Whitgift and
the Community
# CONTENTS

Introduction  

a) Scholarships and bursaries  
b) Primary school children  
c) Supporting the underprivileged, the disabled and the elderly  
d) Croydon partnerships  
e) Music links with the community  
f) Whitgift and the international community  
g) Sharing sports facilities with the community  
h) Community Service  
i) Whitgift and community education  
j) Additional community provision  
k) Transport  
l) Other associations linked to the School  

## Appendices

Appendix A – Schools Together – Profile: CCF  
Appendix B – Schools Together – Profile: Primary Project  
Appendix C - Schools Together – Profile: Autumn Collection Concert
Whitgift and the Community

2016 / 2017

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 and wider 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 £1,875,000 on scholarships, totalling £4,025,000. This comes from fee income of £25,041,210 which equates to 16% of fee income.

b) **Primary school children**

**Whitgift Primary Project**

Set up in 2000, the Primary Project was formerly a partnership, consisting of the Croydon Advertiser, Croydon Business and Education Partnership, and Whitgift School. The Primary Project is now funded completely by Whitgift. It gives Primary Schools from the Croydon area the chance to attend Whitgift for one week per year to use the facilities around the School for ICT and a variety of other subjects. Approximately 1,000 children from over 30 Primary Schools visit Whitgift for the Primary Project every year. The project runs during every full school week of the year and is fully integrated into the everyday routine at Whitgift School.

During the week, the visiting children are introduced to various aspects of Computer Science. These include: coding with Scratch software, programming the BBC Micro:bit, website design, graphics work, animation, control and simulation, music, MSW Logo, Robotics and movie making. The Computer Science work undertaken is based on the topic that the pupils are studying at the time they attend the project. This part of the curriculum is run by the Project Coordinator who is a full-time member of the Whitgift staff.

Other lessons are delivered by specialist Whitgift teachers who have the Primary Project lessons built into their normal timetable. As part of their Science allocation, the pupils experience a hands-on Chemistry lesson using Bunsen burners. Pupils have two language lessons, currently Mandarin Chinese and German. The children are introduced to culture and geography and take part in games, role plays and singing. The pupils have a PE lesson with a specialist coach. Their class teacher can choose from a range of sports such as cricket, swimming, football, hockey, or rugby. In Music, pupils are introduced to Djembe drums and they play a copycat rhythm game.
In addition to the curriculum work, pupils are given exposure to some of the exotic wildlife found at the School. The provision of the Water Gardens at Whitgift provides an outstanding opportunity for pupils to experience an unusual ecological habitat.

Through the Primary Project, Whitgift aims to provide pupils from Croydon Primary Schools the opportunity to experience a week of learning in a unique and inspiring environment. Pupils encounter a large Secondary School environment for the first time, giving them an insight into life after Primary School. Whitgift aims to keep abreast of advances in the curriculum and the teaching resources available to ensure that pupils are exposed to fresh and innovative concepts. Whitgift sees the potential in the visiting pupils and aims to inspire these pupils by showing them what they can achieve during their visit. (Please see Appendix B for a more detailed summary).

The Autumn Collection Concert
Children from primary schools in Croydon are invited to attend the Autumn Collection Concert. The annual concert incorporates a variety of performances by Whitgift students and is designed specifically for children in Key Stage 2. It provides an opportunity for students to develop their understanding and appreciation of music whilst watching a live concert. Before its closure in 2016, the concert was held at the Fairfield Halls. Approximately 1,300 children attended the Autumn Collection Concert every November. In 2016 the concert was held at Whitgift School with a smaller audience of 380 primary pupils and staff. Tickets have always been free of charge and are allocated on a first come first served basis. The venue is usually fully booked. (See Appendix C for more detailed information).

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 regularly other schools have visited to see and sketch the wildlife, including St Giles, a special community school for pupils with physical difficulties and complex medical needs.

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 which has featured popular comedians such as Harry Hill, Dominic Holland, Mark Maier and Bennett Arron, and the ever-popular Upper School 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. Last year we raised over £7,000 which was split between ‘Help the Cambodian Children’ which funds the Goodwill Centre in Cambodia and ‘Soweto Kliptown Youth’, an orphanage in South Africa. This year our two nominated charities are The Royal Marsden Cancer Charity and Campaign Against Living Miserably (CALM), a charity which aims to prevent male suicide in the UK. We will be donating 40% of all monies raised throughout the year to each of these charities. The remaining 20% will be donated to ‘Mary’s Meals’, a Scottish-based organisation which provides meals to school children in some of the world’s poorest communities. Keith Bartlett, one of the professional actors in the School’s production of Hamlet, is donating all of his annual income to ‘Mary’s Meals’ and Whitgift wants to support this extraordinary individual act of 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 recently donated a large number of Physics and Chemistry textbooks to Books4Africa, a charity that sends books to African schools. The School Nurse organises staff fundraising throughout the year for Smile Train, an international children’s charity that provides cleft lip and palate repair surgery, and a contribution is made at Christmas. The Learning Support department have run a sponsored ‘spell-a-thon’ in aid of Help for Heroes and some Sixth Form pupils supervised Operation Shoebox to support troops in Afghanistan in 2009 and 2010. Easter eggs have also been donated to children’s charities in previous years. Over the last year, sports kit and uniform that went unsold at the Parents’ Association Second Hand Uniform Sales have been sent to Nepal following the earthquake, and also to Germany for Syrian refugees. This Christmas, the School and Duke of Edinburgh pupils in particular, are supporting Evolve with their Christmas gift bag campaign for the homeless.

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, cross-country skiing and marathons.

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 School’s nominated charities.
Additionally within the DT department, scrap wood is collected and sold as firewood. 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, Mrs Atiya Bauer, are Governors of Red Gates School for children with severe, profound and multiple learning difficulties and autism.

**d) Croydon partnerships**

**Exhibitions**

In April 2016, Whitgift opened a major exhibition ‘Remembering 1916 – Life on the Western Front’ to mark the Centenary of the First World War. There is 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 features a number of special presentations, including the world before the War, and the re-creation of an Edwardian room, and is open daily to members of the public until April 2017. By November 2016, the Exhibition had welcomed over 21,700 visitors including many local school children and the Chelsea Pensioners. The Exhibition has received very favourable reviews in publications such as The Sunday Telegraph, The Times and Londonist.

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.
CCF

Whitgift has CCF partnerships with Thomas More School and 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 50 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. These include a five day residential camp and also Adventurous Training camps. The Whitgift CCF have also hosted the Croydon Turnaround Project for young offenders on several occasions. In 2014 pupils were given the opportunity to plant poppies at the Tower of London. The CCF partnerships have been running now for eight years and are greatly appreciated by the participating schools and their pupils. In December 2015 pupils from all three schools participated in an exciting trip on HMS Ocean, embarking in Gibraltar and sailing back to Plymouth. In August 2016 pupils from all three schools spent a week as guests of 1PWRR in Germany, hosted by Lt Col Mike Cornwell (OW). Successive Inspecting Officers at the Annual General Inspection have praised these partnerships and reported accordingly to the MOD and the whole project has also been noted by HMC on their website. (See Appendix A for more detailed information).

e) Music links with the community

Croydon Minster

Whitgift’s Director of Choral Music has a dual role with the Croydon Minster, wholly funded by Whitgift School. At the Croydon Minster, he is Director of Boys’ and Girls’ Choirs (comprising of boys and girls from over 18 different schools in Croydon) as well as Director of the Minster Consort which is made up of adults and choral scholars from the Croydon area. He performs the organ for concerts and services at the Minster and arranges choral services for the wider Croydon community which includes civic service, civic remembrance services and town carol services. He is also involved in musical outreach work at the Minster Junior School in Croydon.

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, Workshops and Drama Productions**
Whitgift shares close relationships with many schools in the area and performances
regularly include numerous pupils from local schools. Pupils from Croydon High,
Old Palace and Caterham School will be joining Whitgift in concerts and productions
this year. In previous years, Whitgift has invited Croydon Parish Church Primary and
St Andrew’s to participate. Each year the School choir combines with choirs from the
two Foundation schools for the Founder’s Day service at Croydon Minster. The
School hosts concerts for pupils from Whitgift and a huge number of local primary
schools as part of the Primary Project initiative, which culminates in two educational,
interactive concerts staged at the Fairfield Halls. Despite the recent closure of the
venue, the School continues to present the 20 year old initiative and has relocated the
concert to Whitgift, thereby ensuring the outstanding educational scheme is
maintained. Regular workshops are presented by renowned professionals for Whitgift
pupils using a number of our Performing Arts facilities; pupils from Croydon High are
also often invited to attend. The School’s main hall is frequently used by local
schools for prize-givings.

**f) Whitgift and the international community**

**Educational Conferences**
In November 2015, the Economics Department hosted an Institute of Economic
Affairs Student Conference which was open to other schools in the area. Students
listened to three interactive lectures on economic issues currently facing the world,
from poverty to immigration. Whitgift hosted a similar event in 2014 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.
It is planned to host the same again in March 2016.

In previous years, Whitgift has staged language conferences 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 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 unique; 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 Sixth Form pupils at Whitgift and the School has become a market leader in this area. The 2016 IB results were the third best in the country for schools with large cohorts, the best for an all-boys’ school and the best for a boarding school. The IB Co-ordinator provides advice and support to both state and independent schools considering introducing or developing the IB. As part of the course, all students take part in a programme of Creativity, Action and Service (CAS) in the local community. This involves students volunteering in the local area, helping students at other schools and committing to a CAS project in which they work together for an extended period of time in the summer between the Lower and Upper Sixth. 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
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 enjoyed 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 combined 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 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.

**Surrey Schools’ Cricket Association**

Whitgift has for over a decade provided the venue for various age group Surrey Cup Finals and more recently the U12 Semi-Final and Finals day, also U14 Surrey Cup Final. Both very important to the county structure as the winners of both the U12 & U14 age groups go on to represent the Surrey in the National competitions the following year.

We also host the Surrey Stars Regional Development Centre which provides development for the elite girl cricketers in the South East.

**Rugby**

Whitgift is a recognised RFU training centre and offers regular rugby coaching courses. 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. We also host a Prep School Tournament. The Rugby Department run some rugby sessions for visiting schools and offer trial days to some prep schools.

**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. Archbishop Lanfranc Academy also 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. 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. Whitgift, have also developed a very close relationship with East Grinstead HC. The club use the facilities as part of one of their club training nights, allowing access to the pitch to a number of high profile GB Olympians; Ashley Jackson, Chris Griffiths, David Condon, Nick Catlin and Glenn Kirkham. This allows our boys to train with the best players in the country and expose them to a truly exciting learning environment. The relationship is blossoming with an increased intake of boys coming from East Grinstead.

Hockey camps are regularly run in school holidays and are open to the community. Whitgift’s Hockey Development Officer is also in contact with local schools with the aim of increasing links and he is also working closely with Wimbledon Hockey Club to create an outreach project. The aim of the project is to link up with more boys from a state school background to then provide coaching and possibly host a tournament in the New Year.

**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. 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, Former 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 along with London South Table Tennis and Surrey Schools Table Tennis AGMs. In addition Whitgift host Surrey Schools Table Tennis Age Group Finals.

**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.

Shooting Range
As well as being used by our partner schools in the CCF activities, we open our shooting range for use by Whitgift Veterans Rifle Club.

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. In 2015, Whitgift was recognised as a Pentathlon GB approved training centre. As part of this, Whitgift has launched the Whitgift Modern Pentathlon Academy which provides regular weekly training and development days for boys and girls aged 9-18. Academy members are able to represent Whitgift in Modern Pentathlon Competition. 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 Head of Modern Pentathlon Laura Gomersall is also the Pentathlon GB Pathway Coach and is responsible for training and supporting the British Youth Team for International Competition.

Athletics
A number of preparatory schools including Parkgate House School, as well as the Archbishop Lanfranc Academy, have been able to use our gym facilities and fields. Some schools have also benefitted from coaching by Whitgift sports staff. Our Head of Athletics is currently in discussion with Norbury Manor Girls School who have requested to use our field tracks and also our pool for the life saving section within their GCSE PE course.

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, youth clubs, homeless shelters and a dog activity club for young people with special needs and disabilities. Pupils have also assisted in faith communities, helped the Police by taking part in education courses and been involved in reading schemes by helping pupils at local schools with reading difficulties. In 2016 up to 42 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.
i) **Whitgift and community education**

**Arts Festival**
Whitgift’s Arts Festival started as an annual event but which is now a year-long programme 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 liaised with local schools, lending tests and advising on administration and assessment. 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.

**School Competitions**
A number of Whitgift teaching staff volunteer to judge competitions at local schools. This has included our English teachers judging a speechifying competition at Cumnor House School, as well as similar competitions at schools such as Northcote Lodge.

Our Director of Music is a professional judge/adjudicator for the British and International Federation of Festivals and she often travels countrywide (or, sometimes internationally) to judge competitions. In addition to this, she voluntarily judges house music competitions for schools in the local community. Other members of the Music Department have also been involved in judging music competitions at local schools.

**Summer School**
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.

**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**
In recent years, an open group, run by our Senior Biology Technician, have come along to help maintain and develop an area of woodland (the Copse) – open to parents and boys, plus any interested parties from local community.
**Design Technology**

The DT 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. The Department is in the process of restructuring this outreach programme to local primary schools to engage them with the latest technology and inspire them to innovate and design.

The Department works closely with the Primary Project and offers access to the laser cutter and 3D printers should the schools choose to complete a CAD/CAM (computer aided design/manufacture) in action package in the Department.

The Department opens its facilities for use during the Science Taster days and the Summer School to maximise access to the facilities for as many students as possible.

**Library**

The Raeburn Library donates surplus books to a local academy and to local charity shops. 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 3-5 lectures each term and these are open to the public who can request a ticket via the website or by email contact. Local schools are invited to some of the lectures, as are parents and residents in local care homes.

Booked lectures for 2016/17 include Baron Williams, former Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Jonathan Hare, Dr Alice Bunn, Director of Policy at UK Space Agency and Dr Simon Singh. 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 then 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. 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, and is subsidised by the School. 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, Hazelwood, Oakfield Prep, St Mary’s Roman Catholic, Unicorn Primary, Parish Church School, St Dunstan’s College, James Allen Girls, Coulsdon College, Surbiton High, Trinity, Christchurch Purley, Sydenham High, Wallington High, Wallington Grammar, Old Palace, Dulwich Prep, Riddlesdown Collegiate, Ursuline High, Beatrix Potter School, St Andrews, Coloma, Dunottar, Nonsuch, 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 associations linked to the School**

**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 Whitgiftian Association and the Whitgift Sports Club (WSC)**

The Whitgiftian Association (WA) is the School’s former pupil association with membership open to all Old Whitgiftians (OWs). Parents who are paying for their son’s membership in advance and boys currently in the Sixth Form are entitled to automatic membership. The WA keeps comprehensive records of all OWs, arranges reunions and other events and provides mentoring and careers advice.

The Whitgift Sports Club (WSC) is based at Croham Road in South Croydon. The Club not only provides sporting facilities for Old Whitgiftians, but membership is open to the local community as well. Rugby, Cricket, and Football are played at the club, whilst Hockey and Swimming enjoy facilities at the School and elsewhere. There are also thriving Junior sections for rugby and cricket and from September to March as many as 500 children from the local area can be seen playing mini-rugby. The clubhouse provides a social facility for all OWs and is available for hire.

The Whitgiftian Association and the Whitgift Sports Club work closely together with the WSPA and the School to enhance a sense of community at Whitgift and amongst OWs of all ages.

**The Whitgift Benevolent Society**

The Society was formed over a hundred years ago to help Old Whitgiftians who were encountering difficulties and problems in their lives. More recently, the Society’s role has been expanded to embrace not only OWs, but anybody that has an association with the School. Help is now also available to current Whitgiftians, members of staff,
and anybody who forms part of the ‘Whitgift Family’. The Society’s Committee, made up entirely of OWs, deals with a great variety of cases and situations, eg. a present Whitgiftian on a bursary whose parents are struggling to cover the cost of a school trip, or an OW who has run into serious difficulties in his life and needs significant financial assistance.

**Last Review: November 2016**

**Next Review: November 2017**
Appendices

Appendix A – Schools Together – Profile: CCF


CCF at Whitgift
Partner: Thomas More Catholic School, Purley
Partner type: State School
Project category: CCF

Whitgift has CCF partnerships with two local schools 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 schools now have over 50 boys and girls benefiting from joining Whitgift’s Combined Cadet Force at no expense to them. The 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 sessions, 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 CCF partnerships have been running now for over six years and are greatly appreciated by the participating schools and their pupils.

Aims of the project

The whole aim of the CCF is to provide physical and mental challenges in a safe but challenging environment encouraging and developing self-reliance, citizenship, leadership, team building and communication skills. In addition, the CCF is designed to offer new and exciting, as well as challenging, activities, all with an element of fun. In particular, the Camps and Training Days are always popular.

Those students who remain in the CCF beyond Year 9 are taught to instruct and be responsible for the younger pupils and also have the opportunity to attend more camps and activities, sometimes abroad. Experience has shown that even those who are reluctant, do gain from being in the CCF environment and grow in confidence and self-esteem. This is a disciplined organisation which offers challenges to young people in an ordered and safe manner.

Background and goals

The CCF at Whitgift was established in 1874 and there is also a Corps of Drums which performs at many local events as well as national events.

Seven years ago, we established partnerships with two local maintained schools (Thomas More and St. Andrews) to allow their students to access our facilities and the opportunities of the CCF. During this time, it has been a great success as their students
and ours have worked together at camps and at meets on Tuesdays, and also their staff and ours have formed a close working relationship.

**Resources**

The School provides use of the school grounds, classrooms, swimming pool, sports hall, our indoor and outdoor firing ranges, minibuses and photocopying. We have a dedicated full-time member of staff who is also provided with housing and have seven members of the Whitgift teaching staff involved in the CCF. Another two members of staff attend from Thomas More School and two from St Andrews. In addition, we have a large network of ex-students (Old Whitgiftians (OWs)) who come to assist with the CCF on a regular basis.

We have good links with the regular forces enabling cadets from all three schools to participate in training weekends and camps with the regular armed forces.

All Tuesday CCF sessions are provided free of charge and the training weekends and camps are heavily subsidised.

**Impact**

Whitgift has a tradition of boys joining the armed forces and currently we have 40 OWs in the regular or reserve forces. We have run the two partnerships with local maintained schools for the past 7 years and their pupils have participated fully in all CCF activities.

Cadets follow a core curriculum containing activities such as shooting on the indoor range and also the outdoor range, map reading, canoeing, sailing, climbing, orienteering, drill, leadership activities and problem solving exercises, and are trained so as to be able to shoot safely. Once at Camp, cadets will take part in a day walk, obstacle course, shooting, fieldcraft, signals (radios), PE and sport and also a military exercise to put all their training into practice. The pupils have also had the opportunity to attend camps with the Army and take part in an Adventurous Training Expedition to Dorset.

Students from Whitgift and our partner schools have been trained to teach the younger cadets from all three schools and have attended leadership courses, for example, the annual Royal Marines leadership course at Lympstone.

At the Annual General Inspection (AGI), which involves up to 400 students from Whitgift and the partner schools, a wide range of activities including leadership challenges, Tug of War competitions, shooting, archery, flight simulator, kayaking, diving, abseiling, climbing, obstacle courses, fieldcraft, rigging a boat, a simulated platoon attack and Beating Retreat by the Corps of Drums are watched by parents of all three schools. We have had a helicopter from the Army Air Corps and over 40 pupils got to fly during the afternoon. Senior Regular Forces Inspecting Officers have praised both the facilities on offer as well as the partnerships we have fostered and their annual reports have been very positive (see below).
The school was very pleased to host Sergeant Beharry Johnson VC at the most recent AGI when he met cadets from all three schools and gave a talk and presented trophies to the competition winners. This gave students the chance to meet and talk to an inspirational and distinguished soldier who gave them an insight into the realities of war.

Quotes from AGI Inspectors:

“The cadets are confident, articulate, reasonably smart and immensely enthusiastic. The NCOs are afforded genuine responsibility and crucially significant freedom to make and learn from mistakes. The atmosphere is entirely conducive to all involved getting plenty of benefit from their time in the CCF. I have nothing but praise for this organisation. The real point is that the ethos and atmosphere inculcated by the Commanding Officer, the Officers and NCOs is just right and this speaks volumes: for there are myriad alternative pastimes in this superbly equipped and motivated school. This is an outstanding CCF setting a benchmark for others to follow.”

General Sir Peter Wall, CBE, Chief of the General Staff (Professional Head of the Army)

“I was thoroughly impressed by everything that I saw and witnessed during the inspection, from the guard and Corps of Drums at the outset, to the Platoon attack at the end of the day. The day was well choreographed and was executed to time which shows organisation, flexibility and discipline. The day was characterised by enthusiasm and real effort from the cadets, who clearly benefited from, and more importantly enjoyed, their involvement with the CCF. I was struck by the breadth of activities on offer to the cadets and noted that they were taking full advantage of what was available. I must also highlight the time and effort that your officers and senior instructors put into the day and to the number of ‘Old Boys’ who return to offer their services to the School and more specifically the CCF, a true measure of the CCF and your success.”

Captain Paul Abraham RN

“I am writing to pass on my thanks and admiration for such a splendid AGI last week. From the turnout and bearing of those on Parade to the energy and enthusiasm of cadets and staff alike during all the activities that I witnessed, I was extremely impressed.

I cannot sign off without a mention of the particularly high standard of the Corps of Drums. The musical talent on display was exceptional and to achieve that standard with students of different ages and different experience levels is truly remarkable.”

Lieutenant Colonel J Swift, Commanding Officer, 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers

“Whitgift CCF is an absolutely first class contingent and, as the largest in London and one of the largest in the country, is definitely a yardstick by which other cadet units can measure success. The combination of dedicated CCF officers, well-motivated adult
instructors, serving OWs prepared to return to assist and high quality leadership from the cadets themselves renders the CCF experience at Whitgift extremely powerful.”

Brigadier N D Sexton, Deputy Commander and Operations Director, Joint Helicopter Command

Quotes from Partner Schools:

“The link between Whitgift School and Thomas More Catholic School provides a wide array of opportunities that are not usually available to students at our school. Cadets benefit from the large variety of training on offer with equipment and expertise that are only found in organisations such as the CCF and, uniquely at Whitgift School, with its many contacts within the Armed Forces.

It is also unmistakeably clear that CCF training provides much more than just knowledge as proved countless times over the past 7 years of the partnership with cadets often filling the highest ranks of the student leadership structure at our school.

CCF also encourages students to be better learners at school through the motivation, discipline and confidence that are imparted through their training sessions. This is further evident in their generally higher attainment than their peers and eventually higher exam grades as well.

Camps and trips are often the highlight for most cadets as they are able to put in to practice the skills gained, have a lot of fun, and experience activities such as flying in Army Air Corps ‘Lynx’ helicopters, visits on board a submarine at the naval base Faslane and the forthcoming trip on HMS Ocean.”

Mr B Knott, Thomas More Catholic School

“The CCF opportunity that has been given to students of St Andrew’s CE High School over the last 6 years has been absolutely amazing. The students that have been involved with the 3 years of CCF training through Years 9, 10 & 11 have grown and developed in ways that many of our other students have not. The discipline, routine commitment of Tuesday training sessions, the many camps, range days and training weekends have given our students a far greater skills set, improved confidence, an ability to lead others with respect to the different needs of individuals, as well as an opportunity to make new friends from other schools. Many of our CCF students have become School Prefects in Year 11 as well as one Head Boy and a Deputy Head Girl. This is a direct result of the behaviour and personal conduct expected of each student whilst taking part in CCF at Whitgift School.”

Mr J Kirk, St Andrew’s CE High School
Quotes from the students of the partner schools:

Patrick K – “I like CCF as it gives me the experience that I cannot obtain anywhere else, even above other cadets organisations. For example, going on board HMS Ocean in my forthcoming trip.”

Ryan A – “I enjoy CCF as it gives me a chance to do fun and extraordinary things. I can also understand my physical and mental capabilities and improve them.”

Emel K – “I enjoy CCF because I can experience things I never thought I would in my school life. For example, handling a rifle. I also enjoy the camps because they are amazing value for money and I get to do things that I wouldn’t be able to do in my own school.”

Celia H – “CCF is really good because you experience things you won’t anywhere else.”

Ahsan A – “It looks amazing on your CV and it provides you with many helpful skills for the future.”

Pupil involvement

In addition to the Whitgift boys, we have 50 boys and girls from Thomas More and St Andrew’s schools from Years 9-13. The CCF has also run sessions for the Croydon Turnaround Project for youth offenders, offering a range of activities including sport, leadership training and adventure training.

Highlights over the past 5 years have included students from all three schools going helicopter flying, climbing, canoeing, shooting on the range, extended visits at sea on HMS Ocean, including a voyage from Gibraltar to Plymouth. In addition, the School CCF takes part in local events such as the Croydon Remembrance Service and also the Royal Fusiliers Remembrance Parade in London. A group from all three schools helped with planting memorial poppies at the Tower of London in 2014. Students have visited the Army Air Corp at Middle Wallop and experienced helicopter flying as well as a select group going to sea in a nuclear-powered submarine.

CCF involvement by the two partnerships is highly valued and celebrated (please see above for quotes from the teaching staff and pupils from those schools).

Frequency and duration

The CCF meets every Tuesday from 3.55pm to 5.30pm during the School year. There are also camps in October (3 days), January (3 days), March (5 days) and, during the summer holidays, there are two one-week camps. Pupils from all three schools are involved in all of these.

Start date: 01/09/2008
Appendix B – Schools Together – Profile: Primary Project

http://www.schoolstogether.org/projects/primary-project-at-whitgift/

Primary Project at Whitgift

Partner: Howard Primary School, Croydon
Partner type: State School
Project category: Academic

The Whitgift Primary Project gives Primary Schools from the Croydon area the chance to attend Whitgift for one week per year to use the facilities around the school for ICT and a variety of other subjects. Approximately 1,000 children visit Whitgift for the Primary Project every year. The project runs during every full school week of the year and is fully integrated into the everyday routine at Whitgift School. The project is fully funded by Whitgift and there is no cost to the participating schools.

Aims of the project
Whitgift enjoys an exceptionally beautiful, 45-acre, parkland site. It offers immediate access to first-class sports fields and all-weather facilities, together with opportunities for drama, scientific studies and relaxation, while retaining the appearance of a country estate; the School buildings are surrounded by a wonderful range of gardens, quadrangles and wildlife areas. Through the Primary Project, Whitgift aims to provide pupils from Croydon Primary Schools the opportunity to experience a week of learning in this unique and inspiring environment. Pupils encounter a large Secondary School environment for the first time, giving them an insight into life after Primary School. Whitgift aims to keep abreast of advances in the curriculum and the teaching resources available to ensure that pupils are exposed to fresh and innovative concepts. Whitgift sees the potential in the visiting pupils and aims to inspire these pupils by showing them what they can achieve during their visit.

During the week the visiting children are introduced to various aspects of Computer Science. These include: coding with Scratch software, website design, graphics work, animation, control and simulation, music composition, MSW Logo, Robotics and movie making. The Computer Science work undertaken is based on the topic that the pupils are studying at the time they attend the project. This part of the curriculum is run by the Project Coordinator who is a full-time member of the Whitgift staff. Other lessons are delivered by specialist Whitgift teachers who have the Primary Project lessons built into their normal timetable.

As part of their Science allocation, the pupils experience a hands-on Chemistry lesson using Bunsen burners. They heat a range of substances and record their observations, deciding whether each change is reversible or irreversible. At the end of the lesson the pupils are shown an experiment involving a jelly baby. The pupils are always stunned by the explosive reaction that takes place. Pupils have two language lessons, currently Mandarin Chinese and Japanese. The children are introduced to culture and geography and take part in games, role plays and singing.
The pupils have a PE lesson with a specialist coach. Their class teacher can choose from a range of sports such as cricket, swimming, football, hockey, rugby or the use of the Fitness Suite.

In addition to the curriculum work, pupils are given exposure to some of the exotic wildlife found at the School. 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 in the Water Gardens, giving the children confidence to draw from life, and to observe birds in their natural habitat.

Background and goals

Set up in 2000, the Primary Project was formerly a partnership, consisting of the Croydon Advertiser, Croydon Business and Education Partnership, and Whitgift School. The Primary Project is now funded completely by Whitgift and includes the salary of a full-time member of staff to run the project.

Resources

A member of staff to coordinate and teach the ICT elements of the project; specialist teachers to teach lessons in Science, Art, Music, PE and languages; a yearly budget of £3,000 to cover stationery, equipment and catering; a dedicated Computer Room suite.

Impact

We hope that pupils enjoy their week and have been inspired in some way. Attendance rates for the class are usually higher throughout their week with us. We often find that some children, who would normally be ‘school refusers’, attend the week without a day of absence. We want the pupils to use their newly acquired skills back at school or home. It is not unusual for pupils to mention that they have tried Movie Maker or Scratch when they got home from school.

Impact testimonials:

I would just like to take this opportunity to thank you and the Primary Project for providing our children with an opportunity to explore learning at your school. The children had an amazing time and some are now even talking about university, which is a big step! As you know, the children that we selected are not our highest achievers academically or best listeners, but you were sensitive and encouraging to their needs and they recognised this too. It has opened some of the children’s minds to what they can achieve, when they apply themselves. Helping to raise children’s aspirations is something we value enormously.

Laura Wallace, Class teacher at Kingsley Primary School

Pupils at Howard Primary School thoroughly enjoy their week taking part in the Whitgift Primary Project. They get to experience a wide range of computer programmes that they would not necessarily have used back at school or at home. The children are encouraged to work independently on a variety of tasks including Scratch, Movie-maker and Dreamweaver developing their computing skills at a much more advanced level than they could at school. Each child has access to a computer and the
internet which allows for more rapid progress to occur. The children can then use this knowledge back at school to further develop their knowledge with the Primary Curriculum.

The project enthuses the children in computing but it also gives them a 'taste' of other subjects, including music, art and P.E and children get to experience what it is like at Secondary school so they are more prepared, when it comes around.

*Joanna Handley, Assistant Head at Howard Primary School*

**Pupil involvement**

A class of 30 children from Year 5 or Year 6. Approximately 1,000 children visit Whitgift for the Primary Project every year.

**Frequency and duration**

9.50am-2pm Monday – Friday, a different school each week. The project runs the whole year round and is fully booked.

**Start date: 01/09/2000**
Appendix C - Schools Together – Profile: Autumn Collection Concert


Whitgift Autumn Collection Concert for Primary Schools at the Fairfield Halls

Partner: Howard Primary School, Croydon
Partner type: State School
Project category: Music

The annual Autumn Collection Concert, which is held at the Fairfield Halls in Croydon, incorporates a variety of performances by Whitgift students. The concert is designed specifically for children in Key Stage 2. It provides an opportunity for students to develop their understanding and appreciation of music whilst watching a live concert in one of the UK’s finest concert halls. Approximately 1,300 children attend the Autumn Collection Concert at the Fairfield Halls every November. Invitations were sent to 50 Primary Schools in 2015. Tickets are free of charge and are allocated on a first come first served basis. The venue is always fully booked.

Aims of the project

Whitgift aims to provide children with the rare opportunity to watch a live concert performed by children for children, in one of the UK’s great concert halls. The children experience a wide range of musical genres, whilst following along with the help of a child-friendly programme. They have to listen out for particular instruments and guess the names of the instruments pictured.

Background and goals

The concert was originally an annual event undertaken by the Metropolitan Police Band. In 1998, they disbanded and the Metropolitan Police approached Rosanna Whitfield, Whitgift’s Director of Music, in the hope that the concert could be carried on by Whitgift School. Since then, Whitgift School has hosted the annual concert for Primary Schools.

Resources

Whitgift hires the Fairfield Halls for the event. It organises catering, transport and staff to supervise the boys. The concert is completely funded by Whitgift School.

Impact

Feedback after each concert is positive and the children leave the venue very happy. Many children take up a musical instrument after their experience and arrange to watch further live concerts. Every year, primary schools contact Whitgift ahead of
schedule, asking when the invitation letters will be sent and are eager to acquire tickets. The venue is fully booked with schools on a waiting list for tickets.

Pupil involvement

Approximately 1,300 children attend the Primary Concert every November. The ages range from Year 3 to Year 6. Schools can request enough tickets to bring a class of 30 or a whole year group. Invitations were sent to 50 Primary Schools this year.

Frequency and duration

The concert is an annual event. It is one hour and takes place on a Thursday morning in November.

Start date: 01/11/1998