prospective New Boys

The course is designed to introduce prospective pupils to the enormous range of curricular and co-curricular music provided by Whitgift School, to give boys the chance to demonstrate their musical ability and potential and, most importantly, to give them the chance to enjoy making music in the company of other talented musicians of their own age.

Boys on the course are given the opportunity to play in a variety of ensembles, take part in a range of vocal workshops, and participate in masterclasses with some of Whitgift's most eminent specialist music teachers.

School Concerts and Drama Productions

Whitgift has close relationships with many other schools in the area and performances regularly include numerous pupils from other schools. Pupils from Croydon High and Old Palace will be joining Whitgift in concerts and productions this year. In previous years, Whitgift has invited Croydon Parish Church Primary, St Andrew's and Wallington Girls Schools to participate. Each year the School choir combines with choirs from the two other Foundation schools for the Founder's Day service. The Concert Hall hosts school concerts for two local prep schools (Cumnor House and Elmhurst Schools) and pupils from these schools join the Whitgift pupils for a performance at the Fairfield Halls annually. The School's main hall and the Performing Arts Centre are frequently used by local schools for prize-givings and drama productions.

f) Whitgift and the international community

Educational Conferences

In November 2015, the Economics Department will be hosting an Institute of Economic Affairs Student Conference which is open to other schools in the area. Students will listen to three interactive lectures on economic issues currently facing the world, from poverty to immigration. Whitgift hosted a similar event last year when four local schools attended.

In March 2015, Whitgift hosted a panel discussion on ‘The Future of the UK Economy’ which was attended by Whitgift students and parents, as well as students from other schools. Nigel Campbell (HM Treasury) and Alex Cole (Deloitte) spoke about the issues facing the UK economy and what the next five years might look like.

In previous years, Whitgift has staged languages conference in association with the French and German Embassies. These events were attended by members of the international community including Ambassadors, embassy staff, politicians, teachers and other educationalists.

Whitgift Overseas Students Scholarship Scheme

The international scholars programme was instigated and has been nurtured over the last 16 years by the Headmaster. Students are drawn from Eastern Europe via the HMC link – pupils from Moldova, Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic to name a few. Some have stayed a year to complete AS level studies, whereas others have stayed for two years to complete A2 or IB courses. Annually, up to two other pupils come from a Hungarian school in Gyor. This scheme has, over the years, provided considerable opportunities to Eastern European pupils who have not always had the advantages of a Whitgift education. There are also connections with Japanese schools and Whitgift has at least one Japanese student each year. Until 2013, Haling Park Cottage served as the boarding house for up to seven male pupils annually and the Housemaster and family. Since September 2013, the scheme has moved to the new Boarding House.

Having such pupils as part of the School’s Sixth Form community strengthens our appreciation of how we fit into a world community and move beyond the confines of our own education system, allowing Whitgift pupils to work alongside and develop friendships with boys from other countries. Whitgift also supports and develops this scheme because of the significant impact the scholars can have on broadening horizons and raising international awareness when they return home after their studies. Whitgift is proud to have helped develop some outstandingly talented pupils from diverse, humble and occasionally dangerous backgrounds. In the past few years our overseas scholars have won full undergraduate funding at prestigious institutions such as Oxford, Cambridge, Harvard and London School of Economics. Such students are superb ambassadors for their country and a ringing endorsement of this innovative scheme.

Whitgift International Music Competition (WIMC)

The Whitgift International Music Competition is unlike standard music competitions. Most applicants for the WIMC are drawn by its unique provision of a fully-funded boarding place at one of the UK’s finest independent schools. By being a member of the Whitgift music department, winners of the WIMC – often coming from disadvantaged backgrounds – will be given the best possible chance to fully pursue their ambitions and aspirations.

With the prospect of a solo concerto performance as part of our collaboration with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, and instrumental lessons at London’s leading conservatoires, the WIMC is different from other music competitions; it focuses on the importance of long-term education rather than financial reward. Staging the competition at Whitgift School both confirms our charitable core and demonstrates

our aim to promote the value of music in education. The school has been praised by industry professionals for its efforts to develop a music competition which focuses on rewarding excellence with educational opportunities.

The International Baccalaureate

The International Baccalaureate qualification is available to all pupils at Whitgift and the School has become a market leader in this area. The IB Co-ordinator provides advice and support to both state and independent schools considering introducing or developing the IB and is an IB Inspector. Whitgift shares the philosophy of the IB which encourages an international approach and the sharing of best practice across schools.

g) Sharing sports facilities with the community

Health and Fitness Club

Whitgift sports facilities are used each evening and at the weekend by members of the *Nuffield* health and fitness club. Membership of this club provides a wide range of high quality facilities and sessions. There are approximately 900 members who benefit from the relatively low subscription rates and the breadth of health and fitness related opportunities on offer at Whitgift.

Cricket

Whitgift have hosted Croydon cricket cup finals over the past two years, and are looking to help local cricket clubs with their juniors. Discussions are in progress for the School to host county age-group cricket this year, along with a small amount of district cricket.

Surrey County Cricket Club

Whitgift School was privileged to host the Whitgift Cricket Festival on an annual basis for 12 consecutive years. In 2011, Surrey played three fixtures, a four-day, first-class match, a one-day match and a T20 match against Sussex. The School has provided the only venue for first-class cricket in Croydon and large crowds from the Croydon area enjoy some top class sporting entertainment. The School was responsible for all aspects of the preparation of the pitch and the presentation of the match, and many pupils and staff members combine to ensure the success of the event. Over 5,000 spectators attended the one-day fixture and, in previous years, this match has been broadcast on *Sky Sports*. In 2011, the T20 match was also broadcast live on *Sky Sports* and was the first time the twenty over version of the game has been staged in Croydon.

While first-class cricket has not been staged at Whitgift since 2011, the Surrey 2nd XI continue to use the School's pitch to play a number of matches annually. It is hoped that first-class cricket will return to the School in the future.

Surrey County Cricket Club Academy

Whitgift provides grass nets and indoor facilities for the Academy to train at various times throughout the year.

Surrey County Cricket Club District Competition

For six weeks during the summer Surrey County Cricket Club run their District cricket competition. Pitches are regularly provided each Sunday for teams ranging from Under 9 to Under 14 level. The School also hosts many junior County representative matches and Surrey Schools' Cup Finals.

International cricket fixture

In 2010, Whitgift was invited to stage a four day cricket match between West Indies A and India A teams on Northfield in June. This fixture was of considerable interest to the local community as well as to current and former pupils at the School and attracted significant crowds on each day. It is hoped that another fixture of this kind can be staged at Whitgift in the future.

Croydon Schools' Cricket Association

Whitgift provides the use of its pitches to primary and prep schools within the Borough. The School hosts matches and finals for Croydon Borough District cricket and the Croydon Cricket Cup final.

Rugby

In 2014, Whitgift's Rugby Development Officer visited Ridgeway Primary and Park Hill Junior Schools to provide coaching expertise and games lessons.

Surrey Rugby Festival

Whitgift annually hosts the Surrey Under 13 rugby festival, providing an opportunity for pupils from around the county to compete against their peers. The Festival is open to all Surrey schools and annually 16 teams from both state and independent schools participate in the competition.

RFU Training Centre

Whitgift is a recognised RFU training centre and offers regular rugby coaching courses.

RFC Training venue

In the past, Whitgift has provided training facilities for Harlequins RFC so that they can experience a different training environment. The School has close links with a number of Premiership clubs.

Swimming Pool

The Whitgift swimming pool is used by a variety of swimmers from local schools. Howard Primary, St. Peter's Primary and Elmhurst Schools use the pool to encourage and develop young swimmers. Each school brings a class or up to 30 pupils at least once each week during term time. We have also allowed the Archbishop Lanfranc Academy to use our pool for free, during the School timetable. Coaching has also been provided, at a reduced rate, to St Peter's and Howard Primary Schools.

Croydon Amphibians and Sutton Atlantis Swimming Clubs use the pool on a daily basis with up to 120 swimmers from each club. Over the summer holidays, children involved in Supercamps derive much enjoyment from the swimming pool as do Ardmore Language School. Other uses of the pool include learning to swim sessions for young children at the weekends and fitness sessions as part of the Health and Fitness club.

Hockey

Whitgift works closely with the Southern Hockey Association and annually hosts the Schools and Clubs Regional indoor tournaments, providing staffing and facilities for these major events. Through a long standing relationship with England Hockey Whitgift also hosts the U16 and U18 Indoor Schools National Finals and the National Clubs Women Indoor regional rounds.

Croydon Hockey Club trains at Whitgift on a weekly basis following its amalgamation with the Old Whitgiftian Hockey Club. Oxted Hockey Club also train on the astroturf each week.

Fencing

A number of national and regional competitions are held at Whitgift, including the South East Championships, the Surrey Youth Championships and the Leon Paul National Team Championships. These are all open competitions and include pupils from both state and independent schools. Whitgift on occasions has been the training venue for the Great Britain Junior team and the Great Britain Disabled team. Fencing referee courses for Surrey are also held at Whitgift. The School regularly hosts World Governing Body international competitions on behalf of British Fencing, the national Governing Body in the UK. We have also hosted training courses for Young Officials in support of the Youth Sport Trust. In previous years, the Chinese Fencing Team has trained at Whitgift in preparation for competitions in the UK.

Whitgift provides these facilities in support of British Fencing and Keith Smith, Chairman of British Fencing and leading international Olympic referee, is a long-serving member of the academic teaching staff at Whitgift. Keith was in charge of the Fencing refereeing at the London 2012 Olympics.

Table Tennis

London South and National Table Tennis Competitions are held at Whitgift each year with teams coming from all over the country to participate. The competitions involve hundreds of pupils from ages 10 to 18 years for both boys and girls.

Whitgift hosts London South Table Tennis meetings and Surrey Schools' Executive Committee meetings regularly.

2012 London Olympics

LOCOG held an open meeting at Whitgift in September 2010 to advertise the Olympics which was attended by the former Olympic Gold medallist, Jonathan Edwards.

The School provided the facilities for Old Whitgiftian Lawrence Okoye to train for the discus in preparation for the Olympics.

Handball and Korfball

The Women's GB Handball team has trained on occasions at Whitgift School as has the England Korfball team.

Modern Pentathlon

Whitgift has become a leading school for a wide range of sports including Modern Pentathlon and now provides a considerable number of Pentathlon, Biathlon and Triathlon competitors for the GB squads. Whitgift also provides an opportunity for Modern Pentathlon staff to develop the sport in the UK, after its introduction at Whitgift by Olympic medal winner, Kate Allenby OBE. Current Whitgift Modern Pentathlon coaches have been released by the School to coach British Modern Pentathlon and assist in competitions both in the UK and abroad.

h) Community Service

The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme

The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme is a very popular activity amongst Whitgift pupils. All three levels (Bronze, Silver and Gold) require an aspect of involvement in community service. Our Duke of Edinburgh Award team has close links with a number of community projects in the local area. In addition, pupils are encouraged to go out and find community projects by themselves. In the past pupils have worked in charity shops, assisted in faith communities, helped the Police by taking part in education courses and involved them in reading schemes by helping pupils at local schools with reading difficulties. In 2015 up to 35 pupils are expected to qualify for the Gold Award.

Community Action and Service (CAS)

As part of their IB Diploma Programme, every International Baccalaureate (IB) student undertakes at least 50 hours of community service activities over an 18 month period. In the past, students have undertaken work for charities abroad, coach sports outside school on a voluntary basis, work in charity shops as volunteers, as youth group leaders or with their local place of worship.

CAS, though not a requirement of pupils studying A Levels, has been extended to them so that a significant number of Sixth Form pupils participate in community service in the local area.

i) Whitgift and community education

Arts Festival

Whitgift stages an annual Arts Festival which is now a year-long event that encompasses all of the Arts performances organised by the School throughout the academic year. All events are advertised to the local community (if the performance licence permits) enabling members of the public to attend. Additionally, suitable events such as school plays often hold an additional performance during the school day to which local primary schools are invited.

Special Educational Needs provision

Whitgift's Learning Support department has developed a particular skills base in testing for Learning Difficulties and Dyslexia support. The School works closely with the SEN department at local schools, including specifically St Andrew's School, a local state school, and provides assessments for St Andrew's Dyslexic pupils free of charge.

A member of the Learning Support department is a volunteer for Croydon Dyslexia Association and helps to run a helpline with other local specialists. This member of staff has also given a presentation on study skills to parents, professionals and dyslexic learners.

Foreign Language School

The Ardmore Group use the School extensively throughout the summer holidays as a base for their Foreign Language School. Over 650 foreign students were given the opportunity to learn English within the environs of an English independent school. Not only are they provided with classrooms for academic work, they also enjoy recreation time using the sports facilities. They do Drama at Whitgift and use the School as a base for trips to London.

In addition, in 2015, Whitgift launched its own Summer School and over 300 students from the UK and all over the world spent from 1 – 6 weeks enjoying a number of programmed activities as well as improving their English. The Summer School is back in July 2016.

Art course

Until Summer 2015, a member of the Art department ran a regular pottery and ceramics course for the community. This evening class was available on Mondays and Wednesdays, 7.00 – 9.00pm. It is hoped that the same or similar class can be offered in the future.

Science Taster Days For Prospective New Boys

This course is open to Year 5 & 6 pupils from a wide range of schools and is designed to improve boys' science skills and knowledge. The purpose is to allow prospective new boys to have a taste of the wide-ranging opportunities available to them at Whitgift. These are run in October and July and involve Whitgift Science staff and Sixth Form students.

Chemistry

In recent years, Whitgift has hosted Royal Society of Chemistry competitions which are aimed at Year 9 -12 pupils from state and independent sectors.

Biology

Copse development – an open group run by our Senior Biology Technician, to help maintain and develop an area of woodland – open to parents and boys, plus any interested parties from local community.

Design Technology

The DT Department runs an outreach programme to local primary schools, which, for this year, is likely to be expanded to include schools slightly further afield.

The Department allows the Primary Project to use the laser cutter once a week to enable students to witness CAD/CAM (computer aided design/manufacture) in action – all students take home a laser engraved keyring that they designed themselves.

The Department has set up a Technology Outreach Programme to build air-powered rockets in primary schools. This is a self-running programme designed to enhance the learning of primary schools in the local area.

Library

The Raeburn Library donates surplus books to a local academy. Local primary schools involved in the Primary Project are invited to attend Whitgift's guest author events.

Academic Enrichment

This year we have a new Academic Enrichment lecture programme which is also advertised on the Whitgift website. Whitgift will be holding 4-5 lectures each term and these are open to the public who can request a ticket via the website/by email contact. Local schools have also been invited to the lectures.

Booked lectures for Michaelmas Term 2015 are Professor Lord Robert Winston, Alex Bellos, Professor Tony Allan and Professor Francis Nolan. More information on the programme and lectures are available under the events section of the Whitgift website.

Whitgift and television

BBC's *The Big Question* was filmed at Whitgift in 2011 and 2010 with Whitgift Governor and Chaplain, the Reverend Canon Colin Boswell, Vicar of Croydon, joining the programme in 2011.

In December 2010, the *BBC Big Band* recorded *Jazz Line-Up's* Christmas Show at Whitgift. Two Whitgift pupils, played a piece specially written for them by the programme's Director. The evening was a sell-out.

Channel 4 documentary *Derren Brown: behind the Mischief* broadcast on Saturday, 8 January 2011, included footage of Whitgift School. The psychological illusionist returned to his former school last year for filming and was accompanied by the programme's Director, Nigel Walk, also an Old Whitgiftian. During their visit, they had an opportunity to chat to staff and boys.

j) Additional community provision

Community meetings

Whitgift is frequently used as a venue for meetings of local groups. Some of the School's meeting rooms and halls are used by local religious groups to worship on a weekly basis, including a Church group of approximately 120 people every Sunday. The Croydon Scouts' Awards event is regularly held at Whitgift. In 2012, Whitgift hosted the Croydon Schools' History Teachers meeting with representatives from local state schools.

SAT Testing Centre

In 2012, Whitgift became a registered Test Centre for university admissions tests for American universities. Students from anywhere in the UK can register to use the School as their Test Centre.

Weddings

Whitgift is a registered venue for civil wedding ceremonies and hosts numerous weddings annually (dependent on school weekend activities). It is also a popular venue for other receptions, parties, dinners, conferences and team building events.

London Youth Games

Whitgift was the venue for the London Youth Games celebration in conjunction with the Croydon Sports Development Team.

Sports

Many schools and local clubs utilise the School's extensive sports facilities (see above).

Music and Drama

Whitgift launched the Whitgift Academy of Visual and Performing Arts (WAVPA) in September 2014, following a hugely successful pilot scheme. WAVPA offers Drama, Dance and Musical Theatre training to boys and girls aged 8-18, from Croydon and the surrounding areas. The course runs every Saturday during term time, and is led by industry professionals; experienced teachers, actors and dancers who have appeared frequently in West End theatre and on television.

Students enjoy an exciting and varied curriculum, including ambitious dance routines, challenging script work and scene study, and rigorous 'physical theatre' sessions. WAVPA is a fun and fulfilling programme, providing a fantastic platform for young people to try out new things, develop their skills and build on their talents. WAVPA is open to all abilities; enthusiasm, commitment and potential are as important as talent and experience.

Participating schools have included Whyteleafe School, The Hayes Primary School, Oakfield Prep, St Mary's Roman Catholic, Unicorn Primary, Parish Church school, Wallington High, Old Palace, Dulwich Prep, Ursuline High, Beatrix Potter School, St Andrews, Coloma, John Fisher, Emmanuel, St Olave's, St Chad's Primary, Wilson's Grammar and Croydon High.

k) Transport

The School has a School Travel Plan and is working on initiatives to reduce its impact upon the local transport network. In particular, the School is constantly reviewing and adding to School Bus Run provision which reaches across the School's 1500 mile extensive catchment area and is helping to reduce the number of parental car journeys and congestion on local roads. A high percentage of our pupils travel to school by public transport and the area is easily accessed by trains (via South Croydon station), buses and the Croydon tram system.

l) Other school associations

The Friends of the Raeburn Library

The *Friends* is a group of current and former parents, former pupils and other people linked in any way to the School which meets on a regular basis for cultural activities. These include trips to the theatre, presentations and talks and an annual "get together". The Friends is organised by the Head Librarian at the School and is based at the School's main library, The Raeburn Library.

The WSPA

Whitgift has a vibrant parents' organisation called the Whitgift School Parents' Association (WSPA). This association is run by current parents of boys at the School and organises social events for parents and friends of the School and also assists with school and community events such as during the Arts Festival and in the School Library.

The Whitgiftians' Association and the Whitgift Sports Club (WSC)

The School has a former pupil organisation, the Whitgiftians' Association (WA). The WA, WSPA and the School all work together on a number of projects to enhance a sense of community at Whitgift

Attached to the WA is the Whitgift Sports Club, based at Croham Road in South Croydon. The WSC provides sports teams for the local community and is an "open" club available to all (and not just former pupils). The clubhouse provides a social facility and is available for hire. There are a number of Junior sections at the Club for sports such as rugby and cricket. From September to March perhaps 500 children from the local area can be seen playing mini-rugby at the Club.

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