



Admission Schools' own exam and interview; at least five A's at GCSE, with A's or A's in extended subjects, as well as B's in maths and English, for sixth form
 Founded 1999
 Alumnae Virginia Brannomey, Newstead; Sophie Raworth

QUEEN'S COLLEGE
 43-49 Harley Street, W1G 8BT

Lots of changes at Queen's College since Dr Frances Ramsey walked through the doors two years ago. She leads with 'energy and ambition', says a colleague: there's been a big push academically, with ever-improving results across the board (78 per cent A*-B at A-level last year, up from 72 per cent), triple science is now offered at GCSE, and the more rigorous IGCSE has been introduced in several subjects. They're peppering up the pastoral side with a new system of year heads 'to provide support and boundaries'. But far more radical change is afoot: from this term there's a smart new uniform - navy skirts, green sweaters - so Uggs have been given the boot. Yet all this doesn't mean Queen's has lost its cool. In its characterful Harley Street building - four townhouses knocked into one - pupil artwork jostles with traditional portraits for wall space, and musical instruments are stored in the old wine cellar. Girls make the most of all the culture the capital has to offer and nip up the road to Regent's Park for games lessons. The energetic new head of PE has added lacrosse to the sports agenda, and cross-country running continues to be a strength. No one is forced into a specific mould and small classes ensure that everyone in this colourful, creative place gets plenty of attention.

Tel 020 7291 7000

Email queens@qcl.org.uk

Website qcl.org.uk

Head Dr Frances Ramsey, DPhil, since 2009; previously master of the Queen's Scholars at Westminster School

Pupils 350 day girls

Faith C of E Ages 11-18

Term fees £4,950

Class size 11-18

Oxbridge 8%

Higher education 100%

Registration By December of year before entry; £50 fee

Admission North London Girls'

Schools' Consortium exam and interview; interview and at least 50 points at GCSE (where A*=8, A=7, etc) for sixth form

Founded 1848

Alumnae Emma Freud, Hermione Lee, Christina Onassis

QUEEN'S GATE

133 Queen's Gate, SW7 5LE

'An archetypal English school with an international edge,' says principal Rosalind Kamaryc. Here, nearly 50 different nationalities happily coexist in a warren of rooms behind a white stucco facade in Sloane-central South Kensington. But there's an unfussy air about Queen's Gate - no school uniform and an emphasis on well-rounded personalities rather than over-tutored stereotypes. Although the school refuses to be too exam-driven, 56 per cent of A-levels were A*-A last summer, and only 19 per cent of AS-levels were below B. The new head of sport has galvanised the girls with initiatives like early-morning swimming, running and dance clubs, and pupils have represented London in the English Schools' Cross-Country Championships and competed in the Public Schools' Fencing Championships. Drama is a huge part of life here, and we hear great things about the junior school's production of *101 Dalmatians*. One 12-year-old told us that drama is her favourite subject, 'but they even manage to make maths and science fun'. Mrs Kamaryc teaches maths and has relieved the academic balance so that sciences are now almost as popular as arts. A pupil was recently picked from 5,000 candidates to take part in Goldman Sachs's A-level-girls' programme. It's a tribute to the kind of confident, cultured young women Queen's Gate turns out.

Tel 020 7589 2183

Email registrat@queensgate.org.uk

Website queensgate.org.uk

Head Rosalind Kamaryc, MEd since 2006; previously head of Nycthemer

Home, Margate

Pupils 450 day girls

Faith Non-denomin Ages 4-18

Term fees £5,000

Class size 23 (18 in sixth form)

Oxbridge 15%

Higher education 90%

Registration By 21st October of year before entry; £50 fee

Admission To IGCSE exam exam at

London Girls' Schools' Consortium exam and interview; at least six A's at GCSE and A's in extended subjects for sixth form

Founded 1891

Alumnae The Duchess of Cornwall, Sarah, Duchess of York, Imogen Fount

Levin and various designers

ST PAUL'S GIRLS' SCHOOL

Brook Green, W6 7BS

It's hard not to gush about Paulinas, so we'll let the facts speak for themselves: 99 per cent of GCSEs were graded A*-A last year, as were a blinding 92 per cent of A-levels. And 45 per cent of these smart coolies jet off to Oxbridge. Calm and elegant head, Charissa Farr is undeniably clever and very much in charge. Her objective is to search out the best young minds in London and to make St Paul's available to as many deserving

students as possible. This is a social inclusive place with an uniform and no designer-label-flashing. And - as one mother pointed out - not a fluff pink pencil case in sight; intellect is the currency, and we hear whispers that in the past it's been a case of or:twins. But they've rejigged the system to improve pastoral care, with new 'vertical' groups in the sixth form. Paulinas star on stage and screen (our Paulinas played Princess Elizabeth in *The King Speech*); the theatre has been overhauled and theatre studies added at AS. And don't be spooked: one girl is Britain's number-one cadet sabreur (that's fencing), and St Paul's won the Quintin Head (rowing). This is a first-class ticket for super-smart girls. As one old Paulina says: 'We liked the feeling of being the bee's knees, the sense of being a part of something really, really great.'

Tel 020 7601 2288

Email admission@stps.org.uk

Website stps.org.uk

Head Charissa Farr, MA, since 2006; previously head of Queenswood

Pupils 750 day girls

Faith Non-denomin Ages 7-18

Term fees £6,280

Class size 20 (18 in sixth form)

Oxbridge 15%

Higher education 100%

Registration Give year before entry; £50 fee

Admission Grammar Entrance or

scholarship exam and previous school's report; school's own exam and interview for sixth form

Putney High



BOYS
 MIXED
 GIRLS