



Northampton School for Girls Prospectus



RESPECT FOR SELF • RESPECT FOR OTHERS • RESPECT FOR LEARNING

Welcome

Here at Northampton School for Girls, students from all primary schools in the local area, learn and develop in a calm, caring and purposeful environment. The unique atmosphere at NSG ensures that our girls feel nurtured, safe and open to learning.

Our academic record is outstanding and girls are taught not just how to achieve excellent examination results, but how to enjoy and respect learning. We believe in developing the whole child and we recognise that girls learn best when they are secure, confident and happy.

The foundation of our success is our close relationship with our girls. At NSG our girls are known and valued as individuals. Equally, we pride ourselves on the effective partnership we build between home and school.

We look forward to working with you to achieve the very best for your daughter.

Yours sincerely,



Catherine Carré and Abigail Boddy
Co Headteachers





We believe that education in a single-gender environment has many advantages

They include:

- A learning environment in which girls feel confident to accept intellectual challenge.
- Opportunities for all girls to take on leadership roles and responsibilities.
- A greater willingness by girls to study subjects previously seen as boys' subjects such as Physical Education (PE), Physics, Product Design, Computer Science and Information Communication Technology (ICT).
- A calm and orderly atmosphere which is polite and respectful.
- A supportive environment which encourages girls to look after one another.

As a girls' school, we are able to combine an emphasis on traditional values such as responsibility, honesty and respect, with a very high level of pastoral care. We are able to know our students as individuals and build strong relationships based on trust and openness. We have established an ethos in which all members of our community are valued and respected.

We believe that it is very important to build girls' confidence and self-esteem. As a girls' school we are able to nurture our students and help them become reflective young women who value themselves. Our unique learning environment allows us to do this, whilst also providing an intellectually challenging and aspirational academic education.

At NSG, we provide an environment where progress and achievement are acknowledged and celebrated with individuals and with the whole student body. Our girls enjoy sharing their own successes and recognising the achievements of others.

High Achievement

We promote a positive attitude to learning, encouraging our students to take responsibility for their own learning and enabling them to make appropriate choices.

We provide an environment which celebrates diversity, the pursuit of knowledge, the development of an inquisitive mind and which encourages our girls to become lifelong learners.

We expect our students to become confident, articulate individuals with high aspirations and we give the opportunities to help them develop and achieve this.

We are committed to excellence in teaching and learning.

We delight in celebrating the achievements of our students and staff, recognising progress in all areas of school life.

NSG is amongst the top performing schools in the county. We consistently enable our students to achieve above average and each year we send students to the best universities in the UK and beyond.

The high achievement of our students starts as soon as they join us in year 7. We are firm believers in mixed ability teaching and our results prove that this is the most effective way of ensuring all students exceed their potential. Students are taught in their tutor groups for all subjects at key stage three except Mathematics, Design Technology and French.

As students approach key stage four, they choose which subjects to take as GCSEs. All students study English Language, English Literature, Mathematics and Science. They are supported to make choices in Languages (Spanish and French), Humanities (History, Geography, Ethics and Philosophy), Expressive Arts (Art, Music, Drama, BTEC Dance and BTEC Sport) and Design Technology (Product Design, Textiles, Food Technology, ICT and Computing).

An individualised approach to the curriculum ensures that all students have a combination of subjects best suited to their needs. For example, some students will study a combined science course, where others will study all three sciences separately. Equally, some students will choose two languages, whilst others will opt for one.

Our aim is to ensure that everyone has a curriculum that allows them to flourish. Support with literacy and numeracy, plus qualifications such as the Certificate of Personal Effectiveness means that we can provide a combination of subjects that allows for breadth, challenge and personalisation.

This approach extends into key stage five where enrichment subjects like the Arts Award, the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, Young Enterprise, the Extended Project and the Community Sports Leaders' Award are offered alongside three A Level or equivalent subjects. For future information about Post 16 study, please request a copy of our Sixth Form Prospectus.

At NSG, we recognise that learning doesn't stop when you leave school. We educate our girls to consider their future choices at every step of their school career and we support these decisions with high quality personal, social and health education (PSHE) and access to a dedicated personal adviser for careers.



Inclusion

At NSG, we welcome girls of all abilities, religions, ethnicities and backgrounds. We are a truly comprehensive school and we believe that embracing diversity enriches our students' lives. Our pastoral support ensures that each individual student is happy, secure and valued.

We provide a safe, calm and trusting learning environment, where all our girls respect themselves, respect others and respect learning. We welcome all students; tailoring the curriculum to best meet the needs of individuals, enabling our girls to reach their potential.

We believe that all our girls should be happy and enjoy their time in school and we actively work to provide a climate in which this occurs. We strive to reveal our girls' potential and guide them towards achieving it.

We inspire self-confidence and self-belief in our girls, and ask them to strive for the best they can be in life. We never give up on our girls; we trust and believe that each and everyone of them can achieve their best.

The Tutor Group

The tutor group is a core part of NSG. Tutor groups are chosen carefully to represent a balance of abilities, interests and backgrounds. Girls are taught in tutor groups for the majority of their lessons where they are encouraged to build up strong and supportive relationships with each other. Each tutor group belongs to one of our three Learning Communities: Oak, Elm or Post 16. The Learning Communities were designed to ensure that students feel known and valued in a familiar environment.

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

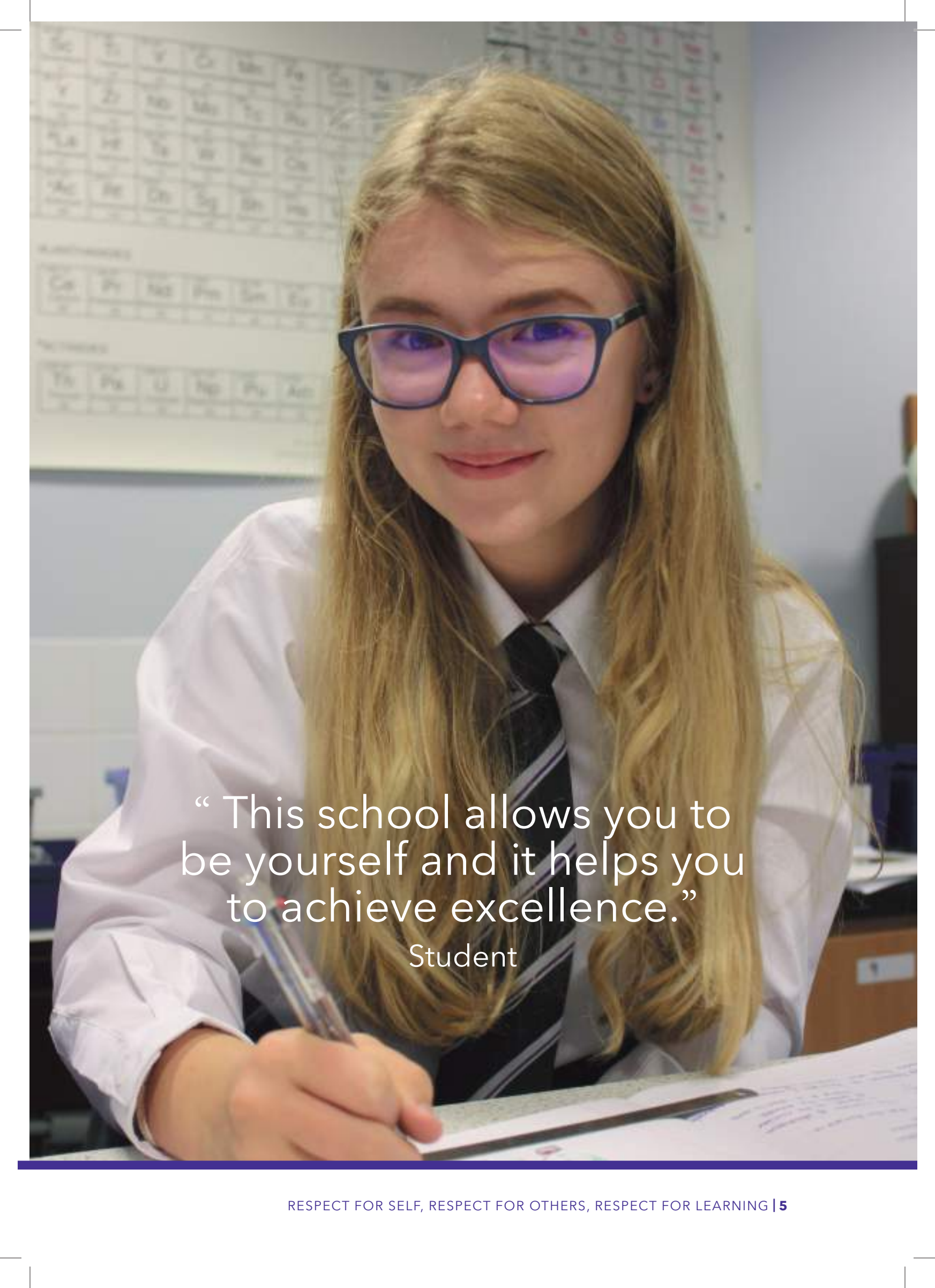
Students with special educational needs and/or disabilities are supported in class by well qualified and experienced teachers and Learning Support Assistants. The Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Co-ordinators (SENDCo) work closely with the parents of students with Education, Health and Care Plans and with other teachers to ensure that each child can progress successfully through the school. Reviews of students' work also takes place regularly. Students who struggle with literacy and numeracy are also supported by specialist teachers.

Extension

Extension is provided for the most able students in all subjects. In addition, students may choose to study two languages, French or Spanish and three sciences (Biology, Chemistry and Physics). Where students are identified as being exceptionally able, parents are consulted over how their daughter's learning needs will be met. A range of enriching and challenging activities, both in and outside school time, are encouraged for students who are gifted and talented. At key stages four and five, students aiming to study at Oxbridge or the Russell Group Universities are supported in how to make an exceptional application.

Music College

As a music college, we embrace our girls' musical talents and encourage them to participate in one or more of our many music groups, ensembles or clubs. All students are entitled to instrumental lessons, with instruction being provided by our team of peripatetic music teachers. Music plays a key role in the life of the school. Live music is encouraged in each of our Learning Communities and open-air musical performances during the school day are enjoyed by all. Many of our most able musicians are supported in achieving places at music colleges and conservatoires around the country. Our musical ensembles play and compete on a national level and have received countless awards and accolades.



“ This school allows you to be yourself and it helps you to achieve excellence.”

Student



Development of the Whole Child

The academic progress of our girls is paramount, but it is only possible if they are given a range of opportunities to develop the social and emotional aspects of their learning. We want our girls to grow into responsible, caring, active citizens who embrace all that life has to offer.

We have a nurturing and caring ethos where all students feel secure and value the support and guidance offered by staff in the school. We encourage individuality and act on our students' views.

We support our students on their journey through school, recognising the impact that other aspects of life can have on their personal development.

We know that working in partnership with families provides the best route to supporting young women in achieving their potential.

We provide a wide range of extra-curricular activities and opportunities that will enrich the learning experience.

Enrichment

Extra-curricular activities are an essential feature of a successful school. They help students to use their talents and abilities to the full and to develop interests which will enrich their lives. They build students' confidence and self-esteem.

Each year we aim to provide whole days of enrichment, which may include trips to theatres, art galleries, museums and businesses. During these days there is also the opportunity for girls to experience a wide range of enrichment activities in school. All enrichment activities are carefully organised to support students' learning.

We provide a very wide range of extra-curricular activities at lunch time and after school. A large number of our girls are happy to stay at school until 5pm to take part in these activities. All our girls are encouraged to develop their talents and interests, and also take an active part in school life, for example through the mentoring of younger students or helping out on parents' evenings.



Charity

Our girls show a concern for the welfare of others, both within the school and the wider community. They are energetic and enthusiastic about helping those less fortunate than themselves. Raising money for charity is a core part of school life. Tutor groups and individuals demonstrate their loyalty to a particular charity and inspire others to follow their example.

The Arts

With The Spinney Theatre as part of our school, our girls have access to a theatre equipped to professional standards. Not only do they benefit from performing in such surroundings, many also become skilled in using sophisticated lighting and sound technology.

We are justifiably proud of our achievements in the expressive and performing arts. Recent events include concerts, jazz evenings, dance shows, musicals and art exhibitions to name just a few. We specialise in music at NSG, and use it as a way of helping our girls express themselves, become confident and enjoy learning.

Sport

In an all-girl environment, our students embrace sport and enjoy competing. Our girls participate in a vast number of sports teams and clubs, and many represent the school in teams on a county and national level. Our record of achievement in sport is impressive, and our basketball teams are nationally recognised as outstanding.

We believe that sport and the team spirit help to develop the 'whole child', which is why we encourage all of our girls to participate in inter-form matches and our annual sports day.

