A YEAR IN THE MAKING

Godolphin & Latymer
Welcome to the first ever Godolphin & Latymer Prospectus produced entirely by students. If you haven’t watched our short film ‘A Year in the Making’ at www.godolphinandlatymer.com, we suggest you do that first. You can then find out more about life at the school by reading through this prospectus. We also hope you enjoy seeing some of the behind the scenes photos.
We think that one of the best things about Godolphin & Latymer is that it is so student focused. It allows girls to have such a wide range of amazing opportunities, including the production of our film and the creation of this accompanying prospectus. From coming up with the initial ideas, to filming, producing and editing the film, this has been a real team effort. It has also involved students from Year 7 to Upper VIth. What makes this prospectus so unique is the fact that it’s the product of an environment that appreciates each girl and her individual ideas.
COME ON, IT'S GOING TO BE GREAT!
We know first-hand that everyone is nervous on their first day. A big school, new people, new teachers and the anticipation of new experiences can be rather daunting for an eleven year old. However, we also remember that as soon as you take your first steps into G & L, your nerves soon vanish as you quickly make new friends and get caught up in the flow of the school. Something you’ll notice in your first few days is how friendly Godolphin girls are to each other and how happy they are to welcome a new year group to the school. These strong relationships only improve as you go up the school. And of course your teachers will also do a lot to help you settle in and find your way around.
The urge to join every single club, team and society when you get to G & L is huge. We were really excited about the wide range of extra-curricular activities and events to participate in, as well as all the facilities the school has. It is very easy to try new things and build skills and friendships through a commitment to something you love. A Christmas pantomime or play performed to local elderly residents is one of the first activities you’ll be involved in. We still look back and treasure the memories of the whole rehearsal process and the performance, as it was a great way to form new friends and develop confidence.

There are also regular meetings of societies and clubs, from Feminist Society to Kickboxing Club, and all girls have the chance to take part in Speech and Drama. Although some clubs are run by teachers or outside professionals, many are set up and run by girls. Therefore, if a club doesn’t already exist you can set it up yourself. The only difficulty is trying to fit in everything you would like to do.
One aspect of the school that girls particularly enjoy are the trips: from academic based trips to language exchanges, sports tours to recreational trips such as the ski trip to Vermont or the inspirational journey across the deserts of Sinai. In addition there are ‘bonding’ days for new classes, where you are able to develop your teamwork and get to know your classmates in a whole new way.

Academia at Godolphin & Latymer is no less important than having a good time. After all, school is a place to learn and we feel incredibly privileged to have the kind of learning environment that we do. We’re encouraged to think for ourselves and try our best, while always being reminded that making mistakes is a key process of learning. The teachers at Godolphin are all highly skilled and, more importantly, always enthusiastic, interested and devoted to the subject that they teach. This helps us really get inspired to learn, whether that’s in the lesson or working independently on something we are passionate about.
Our teachers are also very supportive of anyone who’s struggling to keep up or finding the topic difficult, and they often spend time helping individuals. Help is also on hand through weekly surgeries where teachers or older girls are available to go through difficult work again. Many girls also get useful advice from the Individual Learning Needs coordinator. This might be helping them organise their notes or with revision tips.

Although we are currently only in Year 10, we have already been encouraged to start thinking about what we might want to do when we leave. The Higher Education and Careers department run a Careers Insight Programme which helps you to understand your individual skills and how you might put these to use in the future. We also know from Sixth Form girls that they get a huge amount of advice and support when applying to university, whether in this country or abroad. The list of leavers’ destinations is certainly very impressive.
One of the most exciting parts of the school is the incredibly versatile Bishop Centre (if you’ve already visited the school, you will have experienced this for yourself). This large performing space supports a wide range of events throughout the year, such as drama performances, music concerts, exhibitions and lectures. It is also used for our school assemblies as well as exams in the summer term. You can watch an additional video of ‘A Year in the Life of the Bishop Centre’ at www.godolphinandlatymer.com, to see just how much goes on there.
There are lots of ways to get involved in music at the school. In addition to the seasonal concerts and choir performances, there are the soloist showcases that enable individual performers to demonstrate their talent and the progress they’ve made in individual music lessons. We’ve really enjoyed participating in extra-curricular music as we could focus on the types of thing we really love. We also have annual music festivals and fundraising events such as the popular Jazz Night, as well as the Christmas Carol Services.

There are a number of theatrical productions that take place during the year, including the much loved whole school musical. This is a great way to develop your confidence and be involved in a spectacular event that all participants can be proud of. These productions are supported by the amazing and talented Tech Club, made up of students wanting to be involved in drama but without having to perform on stage.
Lunchtime as you can imagine, is a busy and bustling affair. Every girl enjoys seeing the friendly catering staff and eating the delicious food they produce. The lunch hall is always full of cheerful chatty girls, taking a well-deserved break from the school day. Lunchtime also offers the opportunity for you to be involved in all your extra-curricular and sporting activities. There are also organised House events throughout the year as well as ‘RAG’ charity fundraisers. These are another great way to mix with people in different year groups and make new friends.
The Art Department at G & L is undoubtedly one of the most visible, as the amazing artwork produced by girls is proudly displayed all over the school. A popular end of year event is the themed lower school art exhibition, tying together individual work around a central idea, such as the ‘Crufts’ dog show, and ‘Night at the Museum’. The exhibitions are really stunning and the whole event is great fun.
Sport at Godolphin & Latymer is not just about squads and competitions. We are encouraged to value fitness and well-being and to enjoy being active. By having such a wide range of activities with an open friendly attitude to anyone interested in participating, Godolphin have tackled the national problem of getting girls involved in sport. While netball, hockey, tennis and rounders are taught in lessons, you can take up dance, rock climbing, fencing, squash, rowing and many more as extra-curricular activities.

As a school, we have had a great deal of success at National and County championships. The sports staff go out of their way to support individuals and teams as they strive to achieve their goals. All our teams get an incredible amount of opportunities to compete against other schools and this really helps them to develop their skills.
We hope we’ve shown you that Godolphin is a fantastic school which values and supports each student equally. We thoroughly enjoyed all the different parts of the process that went into making this prospectus and are proud that we can show our school to others in this way. We know that whoever you are, Godolphin & Latymer will not only appreciate your individual character, but also encourage you to constantly widen your horizons and strive for greater achievements. For now, we can look back at our time at Godolphin and know that we have spent some of the happiest years of our lives in this school. We can also look forward to the rest of our time here, and we know you will too.

BELLA GRAVES & GRACE LOVEGROVE [YEAR 10]

COME AND SEE FOR YOURSELF