



FINTON HOUSE  
SCHOOL

# SHINE BRIGHT



**BOYS & GIRLS AGED 4-11**

**PROSPECTUS**  
**2022 - 2023**

WHERE  
EVERY  
CHILD CAN  
SHINE



## Shine Bright

Finton House was founded in 1987 as a charitable trust with two principles in mind: that children joining Reception should not have to face the pressures of a competitive entry system, and that of providing an inclusive environment where all children, including those with special educational needs, have the same opportunities.

These principles underpin the educational experience at Finton House, where children learn kindness, tolerance and respect for those around them.

The School motto "Open Hearts and Guiding Hands" sums up the relationships which pupils and staff

build with each other, with our local community and with the wider world.

All children quickly become accustomed to 'Finton life' and start to understand their own unique role within the Finton community. It is wonderful to see them settling in and embracing our Finton Goals, which are introduced one at a time over their first year and subsequently reaffirmed throughout their time here. A Fintonian demonstrates kindness, respect, curiosity, resilience, communication, morality and self-belief; values that they will draw upon long after their school years.







## Headmaster's Welcome

Happiness is in abundance here. This is largely due to the strong family ethos that makes Finton House so special, preserved by upholding the two founding principles of the School: a non-selective intake and a fully inclusive education.

We believe in preparing your child to flourish in an ever-changing world, and we do this by giving them a secure, inclusive and happy environment to grow up in – one where every child is able to shine. From their first day at Finton, children are nurtured and guided through a range of high-quality learning experiences, leaving the School at the end of Year 6 as confident, caring and responsible young people with a love of learning. Our highly successful record of entry into first choice schools at 11+, including a large percentage of scholarships and awards, speaks for itself: pupils of all ability thrive at Finton House.

Our commitment to pastoral care is as strong as our commitment to providing an outstanding education, both of which underpin our aim of teaching children how to lead a healthy life in its broadest sense. Children have fun here and learn to exercise their creativity through a wide range of exciting and challenging activities. Look out for the specialist facilities which we have for Science, Computing, Design & Technology, Music and Art, as well as the large sports field where children of all ages can enjoy a range of outdoor activities, games and play sporting fixtures against other schools.

Ultimately, the best way to understand the appeal of a Finton education and sense the wonderful atmosphere is to come and see us for yourself. We look forward to meeting you.

Ben Freeman,  
Headmaster



# WELCOME





# Resilience

**We know that starting school is an exciting yet potentially anxious time for both children and parents, but you can rest assured that there are many steps that we take to ensure a smooth transition.**

For the first couple of weeks in September, children stay for half-days whilst they get used to the routine of “big school”. The Reception block is adjacent to our main School building, which allows children time to become used to new ways of learning and making friends without being overwhelmed in their first year. Our three Reception classrooms are warm and welcoming.

We believe that a positive and healthy mind, along with the support and encouragement of others, are key to building resilience.

This in turn is what helps children succeed academically, engage socially and develop emotionally. This is why we challenge pupils to strive for their best in both curricular and extra-curricular activities through individual music exams, sporting competitions and clubs to name a few. The House system is a further good example, as it not only gives pupils a way to make friends outside of their year group, but it helps to instil a sense of belonging, pride and teamwork as they take part in various competitions over the years.



# NEVER GIVE UP



# LEARN TO EXPLORE

## Curiosity

**Imagine being transported back to one of the oldest surviving cultures in the world, or devising a strategy to tackle global warming, or creating a whole new world using just a pen and paper...**

The educational experience here is more than just a journey; it is an adventure which excites children to explore the world around them. We believe that all children have a natural appetite for learning, and that curiosity is the driving force which inspires pupils to become confident and independent learners. Small class sizes, a high staff to pupil ratio, specialist teaching, cross curricular integration, workshops, trips and special events, all combined with a passionate and enthusiastic staff all contribute to the development of a lifetime love of learning.

We provide a broad and balanced curriculum, extending beyond the National Curriculum. The timetable includes English, Maths, Science, Computing, PSHEE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education), Languages, Art, Design & Technology, Drama, Dance, Music, Reasoning, Religious Education, Sport and Critical Thinking. We have specialist facilities including purpose-built Music rooms with soundproof practice rooms, a Science lab, DT workshop, Computing room and an Art room. In class, all teachers use extension challenges to encourage children to explore topics more deeply, consider different viewpoints, 'think laterally' and push themselves beyond their comfort zone.





# HAVE PATIENCE FOR OTHERS

# AND FOR YOURSELF

## Kindness

Finton House is committed to providing the best learning environment for every child who comes through its doors, where all pupils feel valued and supported every step of the way. Staffing and resources are deployed first and foremost to meet children's individual needs to ensure they make excellent personal and academic progress.

We model and promote kindness in everything that we do. On the timetable, pupils develop their social awareness with PSHEE lessons and class time/ tutor sessions. We also believe in the importance of being kind to oneself. As such, pupils can attend mindfulness sessions at lunchtime to develop this relationship with themselves as well as others. Wellbeing is an embedded part of the Finton education.





# Morality

The School provides an encouraging and warm atmosphere which ensures that children feel comfortable trying everything to the best of their ability. A clear moral code is important, and our staff lead by example in promoting our Finton Goals. Visitors notice the confidence, happiness and good manners of our children, but it is the soul of our school that sets us apart and makes Finton House unique.

Pastoral care at Finton is underpinned by consistent expectations and good communication. Children at Finton House are expected to adhere to high standards of behaviour and work at all times in accordance with the Finton Goals and school rules.



December 2020 – supporting the annual ‘Give Joy, Give a Toy’ fundraiser’





# Respect

Trips, outings, workshops and a variety of visiting speakers are an essential and integral part of the curriculum, enriching the learning experience of our children. Pupils learn to be respectful when visiting nature resorts, museums, theatres and foreign countries. Some true highlights of their time at Finton are the residential trips to the outdoor

pursuits centre in Devon (Year 3), the National Forest (Year 4), Snowdonia (Year 5) and to France (Year 6); these are invaluable experiences which develop their social and cultural awareness.

We have a rich outdoor learning program which involves opportunities to take learning outside the classroom to the playground and front garden, but also further afield to Wandsworth Common, Tom's Farm and our secret garden at Trinity Fields.

Clubs also provide an exciting form of enrichment and cover a huge range of sports and activities such as Art, Design & Technology, Dance, Computing and Cookery. Off-site clubs include Swimming, Gymnastics, Tennis, Sailing and Drone Flying, amongst others.



# BE POLITE AND TAKE CARE





# YOUR VOICE MATTERS

## Communication

A broad range of good communication skills are fundamental to a child's success, which we achieve through subjects such as languages, art, drama and music, and through events such as Poetry Week and Class Assemblies.

We have a Pupils' Council which is made up of a representative from each class elected by their peers. The Pupils' Council is a means for the children to raise any issues or concerns, suggest ideas for their school and explore ways they could make a difference in the local and wider community. The Pupils' Council is chaired by the Head Girl and Head Boy. Class discussions take place at the beginning of each term and key points from these discussions are then raised at Pupils' Council meetings. There is also a suggestion box for children to post ideas.

Positions of responsibility are awarded to pupils in Year 6; these include roles such as School Reporters, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Monitors and Games Captains alongside the more traditional Prefects and the Head Boy and Head Girl.





# BELIEVE IN YOURSELF



## Self-Belief

Children learn to understand the power of self-belief from the very first day they join us. Pursuing our goals and never giving up are important recurring messages which are addressed in the classrooms and assemblies throughout the year. Pupils at Finton are given confidence through “All About Me” displays and presentations, and love the crowns and badges that are presented for “Star of the Week”. They are encouraged to share their work with parents and grandparents, who we invite in to School. The Nativity production, class plays and the annual swimming gala are just a few highlights of the children’s first year at school.

As the children approach the last few years of their Finton journey, we support them in finding the right senior school. Selecting a suitable senior school is very much depends on the child’s interests, as it very much depends on the child’s interests, passions and strengths. At Finton the children are individually prepared for specific entrance and scholarship requirements. Meetings are offered with the Head and Academic Head and, in addition, we hold a biennial Future Schools’ Evening which gives parents the opportunity to meet representatives of a range of over 30 schools to which Finton House pupils regularly transfer.





# Sally Walker Bursary

The bursary fund was launched in 2007 in memory of Sally Walker, Headmistress from 2002-2005. We believe our community is enriched by bursary children who bring a wealth of different viewpoints, talents and skills to the school.

A limited number of bursaries are available each year to children who would benefit most from a Finton education, namely because of a particular ability, but whose family might not otherwise be able to afford one.

Candidates must be aged seven or over on the 1st September of the year of entry, as long as a place is available. The closing date for applications is 1 March of the year of entry.

A bursary award can pay for up to 100% of the fees and can provide a discount on uniform, clubs, educational visits and travel. The ideal bursary applicant will be a child who is keen to learn, and who can benefit fully from the broad curriculum that Finton House offers.



# Special Educational Needs

Finton House welcomes children with special needs as well as those having difficulty with some aspects of their learning or development. Classes are made up of children of a wide range of abilities and some children may need specific support in certain areas or a personalised programme.

Pupils have access to a wide range of learning resources which are used to enhance their successes and progress. Working in close partnership with parents, we aim to provide coordinated support from teaching staff, peripatetic therapists, Learning Support teachers, assistants and outside agencies.

With the help of the dedicated on-site Learning Support team, we offer support such as: Early Intervention groups, extra-curricular groups to support children's physical and social development and emotional well-being, and specialist Learning Support sessions in private 1:1 rooms or our fully fitted Occupational Therapy room. Our SENCo organises an annual SEN Forum event which has a different theme each year and features guest speakers. Parents are invited to attend alongside SEN departments from other local schools, making it very much a community event. Having such a knowledgeable specialist team on-site benefits every child in the school.



# How to Apply

## Reception

Finton House has a policy of non-selective entry and places are offered on a first come, first served basis, with no interview or assessment. Parents are advised to register for Reception places as soon as possible after the birth of their child. Up to 60 places are offered each year, half to girls and half to boys.

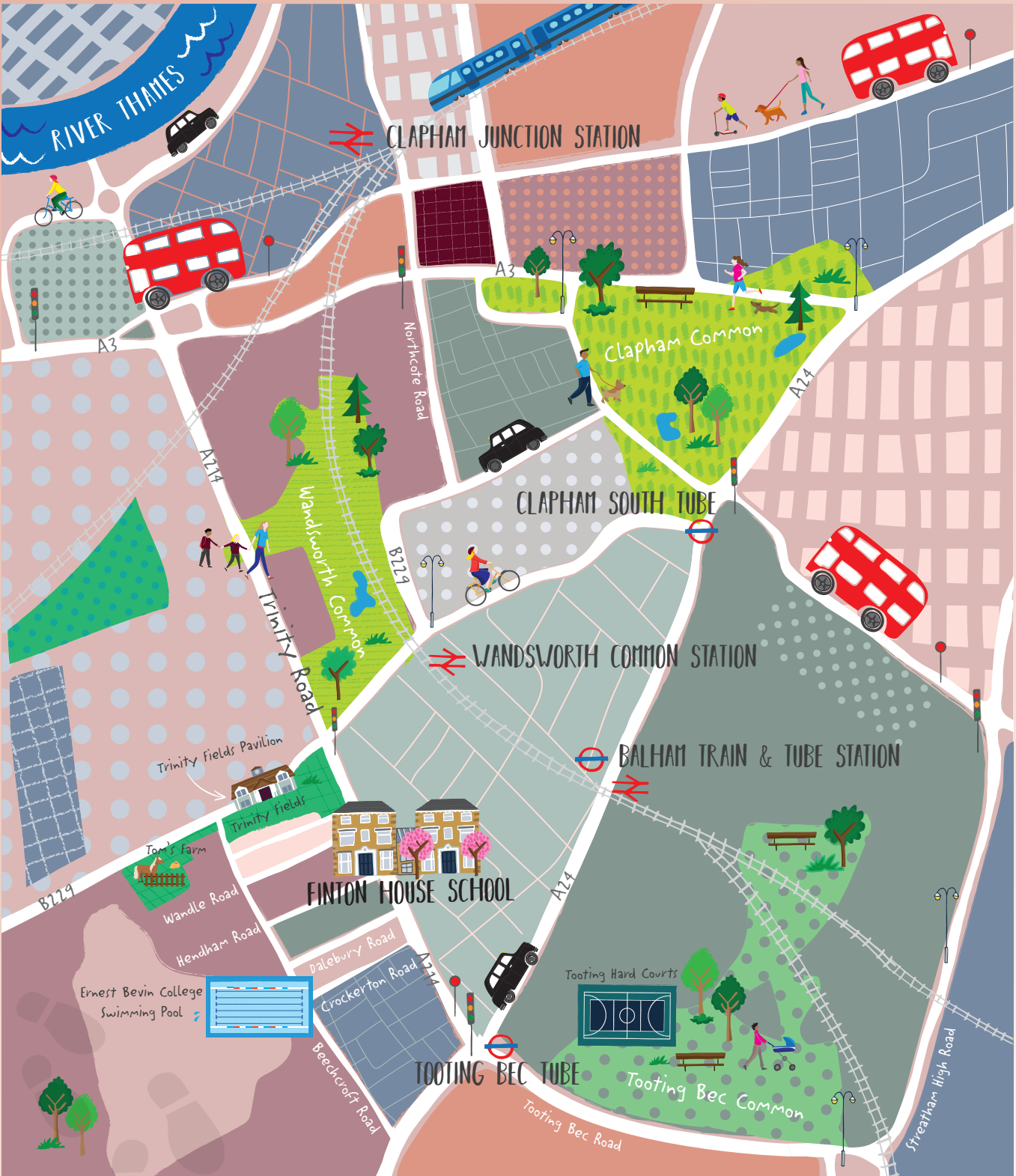
To ensure that children born in the summer do not miss out on places, two entrance lists are opened for every academic year: half the available places go to children born between 1st September and 28th February, and the other half to children born between 1st March and 31st August. When the Entrance List is full, subsequent applicants are placed on a Reserve List, and any remaining places left unfilled are offered to them eighteen months prior to entry. All children joining Reception start school in September.

## Occasional Vacancies

Occasional Vacancy places are sometimes available for children over the age of five, and parents are encouraged to contact the Registrar if they are looking for a place.

Parents are welcome to come and visit the school prior to registering their child. Individual tours can be arranged with the Registrar, who can also be contacted for information regarding any upcoming Open Mornings; details of these can be found on our website.

The Registrar, Kate Hebblethwaite, can be contacted on **020 8682 5757** or via email: **[kate.hebblethwaite@fintonhouse.org.uk](mailto:kate.hebblethwaite@fintonhouse.org.uk)**







**FINTON HOUSE**  
SCHOOL

171 Trinity Road  
London  
SW17 7HL

T 020 8682 0921  
W [fintonhouse.org.uk](http://fintonhouse.org.uk)  
E [office@fintonhouse.org.uk](mailto:office@fintonhouse.org.uk)

f [Finton.House.School](https://www.facebook.com/Finton.House.School)  
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