



## South Hampstead High School - Aims & Ethos

The school's **mission** is to open doors, hearts and minds. Our **aims** for our pupils are:

- To develop a love of learning and curiosity about the world, and to fulfil their academic potential.
- To be confident in who they are, to find their voice and pursue their interests
- To be kind and respectful of others at school and in the world beyond, and appreciative of difference.
- To develop the perspective to live fulfilled lives in the world beyond School, and to make their presence felt as a force for good.

Our **values** are **Aspiration, Creativity, Kindness, Courage** and **Commitment**.

Our **vision** is to differentiate South Hampstead as an exceptional and distinctive girls' school by:

1. **Offering** a joyful, broad education with curiosity, creativity, collaboration and conversation at its very heart.
2. **Developing** in our pupils the aptitudes and attitudes, the resilience and perspectives to thrive in their lives at school and beyond.
3. **Fostering** a kind and open-minded community of individuals with a strong sense of self and respect for others.

Our **ethos**

At South Hampstead we believe that education should be a truly enriching experience, a gift for life. We want our pupils to develop some sense of the sheer size of the world and all there is to learn about it – past, present and future. We believe in the power of knowledge as a tool for thought and creative endeavour, and a source of lifelong inspiration and curiosity. Being a single sex school reflects our commitment to creating an environment where the capacity for girls to flourish is exceptional.

In and out of the classroom, we want our pupils to find their voice, spoken and written, as well as to develop powerful listening skills. We want them to explore the big questions, the searching questions, the difficult questions. Debate and discussion lie at the very heart of a South Hampstead education. We aim to create abundant opportunities for creative output and to encourage pupils to take risks. In our teaching, we do what we know works and put research and reflection at the heart of our professional development. Teaching is a noble profession and our staff are central to our success.

We aim to provide outstanding breadth of opportunity in our curricular and co-curricular programme and to open our pupils' minds to a myriad of possibilities. We believe that involvement in school life is a key factor in our pupils' happiness. But it's not just about taking part; we aim to instil in pupils a sense of purpose, pride and determination and the belief that they can compete on the biggest of stages.

We aim to create a warm, compassionate and kind community where girls can be themselves and make friends for life. We want them to play their part in our community and in the community beyond South Hampstead. Our approach to education is characterised by seeking to provide an intentional, illuminating and inspirational education for every girl; we have a critical role to play in preparing our young women to live and thrive, work and lead in tomorrow's world.