

The Ellen Wilkinson School for Girls Profile

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The Ellen Wilkinson School for Girls

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<http://www.ellen-wilkinson-school.co.uk/>

Local Authority:	Ealing
Age range:	11-18
Number of pupils:	1411
Head teacher:	Ms Chris Sydenham
Chair of governors:	Ms. A. Mountford

What have been our successes this year?

We are a wonderfully diverse community with staff and students from different backgrounds, cultures and faiths. Key to our successes are the opportunities for enrichment and creativity that support and extend our academic focus.

As a result of our outstanding achievements we have been designated a High Performing Specialist School. Particularly notable were our Value Added results at all key stages: the overall rate of progress for pupils between Years 7 and 11 is well above national averages. These figures confirm that we are committed to ensuring that all students succeed.

70% achieved 5 or more A* to C grades at GCSE (compared to the national average of 57%), 56% gained 5+ A* to C results including both Maths and English (45% nationally).

25% of our GCSE grades were at A and A* grades and 20 girls gained at least 8 A or A* passes.

Ofsted described a "caring community which prides itself on encouraging high academic expectations".

What are we trying to improve?

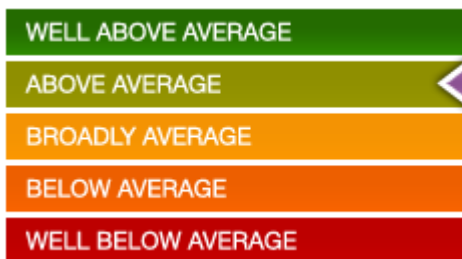
We aim to improve student's rate of progress from KS3 to KS4, particularly for those students who achieved Level 4 or above at KS2. We also wish to increase the proportion of students gaining Level 6 and above at KS3.

We are developing ways in which we can involve students in monitoring and assessing their own progress through a programme of target setting and review, providing clear guidance on how to improve. This will be supplemented by more informative marking.

Our school facilities are inadequate for the curriculum that we would wish to provide: we are planning a new extended sports and performing arts building project. This is part of our programme of building, updating and refurbishing our premises.

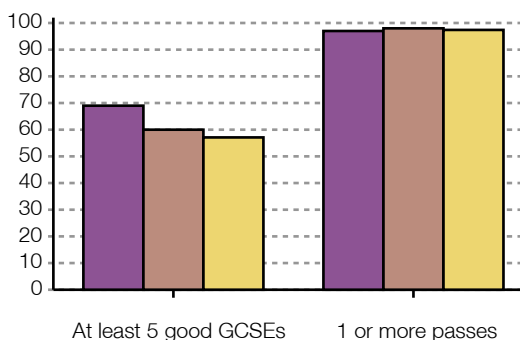
Site security is to be improved through the installation of CCTV and new perimeter fencing; funds have also been set aside for improving our ICT facilities - we anticipate that all classrooms will have interactive white boards by September 2006.

How much progress do pupils make between 11 and 16?



This score shows how well pupils progress between 11 and 16, taking account of their different starting points. Our score of 1027.4 means that on average, our pupils achieve 1 grade higher in 5 of their GCSE subjects compared to pupils with similar attainment at age 11.

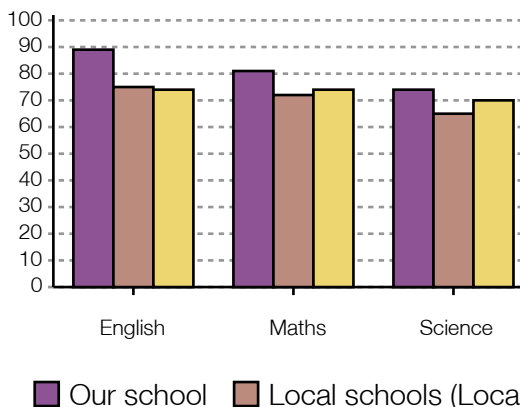
How well do our pupils achieve in year 11?



This shows the percentage of pupils (who were 16 years old at the end of the year) who in 2005 achieved 5 or more GCSEs at grades A*-C (or GNVQ equivalent), and one or more GCSEs at grades A*-G (or GNVQ equivalent).

Our school
 Local schools (Local Authority)
 All schools

How well do our pupils achieve at age 14?



This shows Key Stage 3 results for 2005. It shows the percentage of pupils eligible for KS3 tests (usually 14 year olds) who achieved or exceeded level 5.

How have our results changed over time?

In 2000 57% of our students achieved 5+ A*-C grades, by 2005 this had increased to 70% (significantly above the national average). 96% achieved 5 A*-G grades both in 2000 and 2005.

Between 2003 and 2005 at KS3 the average point score increased from 35.8 to 36.1, with 90% then 89% achieving Level 5 or above in English, the proportion in Maths increasing from 77 to 81% and Science recording 74% in both years.

In 2002/3 our attendance rate was 92.4%, this increased to 93.1% in 2004/5.

How are we making sure that every child gets teaching to meet their individual needs?

The school is dedicated to providing excellent learning experiences for all our pupils. Our teachers are specialists in their own subjects, "teaching is good because teachers are enthusiastic and knowledgeable".

We keep comprehensive information for each student giving details of their prior attainment, current performance and individual needs. Teachers know their students well, and use this understanding, together with the analysis of their results, to plan lessons that will be accessible yet challenging. Over 70% of our students have a first language other than English, but a clear focus on literacy across the curriculum resulted in 78% gaining A* - C grades in GCSE English Language.

How do we make sure our pupils are healthy, safe and well-supported?

We are committed to encouraging healthy practices. Our PSHE programmes contain many elements aimed at producing a 'healthy school', from learning about dietary needs to personal safety to sex education. Outside agencies including Community Health visitors and the Police visit to talk about issues such as Well Women, knife crime and drug misuse.

Our meals service is aiming to deliver healthier food.

We have clear child protection procedures and rigorously monitor vulnerable students, identifying and addressing concerns at an early stage.

Our vertical pastoral system is a great strength, providing continuity and a sense of community within the school. Students are also supported by counsellors and Learning Mentors; senior pupils, trained by Relate, offer a peer listening service.

How are we working with parents and the community?

We encourage close co-operation between teachers and parents, staff are always available to see parents by appointment. During the year there is at least one progress evening for each year group, interim reports are also provided. Parents are kept up to date by monthly newsletters and our website, their views are sought through surveys.

Annual Mathematics & Science evenings encourage parents to share in their daughter's learning.

Links with industry are developed through work experience, Young Enterprise, industry days and careers fairs. Visitors from industry and H.E. are welcomed into the school.

We have a full programme of activities with our partner schools, both primary and secondary, and members of the local community take part in a range of classes held at the school.

What activities are available to pupils?

We offer an extensive extra-curricular programme including sports, drama (inc an annual whole school production and a Christmas play), music, Amnesty group, chess, gardening, modern languages, dance, debating, Duke of Edinburgh, reading, technology and ICT. Many subjects run homework clubs. We have links with visiting theatre groups, professional musicians and dancers. We host lectures by scientists eg from Imperial College and Glaxo Smith Kline. Frequent educational visits include field trips, visits to the theatre, cinema, museums, galleries, professional institutions. Trips abroad have included France, Germany, New York, Iceland, Italy, Austria and the school cruise.

Girls take part in competitions such as Mock Bar Trials as well as Salters Science, Technology and UK Maths Challenges.

What have pupils told us about the school, and what have we done as a result?

The school has begun a process of detailed pupil questionnaires covering all aspects of school life, from teaching and learning to personal safety and bullying. As a result we now offer a wider range of courses at Advanced Level, our catering department has reviewed their provision, and students are working with staff to re-write our anti-bullying policy. The Student Council has also requested money for environmental projects, the Finance Committee of the Governing Body has agreed to set aside funds for this.

Feedback from surveys and the yearly YELLIS and ALIS tests indicates high levels of student satisfaction and low alienation factors.

Our Ofsted inspection team reported that "pupils enjoy being at school and contribute positively to school life"

How do we make sure all pupils attend their lessons and behave well?

We are committed to providing positive learning experiences for our students, the overwhelming majority respond well.

Student absence is monitored closely and parents contacted via a computerised calling system if their attendance is unauthorised. Our pastoral team works closely with parents to support girls whose attendance causes concern.

Student's achievements and their positive contributions are rewarded through a system of merits, 'Praise Postcards' and inclusion in newsletters. Excellent attendance and both individual and group success are recognised regularly in assemblies.

How do our absence rates compare with other schools?



This chart shows the percentage of half days missed through authorised and unauthorised absence by all pupils at the school. Information is given for the school, for schools within the local authority and for all schools.

■ Our school ■ Local schools (Local Authority) ■ All schools

What do our pupils do after year 11?

In September 2005 92.2% of our Year 11 students continued in full-time education, 75% following Advanced level courses and 16% an Intermediate route.

The majority chose to stay on in our sixth form, others pursued courses at a variety of sixth forms or colleges in West London.

We offer 17 different Advanced Level courses including Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Maths and English. Psychology, Philosophy and Arabic were introduced recently. Advanced and Intermediate level vocational courses in Travel and Tourism, Information Technology, Business and Health and Social Care are also popular.

What have we done in response to Ofsted?

Our 2001 Ofsted report concluded that "The Ellen Wilkinson School is a good school, with several excellent features".

The inspection team raised the issue of poor accommodation. Since then we have built a new sixth form centre, music rooms, an extension to the dining hall and an additional e-learning suite. Science laboratories have been refurbished.

Following negotiations with the London Borough of Ealing we hope, in 2006, to finalise plans for an extended Sports and Performing Arts complex.

Religious Education now forms part of our General Studies programme in the sixth form. Our 'Thought for the Week' is used as a focus for reflection.

Information about our sixth form

Our results this year

Our overall Advanced Level results for 2004/5 put The Ellen Wilkinson School in the top 10% of schools nationally in terms of Value Added education - the progress made between GCSE and Advanced Level.

152 students took 421 Advanced Level exams. 46% of all these results were at grades A or B. Results in English Literature, Media Studies, Business, ICT, Chemistry, Economics, Psychology and Geography were particularly good.

15 students gained at least 3 A grades in their examinations and 4 achieved 4 or 5 grade As.

39 students took Intermediate Level vocational courses in Business, Health & Social Care and Leisure & Tourism; 95% of the girls gained the qualification with 62% Distinction or Merit results.

How have our results changed over time?

Our Advanced level and VCE results have been consistently strong: In 2003/4 we were in the top 20% nationally for the quality of our overall achievement, according to the ALPs analysis. In 2004/5 we were in the top 10%.

The number of students being entered for Advanced GCE and Vocational courses in our sixth form increased from 103 in 2003 to 155 in 2005.

In 2002 33% were As and Bs, in 2005 46% of the examination entries resulted in these top grades. In this period the number of examination entries doubled, the number of grade As trebled.

Intermediate Business, Health & Social Care and Leisure & Tourism GNVQs have shown consistent high achievement, averaging 98%, 87% and 78% pass rates respectively over the last 3 years.

What have been the successes of the sixth form this year?

The Ellen Wilkinson School is committed to providing a range of enrichment activities for our students - 40 enrolled for the Duke of Edinburgh award, 40 took part in Envision activities, several attended masterclasses in a range of subjects and at different universities (inc. Oxbridge), our Business Studies team were successful in the area 'Young Enterprise' competition.

Post-doctorate scientists from Imperial College worked with our A level science students on the 'Inspire' programme.

To accommodate the growing numbers of students we opened our new sixth form centre in February 2005. Facilities include 2 large study rooms, common room, kitchen, 3 teaching rooms with state of the art ICT equipment and an office for the Head Girl and deputies!

What are we trying to improve in our sixth form?

We aim to provide a range of courses to meet the needs of all our pupils. Philosophy and Government & Politics are recent additions, and we will offer new Applied Vocational courses in 2006.

We are committed to helping our students take control of their learning and develop as independent learners. To this end we have introduced a new monitoring system that encourages pupils to actively think about their strengths and weaknesses and to identify targets for the development of their own learning. In-house tutoring will be supplemented with study skills workshops to help students to develop additional strategies. We believe that these systems will help us to raise pupil achievement and increase our post-16 value added score.

What do our students do after leaving the sixth form?

Our Vision states that "Girls leaving the school will have achieved outstanding personal success and have developed a love of learning. They will wish to continue education for life. Equally they will leave confident and self-aware, and ready to take their place in society"

Recently more than 100 students each year have progressed to Higher Education. In 2005 123 girls went on to study subjects ranging from Accounting to Anthropology, Events Management to War Studies.

6 girls were accepted to read Medicine with 10 taking Pharmacy, 11 Law (including one student at Cambridge), 12 Psychology and 22 taking Business/IT or Computing.

More Information

If you would like more information about school policies, including our policies on special educational needs and disability, admissions, finance, school food and our complaints procedure, please contact us:

By telephone 020 87521525

Our website <http://www.ellen-wilkinson-school.co.uk/>
