

PGHS Lower School Webinar October 2021 - Q&A

Please find below the Q&A which took place during our live on-screen Zoom.

Q1. What are the school hours for each year?

- A. The School day begins at 8.30am for all pupils. Girls in the Prep Department (Reception - Year 2) finish at 3pm and those in the Juniors (Year 3-6) at 3.30pm. There is a Breakfast Club available from 7.45am and an After-School Club, which runs until 6pm.

Q2. What clubs are available?

- A. We run many different extra-curricular activities. Some are run by School staff and some by visiting companies. The provision can change but at the moment we have:

- London Academy of Gymnastics and Dance - offering two gymnastics clubs
- Prep Choir
- Junior Choir
- Lego Club
- Craft Club
- Typing Club
- Reasoning Club
- Orchestra
- Netball Club
- Book Clubs
- Dance Club
- Smart Raspberry Cooking Clubs
- LAMDA - Speech and Drama (exam accredited)
- Science Club
- Les Mills Born to Move
- Prep Violin Club
- Horse Riding Club
- Jigsaw Club
- Art Club

Q3. How are lunch times run for reception class?

- A. Reception have a choice between a School dinner and a packed lunch. They have their lunches in the Dining Room with the rest of the Prep Department. Menus are published on the website so that you can help your daughter to make choices in advance. School dinners are paid for using the online ParentPay system. Help is available for cutting food if needed. If pupils bring a packed lunch they are encouraged to eat everything they bring and uneaten food is sent home so that you can see how much they have had.

Q4. What are the current and maximum class sizes?

- A. Maximum Class sizes are 24 pupils. The Prep Classes (Reception - Year 2) have full time Teaching Assistants alongside the Class Teacher and we have a highly-experienced bank of Teaching Assistants that work across the Junior School in their areas of expertise. Current sizes vary across year groups. Years 5 and 6 are full.

Q5. Do you have STEM after clubs?

- A. Yes, we currently have Lego club which includes engineering skills and also a new Science Club has been started recently. We put a high value on teaching STEM subjects and pupils have specialist provision in Design and Technology using tools and machinery from Year 1. From Year 5, Science lessons take place in the Science Labs with a subject specialist teacher allowing even greater access to scientific equipment.

Q6. How much interaction is there across the whole school - from Reception to the senior school?

- A. We are very much a family! Once Reception are settled, they join the whole School for morning breaks and really enjoy spending time with the older girls. Lunchtimes have crossover between adjacent phases - Preps and Juniors share some time together and then Juniors and Seniors have time together. Senior School pupils sometimes run activities for the Lower School and those working towards their Duke of Edinburgh Awards do 'service' by supporting in the younger years.

Q7. How much do dinners cost?

- A. Girls have the choice of hot main course (non-vegetarian or vegetarian option), salad bar and choice of hot or cold dessert, or fruit. The cost is: Preps £3.50 / Juniors £4.00 / Seniors £4.25.

Q8. How do settling sessions work for Reception?

- A. We invite all pupils in during the Summer Term to visit the School and meet Miss Rich and Mrs Hassan. In September, the first day starts slightly later for our Reception starters so that there is time to settle them once the rest of the School are in their lessons and they only do a half-day. The second day starts at the usual time but again is only a half-day. From day three they are full time. We have been running this model for many, many years and find that settling to the routine quickly is the most effective way of overcoming any nerves (pupils or parents!).

Q9. Do you give preference to siblings?

- A. All prospective pupils are required to sit the relevant entrance assessment to ensure that we are the best school for your daughter. We do try very hard to keep families together but only if we feel that each child will truly benefit from a PGHS education.

Q10. what are the timelines for applications for reception?

- A. Reception assessments will begin in November and places will be allocated following a successful assessment, so early application is encouraged.