



Withington
GIRLS' SCHOOL

P R O S P E C T U S



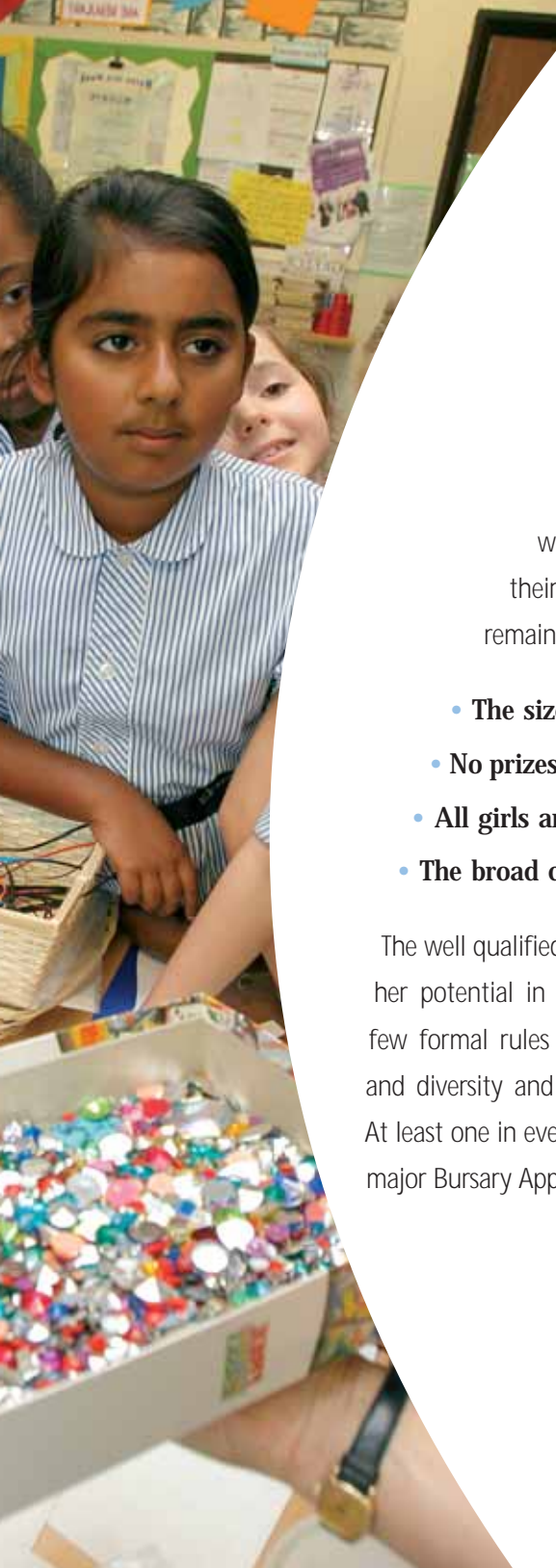
"A friendly, caring environment

in which **each girl** can feel
confident and flourish"

Withington Girls' School

is a leading Independent Day School with an outstanding record of academic success achieved in a happy, busy, purposeful and caring environment and against a backdrop of broad extra-curricular activity. The focus is very much on the individual and the school enables every girl to fulfil her own potential, both academically and socially, whilst developing a respect for self and for others and a sense of responsibility which extends beyond the classroom into the local and worldwide community.





We embrace the principles of

inclusion, equality and diversity

Withington Girls' School was founded in 1890 by a group of eminent and far-sighted Manchester families who wanted the same educational opportunities available for their daughters as were already available for their sons. Throughout all the developments which have taken place over the years, the school has remained true to their principles:

- **The size of the school allows for the individual development of each girl**
- **No prizes are awarded, as the pleasure of academic work should be its own reward**
- **All girls are offered an excellent intellectual training**
- **The broad curriculum helps girls to a high standard of achievement**

The well qualified and fully committed teaching staff aim to enable each girl to achieve her potential in all areas of school life. Girls' individual needs are addressed and few formal rules are necessary. We embrace the principles of inclusion, equality and diversity and are committed to increasing physical access to our facilities. At least one in every six girls benefits from means-tested financial support and a major Bursary Appeal was launched in 2005 to extend this provision.





The girls feel they are well known

The School is non-denominational and welcomes girls of all faiths and of none. Whole School assemblies take account of the range of faiths represented in the school with separate weekly Christian, Hindu, Islamic and Jewish assemblies.

We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the safety and wellbeing of all girls. Heads of Year and Form Tutors are the key people in monitoring the progress and welfare of each girl. Trained Sixth Form Peer Supporters offer advice and guidance to younger pupils and the School Nurse liaises with outside professionals. All staff are regularly trained in child protection procedures. Girls are helped to prepare for life after school by an extensive programme of careers advice and information.

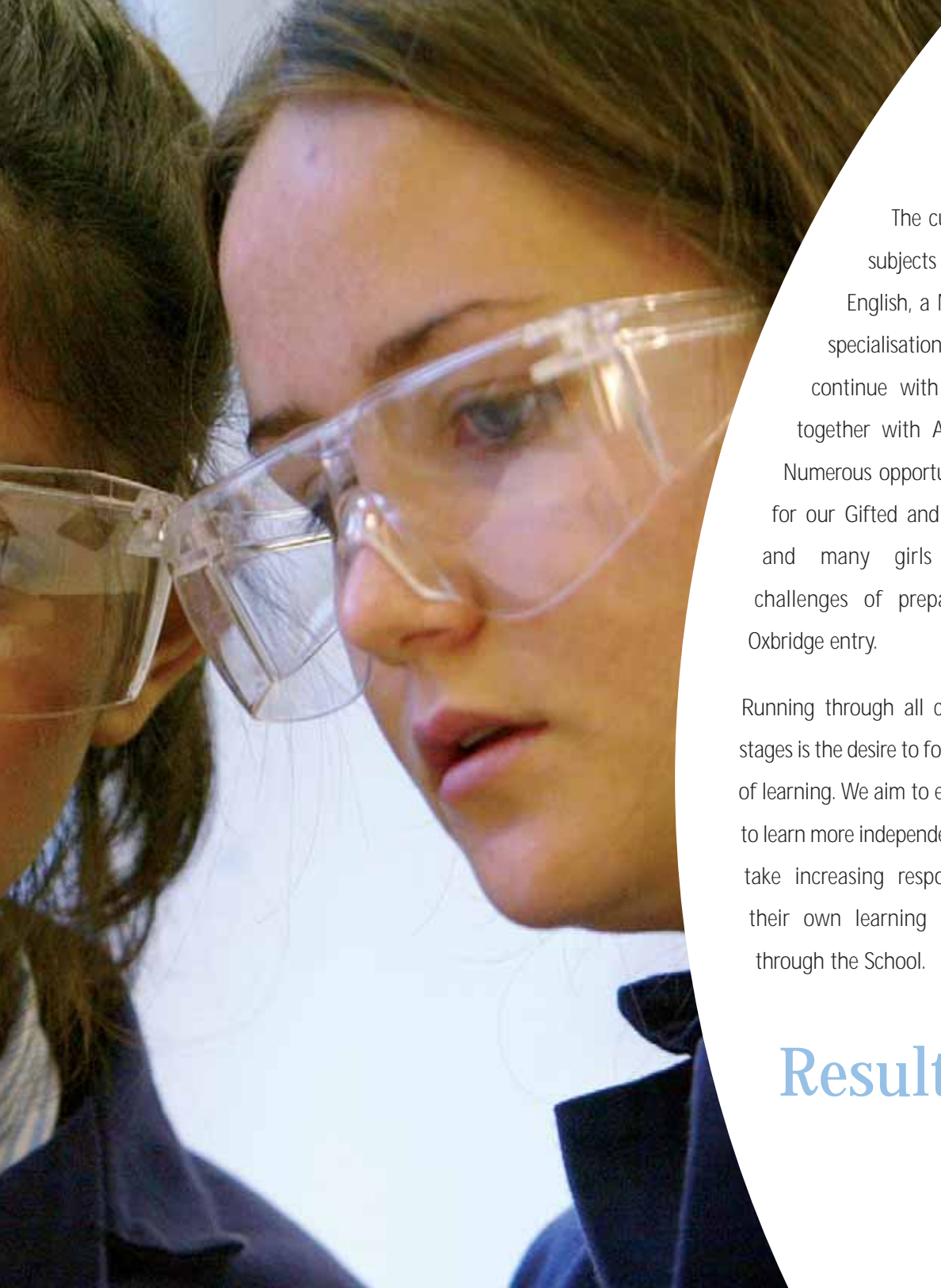
We value our strong links with the local community. Sixth Form girls assist at local inner-city primary schools, a centre for severely disabled children, and homes for the elderly. Year 7 girls assist with local community projects at the end of each Summer Term and there is a biennial Citizenship Day for the whole School. Girls also engage in an impressive variety of community projects overseas. Each year over £20,000 is raised for a wide range of charities.





Throughout the school the **needs** of the
individual are **paramount**





The curriculum is broad and balanced at all stages and a wide range of optional subjects is offered to suit girls' abilities and interests. A compulsory core of GCSE English, a Modern Foreign Language, IT, Mathematics and the Sciences prevents early specialisation. Most girls take four AS subjects and continue with three or four to A2 level, together with A-level General Studies.

Numerous opportunities are provided for our Gifted and Talented pupils and many girls enjoy the challenges of preparation for Oxbridge entry.

Running through all curriculum stages is the desire to foster a love of learning. We aim to enable girls to learn more independently and to take increasing responsibility for their own learning as they move through the School.



Results at GCSE and A level are
exceptional



Creative talents are encouraged and fostered




Opportunities abound for girls of all ages to take part in an impressively diverse range of activities.

All girls, whatever their ability, are encouraged to enjoy their sport and to find a physical activity which challenges and engages them. The main team games are played by girls of all ages and opportunities for competitive participation are provided at House, School, County, Regional and National level.

Music is popular and vibrant with participation open to all age groups. Regular and public performances are given by choirs, orchestras, wind band and many smaller ensembles.

The Arts Centre and Drama Studio enable training of technical crews to support the many dramatic performances ranging from School Assemblies to major plays including original works.



Changing exhibitions throughout the School highlight the quality of girls' work in art and design.





Life in the

Sixth Form

as befits a transitional phase between school and university, is very different in almost every area. School uniform is not required and girls enjoy the use of their own Common Room, a designated Computer Room and a quiet Study Room.

Sixth-Form girls assist in the running of the School and hold many different positions of responsibility. In addition to the posts of Head Girl and Deputies, girls organise and run various House events and Junior School activities. The Sixth-Form Committee assists with day-to-day administration and a trained team of Peer Supporters is a vital link in the pastoral support system.

Further opportunities for teamwork and leadership are provided through Mock Trial Competitions, Model United Nations Conferences, Business Games, the Young Enterprise Scheme and voluntary work at home and overseas.

Personalised guidance and help is given with UCAS applications and girls leave to take up places on a broad range of courses at top Universities. The School keeps in contact with former pupils through the Senior Club.



Opportunities for
teamwork and
leadership
are provided





Our Junior School

has the advantage of being able to retain its small size and its individual character whilst benefiting from close links with the Senior School.

The four Forms (Years 3 – 6 inclusive) share superb facilities and some subjects are taken by Senior School specialists.

The wide range of academic subjects not only incorporates all the elements of the National Curriculum but also takes learning well beyond those boundaries.

Girls enjoy a great variety of cultural experiences, residential weekend trips, visiting galleries, museums, concerts and theatres. The Junior School also regularly welcomes an exciting range of visiting speakers and plays host to authors, poets and drama workshops.

A
thriving
extra-curricular
programme





Facilities are well resourced

An ambitious, imaginative and continuing building programme ensures that the facilities are well resourced and up to date and contribute positively towards the quality of teaching and learning.

Recent building projects have included a new classroom wing incorporating large Music Rooms and a fully equipped Drama Studio; refurbishment of the Library, Computer Suites, Sixth Form Resource Centre and Mathematics teaching rooms; a new Science wing and a multimedia Modern Languages Laboratory.

Outdoor activities, Trips and Lunchtime clubs

Great fun and the enhancement of teamwork and leadership skills are part and parcel of our residential weekend experiences. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme thrives at Bronze, Silver and Gold level. Departmental trips enhance the curriculum and girls of all ages can go skiing, visit France, Germany or Spain with the modern linguists, Greece with the classicists, or join a range of holiday cultural trips.

Each term, lunchtimes are filled with activities as diverse as making volcanoes in Science Club, creating a modern masterpiece in Mosaic Club and learning Chinese.





Withington

GIRLS' SCHOOL

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