

# WHITGIFT

SUMMER SCHOOL





# Welcome to Whitgift Summer School

“I met so many amazing people and friends who I am still in touch with, and my English improved so much. But not only that. My confidence has improved so much, my personality improved in the best way possible.”

*Polina, Russia*

“It was really amazing, and I made lots of good memories.”

*Apollina, France*

“It was such a wonderful experience, and I am going to miss everyone so much.”

*Elisavet, Greece*

“I really loved my three weeks here at Whitgift Summer School and cherished every moment of it.”

*Chloe, China*

“Thank you, I had a wonderful time with you throughout the six weeks.”

*Abdulaziz, Saudi Arabia*

*All quotes from students are taken from our survey which is completed during students' final day.*



*Summer 2026 will be our eleventh year, and our programme is about to become even more exciting with activities, excursions and new, forward-thinking courses.*

I've had the privilege of working at Whitgift for the last three summers as Welfare Manager, giving me a unique perspective on how special our programme is, and the impact it can have on young people. I've seen students arrive feeling homesick on their first night, only to be in tears on their last, because they didn't want to leave. That's the magic of Whitgift: in as little as two weeks, students build friendships and memories that last a lifetime.

And what makes Whitgift so special? Our students of course, and last year we welcomed 229 of them with a mix of 29 different nationalities! Since 2015 we've delivered ten exciting and enriching programmes, and I am confident that our eleventh can be the best yet.

Our Intensive General English course (students aged 11-17) remains a cornerstone of the project, perfect for students looking to refine and improve their language in a fun, student centred classroom. Academic Enrichment (students aged 11-13 B2+ English) also returns after a fantastic 2025, with students studying a variety of subjects.

So, what's new? Two exciting programmes for today's young learners:

- Skills in Academic English (ages 14-17 C1/C2 level): This course is tailored for students with a

very high level of English and focuses on the skills needed for studying in an English-speaking academic environment. Topics include essay writing, extended listening, and seminar-style discussions.

- Digital Champions (ages 14-17 B2+ level): A three-week course for students curious about the digital world and its future. Students will explore AI and ethics, critical thinking, and computer science, gaining insight into the technologies shaping our society.

Afternoons keep the same format as previous years, as the students all take part in Progressive Skills in Action, a project-based class which culminates on Fridays with presentations for the rest of the cohort. These sessions are supported by approximately 35 Student Ambassadors, English speaking local students from Whitgift and our partner school Croydon High. This peer interaction is a highlight of the programme. In fact, in our 2025 student survey, 100% of nearly 200 respondents said they enjoyed working with the Student Ambassadors!

Our vibrant activities programme, professional academies, and twice-weekly excursions to explore London and its surroundings remain essential parts of the experience.

Whitgift is ideal for students, with around 150 students (including ambassadors) on-site each week and approximately 40 staff members, every student is seen and supported daily. Our dedicated team, from teachers and house parents to activity leaders and administrators, works passionately to create the



Flamingo by Angelica, 13, from Italy



best possible environment. For any questions, our wonderful admin team is always happy to help.

Whitgift's Campus is magnificent, with peacocks roaming the grounds, a water garden with flamingos, and premier sports facilities. As well as having so much green space, the school is only 20 minutes from St Pancras, 45 from Gatwick and 1 hour from Heathrow and London City Airports.

I am incredibly proud of what we do here, and the team and I genuinely care about every student who joins us. The most fulfilling part of my job is seeing brilliant young people having the time of their life, and the Summer School is a pleasure to be part of, year after year.

With ten courses delivered, it's time to make number eleven our best yet, and we'd love you to join us.

**Robbie Hancock**  
Summer School Course Director

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Peacock by Ronya, 16, from Denmark



## 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, 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.





# Skills in Academic English (14-17 years)

*“There were many things I didn't understand, but thanks to the advice of my teachers, I was able to speak with confidence, and I am truly grateful.”*

Erica, Japan

This advanced, minimum two-week course is designed for students aged 14–17 with a strong command of English (C1/C2 level) who are preparing for university or academic study in English-speaking environments. Skills in Academic English offers a focused and

practical approach to developing the core competencies needed for success in higher education.

Students will refine their essay writing skills, learning how to structure arguments, use academic sources effectively, and express complex ideas with clarity and precision. Extended listening tasks, based on authentic academic lectures and talks, help students improve comprehension and note-taking strategies. The course also includes seminar-style discussions, encouraging students to participate

actively, present ideas, and respond critically in group settings.

With an emphasis on accuracy, fluency, and academic conventions, this course builds confidence in using English for study, research, and debate. Students will leave with a toolkit of strategies for reading critically, writing persuasively, and engaging thoughtfully in academic contexts.



# Academic Enrichment (11-13 years)

*“{The Teachers} were always smiling, they gave good energy to the lessons. That’s why I was happy to come. The subjects we talked about were very interesting.”*

Camilia, France

Academic Enrichment is designed for students aged 11-13 (with B2+ English) who are preparing to study at international, bilingual, or boarding schools. This three-week course offers a focused and stimulating introduction to core academic subjects, English, Maths, and Science, taught by experienced Whitgift teachers in a supportive and engaging environment.

Students will build a strong foundation for future academic success through carefully structured lessons that encourage curiosity, collaboration, and confidence. The programme blends traditional subject learning with interactive activities and project-based tasks, helping students to develop both subject knowledge and essential study skills.

What makes Academic Enrichment truly unique is its integration of elements from Whitgift School's year-round IGCSE curriculum for international students. Students will experience aspects of Global Citizenship, Ideatum, and Ignite; three distinctive programmes developed exclusively by Whitgift to promote

creative thinking, global awareness, and intellectual independence.

Throughout the course, students are immersed in a learning experience that is both rigorous and enjoyable. Whether they are solving mathematical problems, conducting science experiments, or exploring literature and language, every lesson is designed to challenge and inspire.

Academic Enrichment is the ideal choice for younger learners who are ready to take the next step in their education. It provides the tools, confidence, and mindset needed to thrive in English-speaking academic environments, all within the vibrant and welcoming setting of Whitgift Summer School.





# Digital Champions (14-17 years)

*‘For the first time school lessons weren’t boring for me.’*  
Maia, Italy

This exciting three-week course is designed for students aged 14–17 with a minimum B2 level of English who are curious about the digital world and eager to shape its future. Digital Champions blends technology, ethics, and analytical thinking to help students become responsible and informed digital citizens.

In Week 1, students explore Artificial Intelligence and Ethics, learning how AI works and debating its impact on society, from data privacy to algorithmic bias. Week 2 focuses on Critical Thinking, where students sharpen their reasoning skills, evaluate information, and engage in structured debates on real-world issues. In Week 3, students dive into Computer Science, gaining hands-on experience with coding and understanding how digital systems operate.

Through interactive lessons, collaborative projects, and thought-provoking discussions, students will build confidence in academic English while developing essential skills for the future. Whether you're passionate about technology, interested in global challenges, or simply want to think more deeply about the digital age, this course offers a unique and enriching summer experience.



# 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, 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, afternoon and evening activities from 09:00 to 21:30 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.







# Location

## "I love Whitgift!"

Yago, Spain

Whitgift is fantastically well-located, just 45 minutes from Gatwick Airport and 1 hour from Heathrow Airport and London City Airport. Whitgift has a beautiful campus with plentiful green spaces spanning 45 acres, and has 24 hour security meaning it is calm, safe and an amazing environment in which to spend your Summer.

Additionally, we are less than 30 minutes away from Central London. 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, Heathrow and London City Airport as well as London St Pancras Station, between 09:00 and 18:00 on a

transfer Sunday. Any other transfers incur an "out of hours" fee. 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 35 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, 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 their 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 Intensive 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, Digital Champions, or Skills in Academic English Courses who work together on creative and entrepreneurial projects. Through these classes, learners develop a number of the attributes valued by Higher Education Institutions. They are encouraged to inquire, think creatively and ethically, use their communication skills, take risks and reflect on their actions.





# Accommodation

*'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, France

Our international visiting students stay in our boarding facility, Founder's House, which was built in 2015 and partially renovated in 2025.

The boarding house is situated overlooking the water garden, which is home to exotic wildlife 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. A dedicated Summer School Nurse is also available in the boarding house every morning Monday to Friday and Sunday afternoon and can assist with any medical issues students have.

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





# Welfare

*"Thank you for being the best house parents in the world. You always helped me when I felt homesick, and you always comfort me."*

Michelle, Hong Kong

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.

On arrival at Whitgift Summer School students are welcomed by a member of the Welfare team 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, including Halal.





# Academies and Multi-Activities

*"Thank you! The activities were the best part of the day for me."*  
Juliette, Belgium

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 and Multi-Activities they want to take at the time of booking, before they arrive at Whitgift. 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
- DESIGN TECHNOLOGY
- GOLF\*
- STREET DANCE

WEEK 2 / 4 / 6

- BASKETBALL
- TENNIS
- FENCING\*
- HORSE RIDING\*

\*additional fee applies

## Activities

WEEK 1 / 3 / 5

- GYM & FITNESS
- BADMINTON
- ART
- TABLE TENNIS
- SWIMMING / WATER POLO

WEEK 2 / 4 / 6

- CRAFTS
- VOLLEYBALL
- SURVIVAL SKILLS
- FUTSAL
- ANIMAL CARE





# Evening Activities

*"Thank you so much. I had really good time with friends from many different countries during activities."*

Tatsuya, Japan

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 Student Ambassadors 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 which culminates in House Team activities for the students to get to know each other and start winning points for their respective Houses!





# Excursions

*"I loved all of them."*

Ahmet, Türkiye

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.

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





# Weekly Reports and Graduation

"I have been here for 6 weeks and I liked every moment in this School."

Evgeniia, Russia

Weekly Progress Reports are written by our Summer School Staff for all students. 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, those studying on our Intensive General English or Skills in Academic English courses will be provided with an End of Course Report, written by their Summer School Teacher, 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 Digital Champions 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 you.

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.



# Typical Week

|               | Monday                                                               | Tuesday                                                                | Wednesday                                                                             | Thursday                                                                              | Friday                                                      |
|---------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| 08:20 – 09:00 | Breakfast                                                            | Breakfast                                                              | Breakfast                                                                             | Breakfast                                                                             | Breakfast                                                   |
| 09:00 – 12:30 | Lessons                                                              | Lessons                                                                | Lessons                                                                               | Lessons                                                                               | Lessons                                                     |
| 12:30 – 13:30 | Lunch                                                                | Lunch                                                                  | Lunch                                                                                 | Lunch                                                                                 | Lunch                                                       |
| 13:30 – 15:45 | Progressive Skills in Action                                         | Progressive Skills in Action                                           | Half-day excursion<br>e.g. London Eye,<br>Leeds Castle,<br>Outdoor activity<br>centre | Progressive Skills in Action                                                          | Progressive Skills in Action: Exhibitions and Presentations |
| 15:45 – 16:30 | Free Time                                                            | Free Time                                                              |                                                                                       | Free Time                                                                             | Free Time                                                   |
| 16:30 – 18:00 | Academies/<br>Activities                                             | Academies/<br>Activities                                               |                                                                                       | Academies/<br>Activities                                                              | Academies/<br>Activities                                    |
| 19:00 – 19:45 | Dinner                                                               | Dinner                                                                 | Dinner                                                                                | Dinner                                                                                | Graduation Ceremony & Prize-giving (18:30 – 19:15)          |
| 19:45 – 21:30 | Evening options<br>e.g. Capture the flag, Quick Cricket, Yoga        | Evening options<br>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)<br><br>Disco (20:00 – 21:30)         |
|               | Saturday                                                             |                                                                        | Sunday (arrival/departure day)                                                        |                                                                                       |                                                             |
| 08:20 – 09:00 | Breakfast                                                            |                                                                        |                                                                                       | Quiet Morning                                                                         |                                                             |
| 09:00 – 18:45 | Full-day excursion<br>e.g. Cambridge, Buckingham Palace, Thorpe Park |                                                                        | 10:00 – 11:00                                                                         | Brunch                                                                                |                                                             |
|               |                                                                      |                                                                        | 12:00 – 17:45                                                                         | Garden Party/Shopping Trip                                                            |                                                             |
| 19:00 – 19:45 | Dinner                                                               |                                                                        | 18:30 – 19:30                                                                         | BBQ                                                                                   |                                                             |
| 19:45 – 21:00 | Boarding House Night                                                 |                                                                        | 19:30 – 21:30                                                                         | Induction/Team-building games                                                         |                                                             |
| 21:00 – 22:00 | Farewells and Packing                                                |                                                                        |                                                                                       |                                                                                       |                                                             |





"It was a wonderful experience to be in  
Whitgift Summer School and it will strongly  
affect my life."

*Tomoya, Japan*

"I really enjoyed this Summer Course!"

*Karina, Hong Kong*

"It was the best Summer School  
I have ever visited."

*Jon, Slovenia*

"You are an amazing team."

*Henri, Germany*

"This summer was something I cannot describe.  
It felt like a home, it might have gone past too  
quickly but I won't be sad that it's over I'll be  
grateful that it happened."

*Jessie, China*

*All quotes from students are taken from our survey  
which is completed during students' final day.*







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