

2016-2017

ACHIEVEMENT



CONFIDENCE

ENTHUSIASM

SUCCESS



As parents we all want our children to be successful.

Success in life comes from developing resilience and the ability to connect with other people, establishing meaningful relationships. Thames aims to help your child grow and flourish, living out the spirit of the old African proverb which says: "It takes a village to raise a child."

In a year of changes to the GCSE grading, our pupils continue to achieve excellent results, considerably out-performing the national average.

Our results are achieved through excellent teaching and knowing the strengths and weaknesses of each pupil. This enables teachers to support and challenge each individual accordingly. Despite increasing competition, almost all our Year 11 pupils gained places at their first choice sixth form, including at top independent and grammar schools.

Our vibrant programme of co-curricular activities, competitions and trips including our award winning trip to Africa, enrich our curriculum and challenge the most able.

If you would like to learn more about us and meet our pupils, please come and visit us.

Stephen Holsgrove
Head

GCSE Results 2017

This summer 33% of all grades attained were A*/A (9-7) and 78% of all grades were A*/C (9-4), significantly above the national average. 83% of our leavers attained at least one A*/A (9-7) grade, 50% achieved at least two A*/A (9-7) and 40% at least three A*/As (9-7) grades. Outstanding individual performances: Elizabeth 7 A*/(9-8) grades and 2 As; Ase 6 A*/(9-8) grades and 2 As; Amirah 4 A*/(9-8) grades and 5 A/(7) grades; Ibrahim 4 A*/(9-8) grades and 2 A/(7) grades. Four others achieved at least 5 A*/A (9-7) grades.

Excellent results were achieved in the Art department: in Fine Art 85% of grades were A*/A and in Graphic Communication 80%. History performed strongly with 70% of grades A*/A following on from winning the 2016 Good Schools Guide: Best performance by Girls taking History GCSE at an English Independent School. In MFL, 67% of pupils achieved A*/A grades in French and 64% in Spanish. In Music 50% of grades were A*/A.

ACHIEVEMENT

Adam, James and Kale, Year 10, took Computer Science IGCSE a year early, each achieving A* grades. Adam also attained A* in French and A in Religious Studies while James and Kale both achieved A* in Religious Studies.

Overseas Trips

Tanzania: In October 2016 a team of 14 Year 10 and 11 pupils went to rural Tanzania to work with the charity, Go MAD. They helped build two water tanks to provide clean water for villagers and built three goat sheds, using £5,700 raised at a fundraising dinner the previous September.

A special part of the trip was a visit to Bunda Girls' School that provides a boarding education to prevent girls being forced into marriage with consequent multiple teenage pregnancies. Our pupils decided that the £4,000 raised at this year's sponsored Cross Country would furnish and equip a science lab at the school as well as go towards village girls' education. The team also visited the health clinic and birthing suite built partly with money raised by Thames pupils. Following the trip Jasmin and Jackson had the opportunity to speak on Premier Christian Radio about their experience.

Stephen Holsgrove comments: "The grassroots nature of this trip, where our pupils work alongside villagers in one of the poorest areas of Tanzania, really enables them to gain a greater understanding of the challenges of life in a developing world country. This trip is one of the best educational initiatives we undertake." Over the last few years Thames has raised over £42,000 for Go MAD projects. Our trips to Tanzania resulted in our winning the 2015 ISA Award: Outstanding Contribution for International Understanding.



Ibrahim

Ibrahim attained 6 A*/A (9-7) grades with A*s in Chemistry, Physics, Maths and Spanish and As in Biology and French and Bs in English Language, English Literature and Religious Studies with a Value Add of 1.9 grades above his CATs predictions. He also took Additional Maths, an AS qualification. Ibrahim was an invaluable member of the 2016 Tanzania team, helping build goat sheds, water tanks and a toilet block in rural villages with the charity Go MAD. Passionate about sport, Ibrahim played regularly for the school's football team. Ibrahim was offered places at several grammar schools as well as a bursary to board at Christ's Hospital School, West Sussex. He has chosen to accept this offer and will study A levels in Biology, Chemistry, Maths and Spanish.



Our leavers are taking up places at a number of top independent and state schools including Highgate School, Christ's Hospital School, Alleyn's School, Royal Russell School, Harroddian School, Ashbourne College, The Brit and Harris Westminster amongst others.

PASSION FOR LEARNING

Sporting Highlights

Athletics: In Wandsworth Schools Athletics Senior Competition, Psalms won Gold in long jump, Pademi won Silver in Shot and Harry and Jemima won Bronze medals in the 800m and 1500m respectively. In the Junior Competition, Tsion won Gold in the 100m and Jimmy, Bronze in the 1500m. Pademi's result qualified him to represent Wandsworth at the London Schools Athletics Championships where he threw a personal best in Shot to finish 4th.

At ISA London West Athletics, Tsion, Year 7, won Silver in the 100m and Bronze in the 200m, Nicolas, Year 9, won Silver in Javelin and Elisha, Year 9, Bronze in Shot. Pademi, Year 9, won Silver in Shot and Gold in the 100m setting a new ISA record of 12.2 seconds. He went on to represent the school at the national ISA Athletics Championships where he won two medals, Bronze in the 100m and Silver in the relay as part of the London West team.



Elizabeth

A hard-working pupil who has been at Thames since Year 7, Elizabeth attained 9*/A (9-7) grades including 7 A* grades in Maths, English Literature, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Spanish and Graphic Communication, and As in History and Religious Studies. She also achieved C in Additional Maths, an AS qualification. Her grades show a Value Add of 0.8 above her CATs predictions. In her Graphics exam, Elizabeth achieved 100% for her well-researched and exceptionally presented campaign advertising an exhibition of Greek artefacts at the British Museum. Elizabeth has taken up a place at Alleyn's School in Dulwich to study A levels in Maths, Chemistry, Biology and Photography.



Creative Arts

Smokey Joe's Café: In July our pupils performed *Smokey Joe's Café*, a musical theatrical revue showcasing 39 pop standards, including rock and roll, rhythm and blues songs written by songwriters Jerry Leiber and Mike Stoller. The production, at The Clapham Grand, was directed by our musical theatre teacher, Alice Holsgrove, with music directed and coached by Dr Paul Mitchell and professional singer Maddy Holmes. Pupils demonstrated incredible musical talent and dynamic performances to entertain our guests.

Music and Drama: Our music and drama departments put on a variety of events including a musical concert in November, a Carol Service, an Easter Concert and our Awards Night. In their GCSE Drama exam Year 11s performed *Mugged*, a gritty contemporary drama by Andrew Payne.

LAMDA: Highlights from this year's LAMDA graded acting exams: Grade 6 Bronze Award: Gabriel, Year 11, Distinction; Fergal & Rebekka, Year 11, and Emi, Year 8, Merit. Five pupils from Years 7 and 8 achieved Grades 1 and 2.

PREPARATION FOR LIFE

Cross Country: In the small independent schools XC at Richmond Park our team came 1st in the Junior race and 2nd in the Seniors. In the London Schools XC Jemima, Year 10, finished 15th in the Year 10/11 girls, meaning she will be considered for English Schools Athletics Association events. At the ISA London West XC Jemima came 3rd in the Year 11/12/13 girls' race and Jimmy, Year 7, came 9th in the Year 7/8 boys' race, qualifying for the ISA National Cross Country Championships. Jemima also ran the Virgin London Borough's mini Marathon as part of the Wandsworth team.

Football: Our boys' football teams won both the senior and junior South West London independent schools football tournaments. In the ISA South West London Football Tournament the girls team qualified for the 3rd and 4th place play-off.

Other sports: In sports pursued outside school, Remi, Year 10, won the Surrey County Team Fencing Championship.



"Parents I have met are diverse like the children. They represent the best of tolerant, creative, open-minded and socially responsible London."

Thames parent, 2017



Ase

Ase achieved 8 A*/A grades with A*s in Biology, Physics, History, Maths, Art and Music and As in Chemistry and Spanish. She attained Bs in English Language, English Literature, Computer Science and Religious Studies. She also achieved A in Additional Maths, an AS qualification. Gifted academically, Ase skipped a year, moving up from Year 7 to Year 9. A talented flautist, Ase was a stalwart member of the school's musical ensemble and Wandsworth Pops Orchestra. Ase has won an Exhibition to Highgate School where she will study A levels in History, Music, Maths and Further Maths.

Art: In the ISA London West Art competition our pupils won three first and two second prizes. Rose won first prize in the KS4 2D Art category and second prize in KS4 drawing. Rohan won first prize in KS4 Drawing for his *Portrait in a Sitting Room*, Tannus first prize in KS4 3D Art for his *Geodesic Dome* and Sarah second prize in KS3 2D Art.

Margot's exquisite copy of Albrecht Dürer's *Praying Hands* was featured in the May/June edition of the Evangelical Alliance IDEA magazine. Four pupils, Jed, Alex, Margot and Kale, exhibited at the Aspire2inspire Art Exhibition to showcase the connection between dyslexia and creativity.



Enrichment & Trips

DT & Textiles: Year 9 took part in a workshop at the Victoria & Albert Museum during which an artist in residence led the pupils to different collections for them to research and record their responses and to prepare images for their own project work. They developed their ideas through collage, paper cutting and pencil drawing.

Interview for CBBC Newsround: In the wake of the terror attack at Westminster, some of our Year 7 pupils were interviewed for CBBC's Newsround. The mature way they discussed this serious incident was a credit to them, as was their response to the implications for Londoners. They had the opportunity to put questions to Frank Gardner, Security Consultant at the BBC.

Trips: Our pupils have visited: Tate Britain and Tate Modern, the V&A, Cutty Sark, Greenwich Royal Observatory and Maritime Museum, The King's and British Libraries, Dickens Museum, The Globe Theatre, The Clink, Southwark Cathedral, Natural History Museum, Tower of London, Battersea Power Station, Wandsworth Recycling Centre, The Crystal, Science Museum, Faraday Museum, Horniman Museum and the annual Year 7 activity camp to Norfolk. Theatre trips have included productions of *An Inspector Calls*, *Twelfth Night*, *Peter Pan* and a backstage tour of The National.



Clubs 2016-2017: Badminton, Band, Basketball, Choir, Dance, Design, Dissections, Gym, Hockey, Illustrations, International Culture, Italian, Jesus & Donuts, Life Drawing, Orchestral Ensemble, Self Defence, Science Fiction, Silver Crest Award, Spanish Spelling Bee, Squash, Strategic Games, Tennis, UKMT Maths Challenge, Woodwork, Young Geographer of the Year, Youth In Excellence Competition.

Academics

English: Elodie's essay *Broken* was Highly Commended in the ISA Favonius Senior essay competition for 14-16 year olds (Years 9-11). Her story of a china doll who views the changing world through the window of a toy shop until a little girl comes along and buys her, depicted emotion through an atypical protagonist, and demonstrated an effortless writing style: Elodie is one to watch.

Sophia, Year 10, was guest writer for the Evangelical Alliance online magazine contributing a maturely written article *Life in our Changing World*.

Elijah and Michael, Year 9, represented Thames in the English Speaking Union Schools' Mace, a debating competition against other London schools.



"The school is about values, substance, contributing to a better world, seeing strengths in each child and challenging them to achieve."

Thames parent, 2017

SUCCESS IS...

News of Alumni

James (2007) was awarded a PhD in Computer Science by Royal Holloway, University of London. James went on from Thames to Tiffin Boys' School, Kingston, to study A levels in Chemistry, Physics, Biology and Maths. In 2012 he achieved a first class honours degree in Computer Science at Royal Holloway, going on to study for a PhD in Computer Science also at Royal Holloway. James was awarded his PhD for his thesis: *The Efficiency of Conformal Predictors for Anomaly Detection*.

Raphael (2015) went to Dulwich College from Thames where he achieved A* in Maths and As in Biology, Chemistry and Further Maths in his A levels. He is now weighing up university options in the UK and South Korea. He left Thames with 7 A* grades, 3 A grades and A in Additional Maths.

Charis (2015) is embarking on a degree in Dance at Northern School of Contemporary Dance in Leeds having attained A*s in Religious Studies and Drama & Theatre Studies and A in English Literature A levels at Southend High School for Boys. She also attained A in History AS level.

Harvey (2013) has won an award for his project making a replica Anglepoise lamp at Central St Martin's where he is studying Product Design and Ceramics.

Rebekka

Always enthusiastic to learn and a hard worker, Rebekka achieved As in Chemistry, History, English Language and Religious Studies and Bs in English Literature, Maths, Biology and French, and C in Drama. In terms of Value Add, these results are 0.9 grades above her CATs predictions. During her time at Thames Rebekka developed confidence in her public speaking ability which enabled her to achieve the LAMDA Grade 6 Bronze Acting Award with Merit, an AS qualification that carries UCAS points. Rebekka goes on to study A levels in Government and Politics, History, Biology and French at St Cecilia's CE School.





Amirah

Amirah joined Thames in Year 7 and in her GCSEs achieved a Value Add of 1.4 grades above her CATs predictions. Her quiet determination and consistent hard work gained her 9 A*/A (9-7) grades with A*s in Religious Studies, History and Graphic Communication and grade 9 in the new English Literature (9-1) GCSE putting her result in the top 2.9% nationally. She also attained As in English Language, Maths, Biology, Chemistry and Spanish. In Graphics, Amirah achieved 100% for her spice range branding design, Monde, and 98% for her advertising campaign for London Underground. Amirah's excellent grades have won her a place at Woodhouse College, a selective sixth form near her home in North London, where she will take A levels in History, Economics and Maths.

Maths: Ase and William took part in the Intermediate Kangaroo exam, run by the UK Mathematics Trust, based on their results in the Intermediate Maths Challenge. In the Junior Maths Challenge Temi, Year 8, won Silver, and Max, Year 7, Bronze. Our Year 10 Maths team scored well in the FMSP Maths Feast hosted by a local academy. Our most able pupils attend after school masterclasses at King's College London School of Mathematics. This year James and Adam attended the KCL Maths Summer School to experience lectures and university life.

French: Three Year 8 pupils, Hadi, Temilade and Tanguy, achieved A*s in GCSE French. This is a particular credit to Temilade who is not a native French speaker.

...A SECRET WE WANT TO SHARE

Curriculum Enrichment

Some Speakers/Visitors 2016-2017

- Gavin Peacock, commentator and former footballer Chelsea, Newcastle United and Charlton Athletic
- Amnesty International
- Reggie Dabbs, musician and motivational speaker
- Mark Bainbridge, solicitor
- Benjamina Ebuehi, Great British Bake Off quarter-finalist



- Melanie Backe-Hansen, house historian
- Emma Borquaye, A21 Campaign against human trafficking
- David Ritchie, careers advisor
- Matt Knight, dancer, singer and performer BBC Let it Shine
- Parys Edwards, triathlete
- Iman Mumtaz, Streatham Mosque
- Jason Kavan, comedian
- A Buddhist monk from Battersea Peace Pagoda
- Del Manning, photographer
- Angelou Pangalos, magician
- Tim Oakdon, Easyjet pilot
- Aïsha Jawando, musical theatre performer
- Jerry Brown, professional musician

“Thames children make a contribution, think critically and flourish in a fast-changing and globally-integrated modern world. And your child will be safe, happy and inspired to learn while at the school.”

Thames parent, 2017

Life Skills

Fundraising: This year our pupils have raised over £10,000 for charity. Charities benefiting are Go MAD in Tanzania and the A21 Campaign which fights human trafficking. Pupils also raised their own funds for their Tanzania trip.

Careers Fair: 38 professionals shared their extensive experience with pupils at our biannual Careers Fair. Pupils learnt what employers look for, the skills and qualifications needed and how to make their CV stand out. Represented: the army, police, finance, sport, advertising, computer science, architecture, film production, youth work, science, law, engineering, marketing, medicine and veterinary medicine, journalism, catering, fashion design, childcare, interior design, photography, graphic design and many more. We also ran our first Careers Lunch with easyJet pilot Tim Oakdon, who encouraged pupils to consider a future as a pilot.

Community work: Jasmin is the teenage mental health lead of the Wandsworth Youth Council and in March chaired a question time about the subject at Wandsworth Town Hall.

Duke of Edinburgh Award: James, Jed and Jasmin, Year 10, and Seraiah, Year 9, have completed the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award.

ISA Healthy Eating Award: Thames was runner up for the ISA Healthy Eating Award 2016 in recognition of our commitment to teaching pupils the importance of a balanced diet as well as our provision of healthy hot lunches.

Enterprise Challenge: Year 10 created a pop-up bookshop as part of an enterprise project. The teams brought their ideas and business plans to two professional authors and the bookshop Tales on Moon Lane. The winning team ran a bookshop for the day, selling books to the whole school.



Jackson

Jackson attained 5 A*/A grades with A* in Art and As in Religious Studies, English Language, History and Physics and Bs in English Literature, Maths, Chemistry, Spanish and Music. He also took Additional Maths, an AS qualification. Jackson was part of the Tanzania team in 2015, going back for a second time in 2016. He raised a total of £4,000 to fund both trips, through cake sales, a sponsored 160k bike ride and working to maintain and repair bikes. He was a member of the school's musical ensemble and in 2017 he passed Grade 5 Violin and Grade 5 Music Theory. Jackson wants to become an engineer and has taken up a place at Harris Westminster Sixth Form to study A levels in Physics, Maths, Art and History of Art.

Teacher Success

Mrs Madeleine Champagnie, Head of English, completed an online course at the University of Basel, *Literature in the Digital Age*, on how the increased use of e-books and tablets is changing the way we read and interpret literature.

Our Religious Studies teacher, Miss Victoria Oladejo, completed the 2017 London Marathon in 4hrs, 42mins, 36 secs, her first marathon, running to raise money for the Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation.

Expansion plans

Now that we have two classes in all year groups there are a handful of places available in Year 9 and 10. From 2020 we plan to have three classes in each year group, as well as a sixth form, in a new state of the art, purpose-built premises close to Clapham Junction station.

“The teachers I have encountered have been remarkable! They have been responsive, polite, efficient and supportive; they stand out from the crowd.”

Thames parent, 2017