



BEECHWOOD
Sacred Heart School

SENIOR SCHOOL



PROSPECTUS



Welcome to Beechwood Senior School



Beechwood has an excellent reputation for developing the potential of every pupil regardless of her or his academic abilities.

Every child is important to us and we aim to discover and develop each child's unique skills and interests. It is the job of a good school to unlock this potential through consistent support, inspirational teaching and wide-ranging extra curricular opportunities, so that all our pupils leave school with confidence, ambition and purpose.

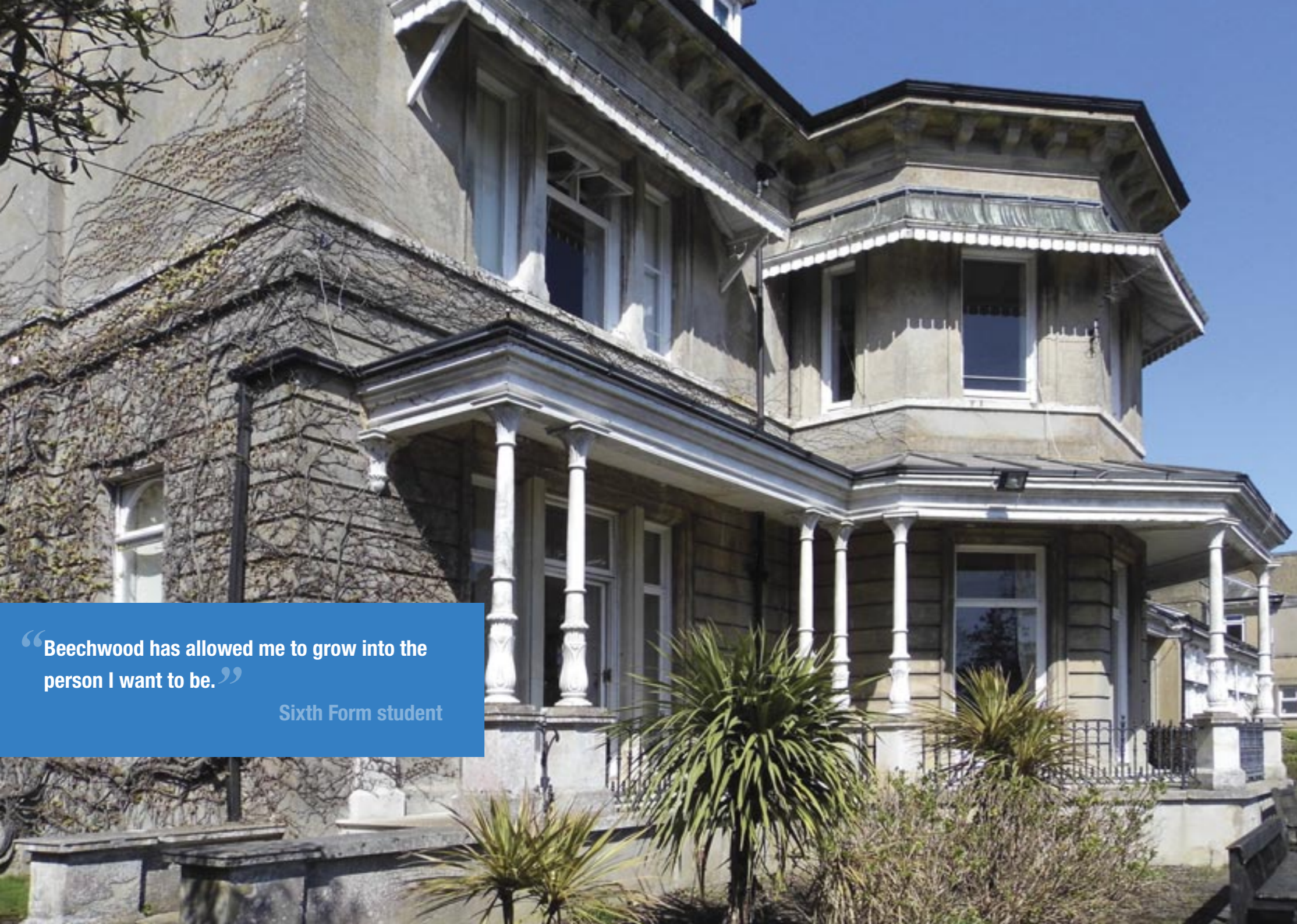
Beechwood has seen many changes since its foundation by the Sisters of the Sacred Heart in 1915, but throughout this time the ethos of the school has remained unchanged, based on respect for the individual and belief in co-operation.

Today Beechwood is a thriving co-educational day and boarding school welcoming boys and girls of all faiths.

I warmly invite you to visit us, either at one of our Open Days, or on a personal tour. I very much look forward to welcoming you to Beechwood.

Helen Rowe BA(Hons) PGCE DipRAM LTCL
Head





“Beechwood has allowed me to grow into the person I want to be.”

Sixth Form student

Beechwood is a co-educational, day and boarding school for pupils aged three to eighteen, originally founded in 1915 by the Sisters of the Sacred Heart.

Set within twenty one acres of idyllic grounds in Tunbridge Wells, our beautiful old buildings exude historical character and charm. The historic town of Royal Tunbridge Wells is a short walk away. Central London can be reached in forty five minutes by train and both Gatwick and Heathrow airports in less than an hour.

At Beechwood we aim to provide a first class education. We treat every child as an individual to ensure that they achieve the best possible academic results. In addition, we offer a wide range of opportunities outside the classroom, which are designed to develop qualified, creative, caring and insightful students.



**Big enough
to challenge,
small enough
to care**

The wellbeing of our pupils is at the heart of everything we do at Beechwood, with pastoral care being of paramount importance. We recognise that young people growing up in this ever-changing world need appropriate guidance and support. We aim to instil a strong sense of self esteem and confidence. All members of the school community share these values and contribute to its ethos.

“**Relationships between pupils and staff and among the pupils themselves are excellent and form the foundation of both the ethos in the school and its quality of care.**”

Recent ISI report



We want your children to be the best they can be, wherever life takes them.

Our main focus is ensuring that we prepare our pupils for life beyond school. We aim to develop happy, balanced and open individuals who are ready to play their part in a constantly evolving world, as well as creating lifelong learners with inquiring minds and a thirst for knowledge.

Academic achievement is paramount and our success at adding value to a pupil's potential is something in which we take pride. Our inspiring teachers have a passion for their subject which they communicate to their students, encouraging them to be actively involved in their own education. We offer a wide range of subjects, with up to twenty three at A-Level, including psychology, photography, drama, textiles, food technology and music.

**Be the best
you can be...**



After school and at lunchtime, our clubs provide pupils with the opportunity to broaden their experience. Many choose to take private lessons in instrumental music, speech and drama, chess, dance, fencing and tennis.

“Good academic standards are achieved throughout the school and many pupils achieve success in sport or the arts.”
Latest ISI Inspection



“We enjoy group discussions involving everyone, allowing everyone's point of view.”
Year 11 pupil





“Beechwood has helped me to build my self-confidence and discover my talents.”

Year 9 pupil



Through an extensive co-curricular programme our students explore opportunities in the arts, drama and sport.

For those who demonstrate particular talent and enthusiasm, this support is vital. Our facilities, specialist staff and equipment allow their strengths to be nurtured and developed.

Our walls and corridors are full of striking pieces of students’ artwork. We encourage pupils to understand the creative process and to reflect on it, incorporating the multiple disciplines and techniques used to create their own original work.

Many Beechwood pupils choose to take part in drama productions, either performing on stage in our bespoke drama studio, or working backstage helping with props, costume make-up or lighting. Our Drama department puts on several plays throughout the year and offers many trips to the West End to see the most cutting-edge productions. Our Music department offers a wide range of performance opportunities including, gospel and chamber choirs, orchestra, jazz band and rock bands. Solo opportunities are provided through a series of lunchtime concerts, and large-scale concerts. The school choir is highly successful, touring in recent years to Paris and Bruges and performing at the O2 Arena in London and Westminster Central Hall.

At Beechwood we strongly believe that sport develops teamwork and instils self-confidence and leadership skills, as well as providing exercise. Competition is healthy but we give sporting opportunities for students of all abilities. Sports on offer to both girls and boys include rugby, football, cricket, hockey, netball, badminton and basketball. Our newly refurbished gym and multi-use games area, provide high quality facilities all year round.

We offer many opportunities for trips abroad including New York, Rome and Pompeii, skiing in the Alps, the Christmas markets in Cologne and the True Adventure trip, which this year went to the Galapagos Islands and Ecuador.

Beechwood is connected to nearly five hundred Sacred Heart schools world wide. Each year our students take part in exchanges with schools in Boston, Hamburg, Seville and Nantes, giving them the opportunity both to develop their language skills and to strengthen global links.

At Beechwood we are proud to be a Duke of Edinburgh Awards Centre and each year a significant number of pupils take part in the scheme.

Exploring opportunities

“The quality of pastoral care, support and guidance is outstanding.”
Latest ISI Inspection



Developing skills

Beechwood provides an excellent opportunity for pupils to engage with an impressive diversity of subjects. Students develop their skills across the curriculum while preparing for the challenge of GCSEs and A-Levels.

Every pupil studies English, in which we offer a broad and exciting curriculum where students can develop their knowledge of great literature and their skills in reading and writing. Students who have studied overseas can also take advantage of the EAL department, which gives them extra support for English as an additional language.

The Mathematics department is well resourced and is staffed by a team of specialist teachers with a wide range of experience. In addition to encouraging pupils to be confident and achieve high standards in the subject, our main aim is to develop mathematical thinking. Lunchtime Mathematics clubs offer students individual time to discuss topics with their teachers.

Our Science department is housed in its own block with fully equipped laboratories. Many students choose to study science at A-Level and go on to university courses such as medicine, biochemistry and pharmacology. In order to nurture a love of this exciting subject and the world of technology, younger pupils take part in STEM clubs (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) and national science competitions. Being so close to London we are also able to take advantage of world class university lecture series.

Beechwood pupils are offered a wide range of languages and are given a considerable degree of choice to adapt their language combinations to their own interests and needs. Language assistants from France, Germany and Spain support the students in the development of their spoken language. Opportunities also exist for language exchanges with families abroad.

In the lead up to GCSEs students benefit from many revision clubs which are run at lunchtimes and after school. Staff are always happy to give support when a student needs individual attention.



“Teachers here are exceptional – they genuinely want to help you and get pleasure out of your success.”
Year 10 pupil





“After a couple of minutes I felt I had been here for years because of the way Beechwood is.”
Year 7 pupil

There is a special, homely feel to the boarding community at Beechwood.

Our team of boarding staff is committed to providing a happy, settled and safe family environment for every child, where confidence, intellectual curiosity and independence are fostered.

In becoming a boarder, your son or daughter will have access to a full range of facilities and resources, including additional academic support from specialist staff. This enables all boarding students to excel in their academic studies, to enjoy a wide range of activities and to develop their skills and characters, helping to lay the foundation for their success in the future.



Boarding community

Boarding is provided in comfortable, modern accommodation throughout, in single rooms for Sixth Formers (Years 12 and 13) and two- or three-bedded rooms for younger students (Years 7-11).

More than 80% of our students are from the UK, while our boarders include a range of nationalities from the UK and across the world. Beechwood encourages high standards and values – honesty, respect and consideration for others.

“Pupils from widely varied cultural backgrounds work harmoniously together...”
Recent ISI report

**Big enough to challenge,
small enough to care**

Our Sixth Form Centre is the perfect place to nurture individual interests and enjoy growing intellectual, personal and social independence.

A-Levels offer the chance to study chosen subjects in depth. Many students now opt to do an EPQ, which involves detailed research on a topic of their choice. The EPQ gains the student more UCAS points and can be an area for discussion at interview showing independent thought and study. All students develop a more independent approach to learning and are mentored by their tutor who they meet every day. By combining an excellent academic environment with this extra support we help our students to fulfil their potential and to go on to the university of their choice. International students may also opt to take a foundation year at Beechwood before entering the Sixth Form. This provides extra intensive English tuition and preparation for IELTS.

Sixth Form



The Sixth Form enjoy the use of their own common room and study centre. A certain level of independence is encouraged, including the opportunity to wear business suits rather than school uniform, to go out into the town at lunchtimes and to manage their free periods. Students can be elected as prefects and are expected to lead the rest of the Senior school by example. They also follow a personal, social and health education programme unique to the Sixth Form giving opportunities to look at study skills, political issues, develop critical thinking and debate as well as actively support local charities.

Students are given all the help they need to make the transition from school to university. During their time in the Sixth Form, students will have the chance to visit universities, giving them a flavour of undergraduate life and receive comprehensive support to guide them through the UCAS application process.

**To truly appreciate what makes Beechwood unique do come and visit us.
I will be delighted to introduce you to our wonderful pupils and the
inspiring teachers who nurture and care for them.**

To find out more, please contact registrar@beechwood.org.uk or visit beechwood.org.uk

