

WHITGIFT

SUMMER SCHOOL





Whitgift Summer School helped me to improve my English significantly

Florian, 16, Germany

Really fun, one of the best experiences of my life

Lucas, 14, Spain

I have made friends with students from South Korea to Spain. Some of those friends I'm still in contact with have actually come to visit me in London

Jonathan, 15, Whitgift Pupil

The three weeks were extremely enjoyable, and became an experience that I'll never forget. Thank you for all the people that made this time fun

Nanami, 15, Japan

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WELCOME TO WHITGIFT SUMMER SCHOOL

Whitgift School is an outstanding British independent school, founded in 1596 and renowned for the highest standards of education.

Located in South London, in beautiful grounds containing peacocks and flamingos, Whitgift is truly unique.

Since 2015, Whitgift has offered a progressive, dynamic and inspiring Summer School which attracts students from all over the world who are immersed in British culture and language. Utilising our inspirational grounds and facilities and involving our fantastic teachers and pupils, our main aim is that a stay at Whitgift Summer School will provide an unforgettable and enjoyable educational experience for every student, whether enrolled on our General English or Pre-IB programme.

Our passionate, caring and enthusiastic staff will focus on creating an inclusive, safe and secure environment, which generates a home-from-home setting where students can thrive, feel supported, and, importantly, have fun.

Teachers, House Parents and Activity Leaders all encourage kindness, integration and positive interaction within the diverse student community. This helps everyone feel part of the Whitgift Summer School family and enables the students to develop their communicative skills and cultural awareness.

We hope this guide provides you with a strong feel for life at Whitgift Summer School. Please do contact me or one of my team for further information.



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LOCATION

Whitgift is fantastically well-located, just 45 minutes from Gatwick Airport and 1 hour from Heathrow Airport.

Additionally, we are less than 30 minutes from Central London on the train and under 1 hour from the coastal town of Brighton. The closest train station to Whitgift is South Croydon, which is just a 10-minute walk from the School.



ACCOMMODATION

Our visiting international students stay in Founder's House, a state-of-the-art boarding house.

The boarding house is situated overlooking the water garden, which is home to exotic wildlife species such as flamingos.

Inside Founder's House, there are communal areas which allow students to relax and socialise. All bedrooms are single, double or triple rooms, and have their own en-suite bathrooms.

Students share their room with somebody of the same sex and a similar age, but of a different nationality.

Students are supervised by our caring House Parents who also live in the boarding house and are available to support students 24 hours a day throughout their stay.

WiFi access is available, enabling students to stay in touch with their families.



PRE-IB COURSE (14-16 years)

Whitgift is a leading IB World School with an average points score of 41.6/45 (2021), ranking it amongst the Top 10 IB schools in the world. During the summer months, Whitgift offers an IBDP preparation course for students who would like to be fully prepared and well-equipped for the demands of the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme.

The course

On this three-week course, students have the chance to study English Language and Acquisition, Maths & Statistics, and Science under the tutorship of experienced IB teachers. Thanks to our modern classrooms and state of the art science laboratories, students can really benefit from the fantastic academic setting Whitgift offers. Additionally, students will be introduced to two of the fundamental aspects of the IB: TOK (Theory of Knowledge) and CAS (Creativity, Activity, Service), meaning that they leave feeling prepared and inspired. Whilst the morning lessons are subject based, afternoon lessons are project-based and see the students working collaboratively with the wider Summer School community in our Progressive Skills in Action classes.

Whitgift Student Hosts

Students attending our pre-IB course will also benefit from studying alongside Whitgift pupils who aim to study on the International Baccalaureate themselves in September. It is hoped that by studying in conjunction with Whitgift students, our visiting students will quickly feel part of the school and will develop lasting friendships and future links to pupils in the UK.

Activities & Excursions

Outside lessons, pre-IB students are integrated in all other areas of the summer school: afternoon and evening activities as well as excursions.

Applying

After completing our booking form, students will be required to have a short online interview. They must have an Upper Intermediate (CEFR B2) level of English and will be required to take a reading, listening and writing test prior to joining the course. Should a student not have the required level of English to take this course, we recommend our General English Course.



INTENSIVE GENERAL ENGLISH COURSE (11-16 years)

We have developed a unique syllabus, which combines morning English Skills lessons with afternoon Progressive Skills in Action project-based classes.

Students receive 23 hours of lessons per week and study with us for between two to six weeks. Our aim is to help them to become more confident and fluent when communicating in English, and to be motivated to continue to develop their language skills long after they have left Whitgift Summer School.

We use a variety of communicative approaches to teaching and learning and our aim is to help students develop their skills and confidence in English as a global language. Students on our popular General English Course exceed their language learning goals and expectations, regardless of when they join the course or the length of their stay.

In order to participate on our course, students must have studied English for at least two years and have an Elementary (CEFR A2) level of English.

Students are placed in classes by age and level to make sure that they are in a group most suited to their English learning needs.

The maximum class size in General English classes is 12, classes are often smaller, and this enables teachers to plan lessons focused on the individualised learning needs of the class. Teaching is carried out with creativity, innovation, passion and enthusiasm and every student within each level is appropriately challenged and supported.



Our General English Course has been designed to be motivating, inspiring and fun. Students develop their knowledge of English and ability to communicate effectively and accurately in everyday situations and in different contexts. Lessons aim to develop students' reading, writing, speaking and listening skills alongside their knowledge of grammar, vocabulary and pronunciation. Lessons are linked thematically to the planned excursions students undertake throughout the course, and elements of British culture and English literature are embedded into the syllabus.



PROGRESSIVE SKILLS IN ACTION

During these afternoon classes, students work in small teams on a range of exciting and engaging projects which are planned and facilitated in such a way as to develop the students' 21st Century Skills in collaboration, communication, critical thinking, and creativity.

In this innovative approach to learning, whilst students are practising these skills, they are also using their English with real purpose alongside Student Hosts from Whitgift and Old Palace of John Whitgift pupils. Groups work on an engaging project for four afternoons and come together to share their work in an interactive event at the end of the week.

Students in the Lower School (11-13 years) focus on developing their life and social skills and are taught presentation techniques, independent learning and teamwork skills, and are encouraged to be as creative as possible with the full support of their teacher.

Progressive Skills classes in the Upper School (14-16 years) involve students on the General English Course and IB Preparation Course who work together on creative and active entrepreneurial projects. Through these classes learners develop a number of the attributes valued by IB World Schools. They are encouraged to inquire, think creatively and ethically, use their communication skills, take risks and reflect on their actions.



WELFARE

The health, safety and happiness of our students is our number one priority.

Whitgift offers an outstanding pastoral provision, which allows students to feel supported, safe and secure, enabling them to thrive on our courses. We place the pastoral interests of our students at the centre of everything we do to make the summer as enriching and rewarding as possible.

Our dedicated Welfare team, led by the Welfare Manager, and comprised of House Parents and School Nurse, are fully focused on ensuring that students remain healthy and happy as they adjust to life studying on our short courses.

Students are met at the airport by a member of the summer school team and are welcomed to

the boarding house, which has a very warm and friendly atmosphere, and introduced to other students. In this safe and secure environment, our staff are always available for students to share any concerns with or answer any questions that they may have.

We want our visiting pupils to enjoy their time on the course and all our staff are trained to facilitate and encourage interaction between students and promote participation in all lessons, sporting, creative and social activities so that they return home with lots and positive memories and feeling proud of what they have achieved.



STUDENT HOSTS

We encourage our Summer School students to communicate in English throughout their stay.

Selected English-speaking pupils from Whitgift School and our sister school, Old Palace of John Whitgift, participate in the Progressive Skills in Action lessons, Pre-IB course, co-curricular and social programmes. These students, known as Student Hosts, play an integral role and provide a great opportunity for international students to practise their English in an authentic context and develop their fluency. International students really enjoy meeting and becoming friends with

their British counterparts and often stay in touch long after the course has finished.

The year-round ethos and values of Whitgift are central to our Summer School. All students are encouraged to have a positive and inclusive attitude and growth mindset in everything they undertake, and achieve beyond what they thought was possible. Having Student Hosts involved in our Summer School helps facilitate this approach and further strengthens the links to the main school.



ACADEMIES & ACTIVITIES

We place great emphasis on learning outside the classroom; our Academies & Activities Programme is a vital part of the Whitgift experience.

Students choose the Academies and Activities they wish to take part in when they arrive at Whitgift, except for Golf, Horse Riding and Fencing, which must be selected before arrival. Our English-speaking Student Hosts take part in the full range of the Programme.

Whitgift's outstanding on-site facilities are fully utilised in this part of the Whitgift Summer School course.

Academies include four 90-minute sessions of specialist training, with professional coaches and teachers, over a one-week period.

Our **Multi-Activity Course** gives students the opportunity to try two different activities every week and develop their skills in a fun and communicative environment.

Academies

WEEK 1 / 3 / 5

TENNIS ACADEMY
BASKETBALL ACADEMY
ANIMAL CARE ACADEMY
GOLF ACADEMY

WEEK 2 / 4 / 6

FOOTBALL ACADEMY
MUSICAL THEATRE ACADEMY
FENCING ACADEMY
HORSE RIDING ACADEMY

Multi-Activity Options

WEEK 1 / 3 / 5

TABLE TENNIS
DANCE
ARTS & CRAFTS
FUTSAL/5-A-SIDE FOOTBALL
TOUCH RUGBY
WATER POLO

WEEK 2 / 4 / 6

SURVIVAL SKILLS
SQUASH / RACQUETBALL
BADMINTON
SOFTBALL
VOLLEYBALL
SWIMMING



EVENINGS

In the evenings, our enthusiastic and dynamic team of Activity Leaders deliver a full and varied programme of activities. There is something for every student to get involved in!

This programme is designed to be fun and sociable, and aims to give students the opportunity to deepen their friendships with others from all over the world.

There are a wide variety of evening activities on offer, for example: Talent Shows, Inflatable Obstacle Courses, Football and Basketball tournaments, Team challenges, Discos and Laser Tag.



EXCURSIONS

Thanks to Whitgift's excellent location, world-class visitor attractions are only a short distance away.

Exciting trips to places such as the West End to see a musical, the London Eye, the Tower of London, Buckingham Palace, Brighton, Thorpe Park and Harry Potter Studios are all approximately a one-hour drive from Whitgift.

These twice-weekly trips are a key part of the programme, and by linking these trips to lessons results in a more meaningful experience, improved linguistic confidence and the creation of longer-lasting memories.





Thank you for being so nice to me when I arrived. You presented me to new people, and we had fun together on the trips, in the activities, classes, house games, everything... see you next year

Mila 11, France

Perfect place and people

Anait, 16, Russia

I have formed lifelong friendships with people from all around the world

Myah, 16, Old Palace of John Whitgift Pupil

Thank you so much, because of this school my summer holidays were enjoyable and awesome. I will never forget my summer holidays because of Whitgift School

Mathilde, 15, French





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