Welcome to Prendergast School

I am delighted that you have shown an interest in our school community. We are committed to achieving academic excellence within a culture of strong pastoral care. Prendergast School offers expert teaching and exceptional facilities within a community which is truly ‘forever’ learning. We set high standards for all our pupils and we expect them to work hard, play hard and flourish.

Our federation links to the other Prendergast Schools provides further opportunities to enrich our pupils’ learning and to access outstanding sixth form provision. We hope that you will be able to visit our school and experience what it means to enjoy a ‘Prendergast’ education.

David Sheppard
Executive Headteacher
Leathersellers’ Federation of Schools

Message from the Headteacher

Prendergast School is an exceptional school where staff have been providing exceptional opportunities and education for every student for over 126 years. Our motto of ‘Truth, Honour, Freedom and Courtesy’ permeates our school community. There is a kind and caring ethos. Students and staff are proud members of the Prendergast community. We are all on the same side, working to support each other to excel.

At 11-16 we are an all girls school and from 16-19 we also have a strong Post 16 provision for male and female students, which has a long history of high achievement.

We are very proud of our last Ofsted judgement of Outstanding in all areas, our third outstanding judgement in a row. We are described in the report as ‘exceptional’ and having ‘exemplary attitudes to learning’ across the school. We achieve great academic results at Prendergast School. But most importantly we strive to ensure that your child is happy and safe. This is very important to us and we pride ourselves that students feel confident in school and thrive under our care.

We do hope that you come and meet us and see for yourself what Prendergast can offer.

Paula Ledger
Headteacher
Prendergast School

“Prendergast School is a small community with big aspirations and ambitions for the education and future lives of all students”

Ofsted 2013
A history we are all part of

We have a long history of providing exceptional education to young people. We were founded in 1880 as Prendergast Grammar School for Girls at Rushey Green in Catford, provided by the Leathersellers’ Company, which then funded the school’s move to its current site in 1995. We are now part of the Leathersellers’ Federation of schools, a group of three secondary and two primary schools as well as Prendergast 6th Form. We are very fortunate to be part of the Federation and receive a lot of support from the Leathersellers’ Company. It is important that when students leave Prendergast that they do so as well-rounded individuals who have had many different experiences, are able to overcome challenges and most importantly to learn from their mistakes.

We have a wide range of extra-curricular activities and we encourage all students to get involved. We expect all students to attend school journeys.

Entrance criteria

Entrance criteria are in the Admissions Policy. We are non-selective but do offer 10% of our places in year 7 to students with a particular aptitude in Music. We also have a fantastic Sixth Form and we would encourage you to spend some time looking at this provision on the website.

What makes Prendergast School so special?

At Prendergast we believe that relationships are important and that every student matters. We are all on the same side – the side of the student. We work with our students and their families to ensure that students thrive, both academically and socially.

At Prendergast we aim to:

• Maintain and develop the school’s tradition of providing the highest quality of education and support.
• Create an environment in which students of all abilities learn to enjoy working hard in order to fulfil their potential.
• Encourage students to have resilience and confidence in themselves.
• Have a school where students are polite and co-operative so that there is an atmosphere where everyone respects the rights and needs of others.
• Teach students to understand and value their own heritage and faith while at the same time understanding and respecting those from all cultures.
• Encourage students to participate in all aspects of the school with enthusiasm whether they are academic, creative, sporting or musical activities.
• Develop within the pupil a sense of responsibility and service to the school and the community.

Outstanding in all areas

In November 2013 we were judged as ‘Outstanding in all areas’ by Ofsted. This means that the school has been judged as outstanding in three consecutive inspections.

Our ethos is ‘Truth, Honour, Freedom and Courtesy.’ Every student is part of the Prendergast community as soon as they join us. Our ethos permeates the school. Students and staff here are kind and respectful, which makes the school a very special learning environment.

In many ways our physical surroundings represent Prendergast School. The restored building on Hilly Fields contrasts with the newer facilities and symbolises the innovation and experience that ensures teaching and learning is outstanding.

“\nAll students make outstanding progress so that the standards they reach overall in their GCSE exams are considerably higher than the national average”

Ofsted 2013
How are members of the Prendergast family cared for?

Partnership with parents:
We recognise that our students' progress and achievement are closely related to the level of support they receive from home. Therefore we strive to maintain a close and honest working relationship with parents and carers. This is done through regular contact via the student diary, parents' evenings, a home school agreement and a real solution focused approach.

Pastoral System:
Prendergast’s organisation is that of a single community with an emphasis on academic and pastoral oversight by the Form Tutor who is the key liaison teacher with parents/guardians. Pastoral care is an integral part of the everyday life of the school and provides support from settling in at Year 7 to career and higher education advice throughout the school. The overall aim is to encourage students to reach their highest potential and to enable individuals to develop into confident, skilled young women with the ability to make appropriate, informed decisions and to take a leading role in society as responsible citizens.

Behaviour for learning
Our students are able to work in a caring environment which promotes self-discipline, provides excellent teaching with effective learning and which sets high expectations in terms of work, behaviour and appearance.
An impressive range of opportunities and challenges, both within and beyond the classroom, is provided to enhance the growth of personality and character so that students can become independent and confident.

Attendance
Regular school attendance contributes to success. We are very proud of those pupils who achieve 100% attendance and punctuality and we present these pupils with certificates, recognising this achievement, at the School’s Annual Prizegiving. Parents play a vital role in ensuring that their child attends school regularly.

What enrichment opportunities are available for my child?
The school strongly believes that activities beyond the classroom support achievement and personal development. For this reason we offer a wide range of residential and day trips:
- Key Stage 3 students participate in residential school journeys every year, to places such as Carroty Wood.
- There is an annual Post 16 residential journey. Last year our students went to Rome and CERN to see the Hadron Collider.
- Students participate in trips to France and Spain.
- As a specialist Music school, with a renowned orchestra and chamber choir, students undertake music tours of European cities.
- We run thriving Duke of Edinburgh courses
- Students participate in the UK Mathematics Challenge which encourages the country’s young and able mathematicians.
- We are part of an EU project, Erasmus, focusing on peace and education
- Prendergast has a sister school in Nepal which we support and visit.

What will my child learn?
We strongly believe in educating the whole child ensuring they will be ready to compete in a global job market. We have a relevant and exciting curriculum and a wide range of extra-curricular activities. Details of our curriculum can be found on our website.
Our Year 7 induction programme ensures that the transition from primary to secondary education is purposeful and enjoyable. At all key stages we offer a wide range of subjects. At the end of Year 9, students make their GCSE option choices. Some core subjects such as Science start their GCSE in Year 9.

Key Stage 4
Most students will study between 9 and 10 GCSEs, choosing from a wide range of subjects. We offer a core curriculum of English, Maths, Science, RS and PE. Students then choose from a wide range of options which are best suited to their talents and abilities.
Bus
These are the buses going to the area by Bus Stops:
Adelaide Avenue, 122
B218 (Braxfield Road stop) 171, 172
Ladywell Road, P4

Local Railway Stations
Ladywell, Lewisham, Brockley, Crofton Park

Local DLR Stations
Lewisham