



Clifton Lodge

# Optime

‘try always to do your best’

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Welcome to Clifton Lodge Preparatory School for girls and boys aged 3 to 13. We provide a safe and caring environment in which our pupils have the opportunity to flourish academically and socially.

Our inspirational teachers are passionate about capturing children’s imaginations which we believe leads to high academic achievement and happy pupils. We also value and encourage good manners and consideration and respect for others. The school has a Christian ethos but welcomes pupils of all faiths in the belief that we share common ideals and morals.

The school motto is Optime: ‘try always to do your best’. This provides a constant reminder to our pupils, that no matter what they have achieved so far, they can always try to accomplish more.

**Dr Tony Thamia**  
**Headmaster**



*“We are very grateful and would always recommend families to this nurturing and holistic school. Thanks for the support and a well rounded education.”* Parent – June 2016





# Igniting

a passion to learn

The Early Years are crucial in a child's development and our approach to teaching and learning offers our pupils a structured, academic based curriculum which also includes art, music, drama, PE and playtime. The small classes allow our teachers to work individually with each child, resulting in high standards of work and behaviour.

Our pupils are happy, well cared for and challenged to do their very best. Parents are positively encouraged to work in partnership with the school through daily communication.

## Nursery (3 years+):

Pupils are taught in small groups with work clearly differentiated for each child. Learning is introduced through English, Mathematics and topic work with a strong focus on reading. Children also start French lessons and have plenty of play and activities.

## Reception:

Pupils continue to advance their English and Mathematics and wider curriculum. Our expectations are high and children often attain levels of achievement beyond what is normally expected at this age.

## Year 1:

Our pupils are writing independently, reading daily and advancing their Mathematics. The sky is the limit. Everyone is encouraged to progress as far as they can and individual pupils are set appropriate levels of work to ensure that all children reach their full potential.



# Discovering

## a thirst for achievement

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The Clifton Lodge curriculum is designed to give girls and boys an education that provides them with the knowledge and skills required, not only for their future school, but also as an essential foundation for their whole lives.

We prepare our pupils to gain entrance to excellent senior schools at 13+ (Common Entrance) and 11+.

The breadth of subjects studied ensures that all pupils are exposed to a wide range of educational experiences which provide them with the skills and standards needed for their future endeavours. Lessons in the Upper School are taught by specialist teachers, who are introduced from Year 2.

Our pupils study:

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- Geography / History
- RS
- French
- Latin
- Computing
- Music / Drama
- Art
- Verbal / Non-Verbal Reasoning
- SMSC / PSHE
- Critical Thinking
- Swimming (Years 2-3)
- Games (twice a week)







# Enrichment

## beyond the classroom

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Clifton Lodge achieves academic success, but this is balanced by the development of the pupil into a well rounded individual who can take part in and appreciate art, music, sport and drama. These subjects are an integral part of the school's curriculum and are often important indicators used by senior schools when selecting pupils for entry.

**Sport:** All pupils take part in sport. Our youngest pupils are taught in the safe surroundings of our playground and we use a local sports ground and swimming pool for our older pupils. Skills are honed and experiences gained through competitive matches against other schools.

**Art:** Our pupils enjoy art lessons with specialist teachers. A wide variety of mediums are used together with introducing an appreciation of art and art history through visits to galleries. We celebrate the wonderful range of artistic talent at the school and our pupils' work is displayed throughout the building.

**Music:** Music is at the heart of Clifton Lodge and enjoyed by all pupils as part of the curriculum. Central to the school is our thriving choir. The choir performs at all major school events and enjoys a strong reputation in the community, being regularly invited to sing at local events and celebrations.

Many pupils also take part in individual instrumental lessons at the school and have the opportunity to develop their performance skills at concerts and recitals.

**Drama:** All of our pupils are given the opportunity to take part in drama. Our youngest pupils perform and sing in plays and concerts throughout the year. Older pupils are auditioned to perform in our annual drama production or can assist backstage.



# A community of care and respect

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Education is about individuals and Clifton Lodge succeeds because it is small enough to ensure that your child's individual strengths and needs are known by everyone at the school.

No pupil is ever lost in the crowd, everyone is valued for who they are and all are expected to participate fully in the academic and extra-curricular life of the school. This small, friendly, inclusive atmosphere ensures that your son or daughter will develop into a confident, mature, well-mannered young adult who reaches his or her full potential.

Parents are warmly welcomed to many events each term; from our school concerts, drama production and themed assemblies to our annual sports day and speech day held at the end of the summer term. We encourage parental involvement through daily communication via the homework diaries, the Virtual Learning Environment or in person to discuss concerns and queries on an individual basis.

**Clubs:** Clubs are held Monday-Thursday before and after school for pupils from Year 2. The clubs draw on the interests and talents of our teachers with some additional visiting specialists.

**Extra Provision:** The school is open from 8.00am during term-time. For our younger pupils, or in the absence of clubs, after school care is available each day until 6pm.





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TEACHING EXCELLENCE

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