



Weston Green
School

Future Schools Preparation





Weston Green is a place where children thrive and grow to become confident and independent young people, well placed to succeed and gain entry into their top choice of independent and grammar schools in the surrounding area.

We take pride in ensuring that our children achieve exceptionally well, through both tailored prep and a rich and diverse curriculum and learning experience during their time with us, so ensuring they have both the precise skills and the wider aptitudes and confidence to secure places at a broad range of senior schools.

Over the past few years our children have gained places at a range of schools in our area including: Surbiton High, Claremont Fan Court, Royal Grammar Guildford, St John's Leatherhead, St George's Weybridge, Lady Eleanor Holles, Tiffin, Kingston Grammar, Notre Dame, Hampton, Hampton Court House, Reeds and Epsom College.

Each year our children are awarded a number of scholarships including academic, art, drama, music and sport. It is important to us that we work with both our children and you as parents to support and guide you through the entire process, ensuring that we always maintain high aspirations for your child and that they gain entry to the school which is right for them. We place emphasis on a personalised approach, ensuring each child is prepared academically but also personally through an individualised programme based on their chosen school's requirements.

We prepare our children well for this process through opportunities to become leaders in school, to take the initiative and be responsible, supporting them socially and pastorally so that they flourish and succeed. It is important that our children are well prepared academically, that we challenge and support them to achieve their best, but also that we know where your child needs to focus to ensure they are both capable and confident when preparing for and taking entrance exams or going through interview. With this in mind, it is also critical that our children gain wider skills from the many opportunities to succeed through the broad variety of extra curricular activities both at home and school and that they can talk confidently about their broader lives so that their drive, enthusiasm, curiosity and enjoyment shines through.

This booklet is intended to support you in the decision making process, providing you with details on many local senior school choices, their entrance requirements and application procedures, as well as how we prepare your child and guide them and you through the process. We will be working alongside you and your family to provide advice, answer questions and offer our experience, considered views and guidance from our knowledge of working with your child, to enable success in gaining a place to their choice of future school.

We have an open door, so do please ask and enquire if you need any further help throughout this process.

David Brown
Headteacher

How we prepare pupils for success at 11+

Throughout Upper Prep, children are taught maths and English in small class sizes with Teaching Assistant support directed to both support and challenge pupils appropriately. We use Cognitive Ability Tests (CATs), on-going teacher assessment and quality first teaching to ensure our pupils are on track and fulfilling their potential. Our teacher judgement informs any intervention which may offer children the chance to embed prior learning or to move their learning onto the next level. In addition, we use spelling tests, reading, writing and maths assessments to inform our planning. Our focus is ensuring the right process for each individual child and ensuring our excellent teachers offer a high quality curriculum and a supportive, yet challenging, learning environment.

Our Learning enrichment programme invites selected children to develop their core subject learning to a deeper level or apply their learning in different ways, extending their skills further. We offer sessions to provide mathematical reasoning challenges, to build on phonological awareness to improve spellings, to acquire key words and phrases to enhance communication skills, both written and verbal, or engaging sessions to debate, discuss and present information.

In the summer term of Year 4 children prepare for and take their ESB (English Speaking Board) exam, which helps them build their confidence for the interview element at 11+.

Children in Years 5 begin to explore exam techniques and practice material as well as accessing a range of past papers and example questions. Additionally, there is exposure to a wide range of comprehension types and techniques for responding succinctly and analytically. Regular spelling tests with the inclusion of 11+ vocabulary support language development.

In Years 4, 5 and 6, children receive weekly verbal and non-verbal reasoning (VR and NVR) practice in dedicated lessons to begin the preparation for this element of some 11+ exams. Regular interview practice, lateral thinking and problem-solving opportunities as well as discussions about current affairs take place in class. 11+ practice material forms an important and regular part of the homework schedule across English, maths, VR and NVR.

Preparation Weeks

Additionally, we run two dedicated 11+ preparation weeks: one for Year 5 in the summer term and another in the autumn term when they move into Year 6. These weeks provide the opportunity to sit mock tests in an exam setting, practice interview techniques with our Headteacher and receive support to improve interview skills, and critically, we discuss techniques for maintaining a positive mindset through the 11+ journey.



Timeline for Future Schools Preparation and Application

YEAR 4		
Autumn Term	Begin to start thinking about the next steps after Weston Green at 11+.	Start engaging with future school websites and look for future Open Day dates. Begin to get to know what schools are out there.
	Future Schools Information Evening for Parents.	To discuss the timeline and process for application to future schools, supporting parents with information and to answer any questions.
Spring Term	Biennial Future Schools Fair for all parents.	Schools visiting to share information about themselves and their offer for children.
Summer Term	Visit schools, obtain prospectus packs, register your child and attend open days.	
	Begin to draw up a 'long list' of future schools.	
	Discussion at Parent Teacher Evening.	Initial dialogue with classteacher around creating a 'long list' of future schools.

YEAR 5		
Autumn term	Future Schools Information Evening for Parents.	Supporting families in the decision making process, speakers internal and external to the school.
	Continue to attend Open Days and register your child.	
	Discussion at Parent Teacher Evening.	Further dialogue with classteacher / subject teachers to update the decision process.
	Enquire at schools for choices of scholarships and applications for these. (N.B Art scholarships portfolios need additional time)	Inform Weston Green if a scholarship is being applied for due to the additional references and information to be collated.
Spring Term	Continue to visit schools and register.	
	Biennial Future Schools Fair for all parents.	Schools visiting to share information about themselves and their offer for children.

Summer Term	Future Schools Consultation Evening.	All teachers involved with your child's future school preparation including the headteacher, to meet with parents to discuss progress against expectations and shortlist future schools choices. We recommend 3 or 4 applications.
	Finalise short list for application.	Weston Green will issue a form for details of future school applications to be completed.
	Notify school of any intended scholarship applications and deadlines.	
	Preparatory future school report form to be completed and sent in to school.	Provide detail of extra-curricular activities and achievements so that individual reports can be prepared well in advance of Year 6.
	Parents Evenings - parents and child attend.	Attend with your child so that we can discuss and set aspirations and on-going support over the summer and into Year 6.
	Summer term homework issued - Set on Google classroom to support ongoing learning over the summer holiday to ensure optimum preparation going into Year 6.	Given at parents evening to support onward learning and preparation over the summer and into Year 6.
	11+ Prep Week - A week within the usual timetable to provide children with the opportunity to discuss aspects of the 11+ process, to sit mock papers in examination conditions, to practice completing tasks to a set timescale and to complete some interview practice and learn techniques.	

YEAR 6		
Autumn Term	Parent Teacher Evening early in the term.	To discuss progress, attainment and preparation for entrance exam.
	Complete and send in all application forms and supplementary information.	As requested by future schools.
	Some entrance exams take place in the Autumn Term.	
	Complete scholarship applications.	
	Pupil references / reports submitted.	
Spring Term	Entrance exams take place in early spring term.	
	Results and offers received February / March. Final decisions made. Please inform the school.	Additional support meetings held by request to assist in decision making.

Scholarships

Weston Green pupils have an excellent track record of securing scholarships at many of our local senior independent schools.



Most scholarships are subject specific, such as music, drama, art or sport, but schools also often award academic scholarships to those who excel in their entrance exams. Scholarships usually give a small discount on fees and inclusion into the school's specific programme.

If you have a child who you think has a special talent for a subject then it is definitely worth thinking about making a scholarship application. In the first instance you should talk to the relevant subject teacher at Weston Green; we are a small school, and whilst your child may indeed have a talent for a particular subject, our specialists will be able to advise you on the likelihood of them being suitable material for a scholarship at senior level, where they will be competing against many other very talented applicants. Our subject specialists have experience in guiding and supporting parents through the scholarship process, and are always happy to have a conversation with you about this.

Once you have decided to make a scholarship application, you will need to register with the school and make a formal application. This will involve a subject specialist reference which we will supply. The process usually also involves a selection process whereby your child will attend a selection day or days, in addition to the normal academic exams. It should be noted that scholarship applications are not instead of the academic selection process, and scholarships will only be awarded to those pupils who also meet the academic requirements of the school. Once a scholarship place has been secured, your child will be expected to fulfill the role of a scholar - i.e. participating in events and competitions, being a role model for their subject, and continuing to achieve at a high level. It is therefore important that they have a passion for the subject and are willing to put in time and effort beyond just securing a place.





A co-educational preparatory school for pupils aged two to eleven years

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