

WHITGIFT

SUMMER SCHOOL



INTENSIVE GENERAL ENGLISH

ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT

PRE-IB

NON-RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMME

Celebrating 10 years of Whitgift Summer School



Welcome to Whitgift Summer School! Summer 2025 will be the 10th Anniversary of us running our very special and unique summer programme and it is a privilege and honour as the Director of International Education at Whitgift to be writing this welcome message to you all.

We first opened our doors to international students in 2015. So, what has changed over the past 10 years? Well, firstly, some numbers:

in 2015 we welcomed 160 students, and in 2024 we had a total of 238 students! More impressively, I think, is that back in 2015, we had a total of 13 different nationalities on the programme, but we now welcome over 30 different nationalities each year. We also now offer a total of three courses. Firstly, our Intensive General English Course (11-17) has been with us since the summer

school was established back in 2015 and is still our most popular course. Then, 2021 saw the addition of our Pre-IB Course (14-17) and in 2024 we introduced a third course, called the Academic Enrichment Programme (11-13).

Some things, though, don't change – and for good reasons! All students take part in our afternoon project work (once called 'English in Action' and now



called 'Progressive Skills in Action', alongside students from Whitgift. Known as Student Ambassadors, these English-speaking students are a key part of the summer school and one of the reasons so many international students choose Whitgift for their summer school experience. With around 40 British students on the course each week, our visiting international students have the chance to study, make friends and socialise with boys and girls from Whitgift – a truly unique proposition! Elsewhere, we still offer 2 exciting excursions per week as well as Academies run by professional coaches who work at Whitgift School.

I feel that Whitgift is the ideal place for students to develop and thrive, both in the classroom and during activities. Why? Well, because we are the right size in terms of numbers. Including the Student Ambassadors, we have around 160 students each week on the course, and with around 40 members of staff at the school, students receive the care and individual attention that is required to ensure they feel heard, safe and happy with us.

On that note, I must make everyone aware about the sheer passion, dedication and professionalism of the staff who work at the summer school.

10
YEARS OF
SUMMER SCHOOL

Flamingo by Angelica, 13, from Italy

The administrators, teachers, activity leaders, house parents and managers are the people who make magical things happen for your children and I am very proud of the team we have here at the school. You will most likely be in touch with our team here at Summer School HQ, and they are more than happy to help you with any questions you might have, so please do not be shy!

The Whitgift School campus is an inspiring setting for all our students. Where else can you find peacocks walking around a school and flamingos relaxing in a water garden? When parents and students come to the school, they are always pleasantly surprised by how green and relaxing our campus is and can't quite believe that we are in south London! Indeed, we are only a 20-minute train journey to London St. Pancras, 45 minutes from London Gatwick and 1 hour from Heathrow.

As we enter our 10th year, I can't help but feel an immense sense of pride in what we do here at Whitgift. We genuinely care about each student and want them to return home having created unforgettable positive memories.

We've now welcomed over 1,200 students to Whitgift Summer School, and we have, in our own little way, started creating a summer school legacy around the world - we'd love you to be part of that.

John Chisholm
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Peacock by Ronyra, 16, from Denmark



COURSES

Intensive General English (11-17 years)

'A great place to start using your English skills daily, improve them with the help of excellent staff and teachers, and have fun while making new friends from all over the world'

Katsu, 17, Japan

We have developed a unique syllabus, combining morning English lessons with afternoon Progressive Skills in Action project-based classes.

Students engage in 23 hours of lessons per week and stay with us for 2 to 6 weeks. We want to enhance

their English communication skills, both in terms of fluency and accuracy so that they leave us feeling inspired, motivated and confident.

We use a variety of communicative methods to improve students' skills and confidence. Our Intensive General English course ensures students consistently surpass their language goals, regardless of their length of stay.

To join our course, students need to have an A2 level of English on the CEFR Scale, equivalent to an Elementary level. Students are

grouped by their age and English level, with morning lessons capped at 12 students per class and are often smaller. Our passionate and creative teachers provide individualised challenges and support at every level.

The Intensive General English Course is motivating, fun and focused. It enhances everyday English skills in reading, writing, speaking and listening. Lessons also integrate grammar, vocabulary and pronunciation. British culture and literature elements are included in the curriculum and are closely linked to the excursions.



Academic Enrichment (11-13 years)

'Yoonho returned home after an unforgettable three weeks at the boarding school. He had an incredible time and learned so much during his stay. We are truly grateful for all the care and attention you provided'

Parent, South Korea

Tailored for those who are planning to study at an international, boarding or bilingual school, our Academic Enrichment course offers a deep dive into the core subjects of Maths, English & Science.

The course

Guided by expert Whitgift teachers, students will build a strong foundation

for academic success. Engaging lessons, interactive activities, and collaborative projects will make your learning experience both enriching and enjoyable.

Designed exclusively by Whitgift School, this programme integrates elements of our year-round IGCSE curriculum for international students. This includes Global Citizenship, Ideatum and Ignite, which are all completely unique to Whitgift.

Students immerse themselves in an exciting three-week course that revolves around English, Maths, and Science. Guided by our Whitgift teachers, you'll delve into these subjects, building a strong foundation that will set you on a path to academic success.

Applying

After completing our booking form, students must prove they have the required Upper Intermediate (CEFR B2) level of English to take the course. Candidates can do this by sending us a certificate or recent school report if studying in an international/boarding/bilingual school. Should this not be possible; students will need to complete our online tests before a place is offered. All candidates will need to take a writing test about their motivation for attending the course. Should a student not have the required level of English to take this course, we recommend our Intensive General English Course.



Pre-IB (14-17 years)

'I absolutely loved every single activity and have gained so many new skills that I'm sure I'll be able to use for a long time to come'

Lorenzo, 15, Spain

Whitgift is a leading IB World School and ranked amongst the best IB schools in the world for results. In the summer, we offer an IBDP preparation course for students who will be starting the diploma in the next academic year and wish to be better prepared.

The course

On this three-week course, students have the chance to study English

Language and Acquisition, Maths & Statistics, and Science under the tutorship of experienced IB teachers. Thanks to our modern classrooms and state of the art science laboratories, students can really benefit from the fantastic academic setting Whitgift offers. Additionally, students will be introduced to two of the fundamental aspects of the IB: TOK (Theory of Knowledge) and CAS (Creativity, Activity, Service), meaning that they leave feeling prepared and inspired. Whilst the morning lessons are subject based, afternoon lessons are project-based and see the students working collaboratively with the wider Summer School community in our Progressive Skills in Action classes.



Applying

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Non-Residential Programme (11-17 years)

'You won't miss anything as a day student. The classes, activities, and staff are amazing. I made a lot of friends and had an incredible 4 weeks at Whitgift Summer School'

Ayse, 12, Turkey

For international students who have family in the local area, our summer school offers a flexible non-residential option.

This allows students to fully engage in the experiences of our summer programme without the need for accommodation. Non-residential students participate in all aspects of

the programme, including lessons and afternoon activities from 09:00 to 18:00 each day. Additionally, they have the option to join our organised excursions on Wednesday and Saturday, providing them with opportunities to explore London and its surroundings in a safe and structured environment.

This non-residential option provides families with the flexibility to tailor their child's summer experience to suit their individual needs. It is especially advantageous for families who wish to stay together in London during the programme, allowing them to balance family time with their child's educational and social development. Families can enjoy the vibrant city whilst knowing

that their child is receiving a high-quality educational experience during the day.

We require a member of the student's family to be responsible for dropping them off at the summer school in the morning and picking them up at the designated time in the evening. This ensures that students have a smooth transition between home and school, and that they can benefit from the supportive presence of their family while still fully participating in our programme. The non-residential option is designed to provide both students and their families with the best of both worlds – a brilliant educational experience coupled with the comfort of staying together as a family.





WHY WHITGIFT SUMMER SCHOOL?



Location

Whitgift is fantastically well-located, just 45 minutes from Gatwick Airport and 1 hour from Heathrow Airport.

Additionally, we are less than 30 minutes away from Central London on the train and under 1 hour from the

coastal town of Brighton. The closest train station to Whitgift is South Croydon, which is just a 10-minute walk from the school.

Included in the course fees is a transfer service on arrival and departure Sundays. This service covers Gatwick and Heathrow Airports, as

well as London St. Pancras Station, between 09:00 and 18:00. We support Unaccompanied Minor travel arrangements, and our Admissions team is available to assist with organising them.



Student Ambassadors

'I made friends from different countries, and I still keep in touch with people from Turkey and Germany. Summer School was an amazing way to spend my summer, and I'm grateful for the experience. It was so much fun, and I'll definitely apply again next year!'

Zachary, Student Ambassador

Selected English-speaking pupils from Whitgift and our partnered school, Croydon High School, participate in the Progressive Skills in Action lessons, co-curricular and social programmes.

These students, known as Student Ambassadors, play an integral role and provide a great opportunity for international students to practise their English in an authentic context and develop their fluency. International students really enjoy meeting and becoming friends with their British counterparts and often stay in touch long after the course has finished.

The year-round ethos and values of Whitgift are central to our Summer School. All students are encouraged to have a positive and inclusive attitude and growth mindset in everything they undertake and achieve beyond what they thought was possible. Having approximately 30 Student Ambassadors per week involved in our Summer School helps facilitate this approach and further strengthens the links to the main school.



Progressive Skills in Action

'Thank you for your support, creative ideas, and for helping us bring them to life, creating the best possible atmosphere at school. I'm grateful for your efforts and will always remember the beautiful moments and life lessons you taught me. You showed me that true learning isn't just found in books, but also through real-life experiences'

Slavko, 15, Croatia

During these afternoon classes, students work in small teams on a range of exciting and engaging projects that are planned and

facilitated in such a way as to develop the students' 21st Century Skills in collaboration, communication, critical thinking, and creativity.

In this innovative approach to learning, whilst students are practising these skills, they are also using their English with real purpose alongside Student Ambassadors from Whitgift and Croydon High School. Groups work on an engaging project for four afternoons and come together to share their work in an interactive event at the end of the week.

Progressive Skills in Action classes in the Lower School (11-13 years) involve students on the General English Course and the Academic Enrichment Course

working together to develop their life and social skills. They are taught presentation techniques, independent learning and teamwork skills, and are encouraged to be as creative as possible with the full support of their teacher.

Progressive Skills in Action classes in the Upper School (14-17 years) involve students on the Intensive General English Course and Pre-IB Course who work together on creative and entrepreneurial projects. Through these classes, learners develop a number of the attributes valued by IB World Schools. They are encouraged to inquire, think creatively and ethically, use their communication skills, take risks and reflect on their actions.



Weekly reports

'We were very pleased to receive the weekly report about our daughter's first week at Whitgift. It gave us a clear impression of how her week has gone so far'

Parent, Germany

Weekly Progress Reports are provided by Summer School teachers, for those students studying on our Intensive General English course. The reports detail the area of the summer school that all students are involved in: lessons, activities and life in the boarding house.

At the end of each student's stay, parents will be provided with an End

of Course Report, which highlights the areas they need to focus on so they can improve their English during the next academic year.

For students studying on our Pre-IB and Academic Enrichment courses, detailed weekly reports are written by their subject teachers.

All reports include feedback from our activity team on the academy or activities they have taken part in that week as well as the excursions they have attended. The welfare team provide information on how they are settling into the boarding house and other pastoral elements of their stay.

The reports are sent to parents each week so they can get immediate feedback on their child's progress whilst at Whitgift. These will be sent electronically to the parent/agent.

On their final week with us, students receive a Leaving Certificate at our Graduation Ceremony, held each Friday. The Graduation Ceremony celebrates our students achievements that week and standout students receive awards and prizes.



WELLNESS

Accommodation

'It's my third week here at Whitgift Summer School, and I'm really enjoying my time in the boarding house. The room has a private bathroom, the house parents are caring and friendly, and the food is amazing with plenty of options'

Camille, 15, France

Our international visiting students stay in our boarding facility, Founder's House.

The boarding house is situated overlooking the water garden, which is home to exotic wildlife species such as flamingos.

Inside Founder's House, there are communal areas for students to relax and socialise in. All bedrooms are single, double or triple rooms, and have their own en-suite bathrooms.

Students share their room with somebody of the same gender and a similar age, but of a different nationality.

Students are supervised by our caring house parents who also live in the boarding house and are available to support students 24 hours a day throughout their stay.

WiFi access is available, enabling students to stay in touch with their families.



Welfare

The health, safety and happiness of our students is our number one priority.

Whitgift Summer School offers an outstanding pastoral provision, which allows students to feel supported, safe and secure, enabling them to thrive on our courses. We place the pastoral interests of our students at the centre of everything we do to make the summer as enriching and rewarding as possible.

Our dedicated welfare team, led by the welfare manager, and comprised of house parents and school nurses, are fully focused on ensuring that students remain healthy and happy as they adjust to life studying at our Summer School.

Students are met at the airport by a member of the summer school team and are welcomed to the boarding house, which has a very warm and friendly atmosphere, and introduced to other students. In this safe and secure environment, our staff are always available for students to share any concerns with or answer any questions that they may have.

During your time at Whitgift, whether you are a residential or non-residential student, we provide three freshly cooked meals each day. Healthy snacks are also offered during the afternoon and evenings. A variety of food is provided at each meal and we cater for a range of dietary requirements.



ACTIVITIES



Academies and Multi-Activities

We place great emphasis on learning outside the classroom; our Academies & Activities Programme is a vital part of the Whitgift Summer School experience.

Students must choose the Academies they want to take at the time of booking, before they arrive at Whitgift. Students who have selected Multi-Activity at the time of booking will be contacted in June to choose their activities. Our English-speaking Student Ambassadors take part in the full range of the programme.

Whitgift's outstanding on-site facilities are fully utilised in this part of the Whitgift Summer School course.

Academies include four 90-minute sessions of specialist training, with professional coaches and teachers, over a one-week period.

Our Multi-Activity programme gives students the opportunity to try two different activities every week and develop their skills in a fun and communicative environment.

Academies

WEEK 1 / 3 / 5

FOOTBALL
ART
ROCK CLIMBING*
GOLF*

WEEK 2 / 4 / 6

TENNIS
BASKETBALL
HORSE RIDING*
FENCING*

*additional fee applies

Multi-Activity Options

WEEK 1 / 3 / 5

TABLE TENNIS
BADMINTON
VOLLEYBALL
YOGA
GYM & FITNESS

WEEK 2 / 4 / 6

CRAFTS
ANIMAL CARE
INTRODUCTION TO BRITISH SPORTS
SURVIVAL SKILLS
SWIMMING



Evening Activities

In the evenings, our experienced and dynamic team of activity leaders deliver a full and varied programme of activities. There is something for every student to get involved in!

This programme is designed to be fun and sociable, and aims to give students the opportunity to deepen their friendships with others from all over the world.

Our English speaking students from Whitgift and Croydon High School are also present during evening activities, providing students with the opportunity to further enhance their English in a different context outside the classroom.

There are a wide variety of evening activities on offer. On Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, we offer three options: sport, alternative and artistic. A typical evening may include

a basketball tournament, karaoke, and t-shirt making. Thursday evening is always 'House Night' where all students take part in various activities in a bid to win the House Cup. We also have external providers who come to the school to provide entertainment such as giant inflatables and laser tag. Finally, Friday evening sees us host the Graduation Ceremony followed by the disco. Saturday is a chilled night with Sunday being our transfer day.





Excursions

Thanks to Whitgift's excellent location, world-class visitor attractions are only a short distance away.

Saturday is a full-day excursion. Students depart the school early in the morning to make the most of what London and the South of England have to offer. Typically we visit cities such as Oxford, London, Cambridge, Brighton and Canterbury. Each visit to a city includes admission to a famous sight. For example, if the students are visiting Cambridge, they will enter King's College and take a punt on the river.

Typical Wednesday afternoon excursions include the London Eye, Leeds Castle, London Dungeon, Aqua Sports Centre, Battersea Power Station and many more.

These twice-weekly trips are a key part of the programme, and linking these trips to lessons result in a more meaningful experience, improved linguistic confidence and the creation of longer-lasting memories.

Wednesday is a half-day excursion. Lessons finish at lunchtime, with the students heading off-site for an afternoon of excitement and adventure.



Typical Week

| | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday (arrival/departure day) |
|---------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| 08:20 – 09:00 | Breakfast | Breakfast | Breakfast | Breakfast | Breakfast | 08:20 – 09:00 Breakfast | Quiet Morning |
| 09:00 – 12:30 | Lessons | Lessons | Lessons | Lessons | Lessons | 09:00 – 18:45 Full-day excursion e.g. Cambridge, Buckingham Palace, Thorpe Park | 10:00 – 11:00 Brunch |
| 12:30 – 13:30 | Lunch | Lunch | Lunch | Lunch | Lunch | | 12:00 – 17:45 Garden Party/Shopping Trip |
| 13:30 – 15:45 | Progressive Skills in Action | Progressive Skills in Action | Half-day excursion e.g. London Eye, Leeds Castle, Outdoor activity centre | Progressive Skills in Action | Progressive Skills in Action: Exhibitions and Presentations | | 18:30 – 19:30 BBQ |
| 15:45 – 16:30 | Free Time | Free Time | | Free Time | Free Time | 19:00 – 19:45 Dinner | 19:30 – 21:30 Induction/Team-building games |
| 16:30 – 18:00 | Academies/Activities | Academies/Activities | | Academies/Activities | Academies/Activities | 19:45 – 21:00 Boarding House Night | |
| 19:00 – 19:45 | Dinner | Dinner | Dinner | Dinner | Graduation Ceremony & Prize-giving (18:30 – 19:15) | 21:00 – 22:00 Farewells and Packing | |
| 19:45 – 21:30 | Evening options e.g. Capture the flag, Quick Cricket, Yoga | Evening options e.g. Basketball tournament, T-shirt design, Archery | Relaxed evening options e.g. Table Tennis, Film, Pamper night | Whole School Event e.g. Laser Tag, Egg protector challenge, Inflatable assault course | Dinner (19:15 – 20:00) Disco (20:00 – 21:30) | | |





Peacock by Yuta, 12, from Japan





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