



**Talbot Heath**  
*Independent School for Girls aged 2-18*

## Junior School Curriculum

## **ART**

From Year 2, pupils are taught Art by our specialist Senior School teachers in our fully equipped studios located in the Hub. Our Art team provide a positive, stimulating learning environment where every pupil is encouraged to explore their creativity and develop higher level skills. As a result, our Junior Art Curriculum lays a strong foundation for pupils wishing to pursue creative GCSEs and A-Levels further ahead.

Our Art department aims to inspire confidence, curiosity and a genuine enjoyment of Art. Pupils are encouraged to develop open and enquiring minds, becoming aware of contemporary, cultural and historical influences. This approach supports the development of practical skills, conceptual understanding and informed decision-making, all of which are nurtured through engaging, project-based learning.

Within the Junior School, pupils explore a wide range of topics, including cultural studies, portraiture, textiles, landscape, and design concepts. Each area of study is enriched through connections to relevant artists and designers, helping pupils understand the wider creative world around them.

## **COMPUTING**

Our pupils develop strong digital proficiency, confidently using the latest technologies to enhance and extend their learning. We provide abundant opportunities for them to thrive in this field, equipping them with the essential digital skills needed for their future.

Every pupil has a personal iPad for classwork and homework which enables them to access digital learning across the curriculum.

The Junior School benefits from a dedicated computer suite equipped with desktop computers which gives our pupils access to high-quality resources during their weekly Computing lessons.

The Computing curriculum is broad, creative and forward-thinking. Topics include animation, audio production, photo editing, creating media, programming, databases, spreadsheets, webpage creation, vector graphics and more. We also use hardware such as Micro: bits and Crumbles to introduce physical computing and hands-on programming.

Online safety is a core aspect of our provision. Pupils learn how to stay safe and responsible online, both within Computing lessons and as part of the PSHE curriculum. As digital technologies continue to evolve, particularly with the rapid advancement of AI, we ensure our curriculum is closely monitored and adapted.

## **COGNITIVE SKILLS (Year 3 to 6)**

At Talbot Heath, our pupils learn how to think about their own thinking. Through weekly Cognitive Skills lessons, they develop metacognitive habits that help them plan, monitor and evaluate their learning which enables them to adapt their approach when faced with challenges across the curriculum. This empowers them to become confident, reflective learners.

Pupils take part in activities that strengthen resilience, problem-solving, reasoning, oracy and critical thinking. They explore ideas through discussion and learn how to work both independently and collaboratively. These skills directly support our three school pillars: **Curious Minds, Generous Hearts and Adventurous Spirits.**

Our pupils learn that well-thinking and well-being go hand in hand. They begin to understand that managing their thoughts, reflecting on challenges and learning from mistakes are all part of becoming confident and capable thinkers.

Alongside our metacognitive approach, Cognitive Skills lessons also seek to develop understanding in verbal reasoning and problem-solving. Pupils have access to high quality resources which support, challenge and enrich.

## **STEAM & DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY**

Our pupils enjoy inspiring and hands-on Design lessons from Reception through to Year 6. All Junior School pupils receive a fortnightly double Design lesson within our purpose-built STEAM Hub where they can explore, create and innovate.

We are fortunate to have a fully equipped, custom-designed studio with state-of-the-art facilities suitable for every age group. This exceptional learning environment allows our pupils to develop confidence and capability year on year as they deepen their understanding of how products are designed, engineered and made.

From the earliest years, pupils develop curiosity about how things work. Our youngest pupils follow an engaging scheme of work that introduces them to the world around them through a design and engineering lens. They begin with construction activities using educational LEGO sets, including a LEGO coding train, before moving on to solving engineering challenges inspired by traditional folk tales and nursery rhymes.

By Year 2, pupils explore more advanced concepts. They learn about pneumatics and hydraulics, discovering how air and liquid can power movement. They also begin experimenting with simple electronic circuits using electro-conductive playdough, laying the foundations for future learning in electronics and control technology.

From Years 3 to 6, pupils become increasingly skilled designers and makers. From initial ideas through to completing high-quality products they tackle a wide range of creative projects that develop their fine motor skills, problem-solving abilities and understanding of materials. As their confidence grows, they begin using more sophisticated tools and techniques. From Year 4, pupils are introduced to CAD (Computer-Aided Design), giving them early experience with industry-standard digital design skills.

Across the Junior School, our Design programme empowers pupils to explore possibilities, experiment boldly and develop the innovative spirit that lies at the heart of the school.

## **EXPRESSIVE ARTS (Year 3 to 6)**

Weekly Expressive Arts lessons empower pupils to explore, refine and communicate their ideas while thinking creatively and imaginatively. Pupils develop their artistic voice through the dynamic mediums of dance and drama whilst they bring stories, characters and concepts to life.

Our bespoke Expressive Arts curriculum is carefully tailored to each year group; ensuring age-appropriate challenge and breadth of experience. Learning is enriched through meaningful cross-curricular links with English, Humanities and other subjects, helping pupils make connections, deepen understanding and develop a well-rounded appreciation of the arts.

The subject also plays a vital role in developing strong oracy skills for life. Through performance, collaborative work and structured reflection, our pupils learn to express themselves clearly and confidently.

## **ENGLISH**

At Talbot Heath, English is more than just a subject - it is a gateway to confidence, creativity and communication. Our English lessons are lively, engaging and carefully designed to inspire a lifelong love of reading, writing and spoken language.

Our curriculum builds strong foundations in literacy through a rich blend of creative writing, comprehension, grammar, spelling and phonics. We provide pupils with the tools they need to flourish, both academically and personally.

We strongly believe in the power of oracy – spoken language skills are essential for developing critical thinking, confidence and the ability to communicate effectively. Our lessons provide regular opportunities for pupils to present ideas, perform, debate and collaborate, aiding them to grow into articulate, thoughtful individuals.

English lessons are often thematically linked with topics from History and Geography, giving writing a meaningful purpose and helping to deepen pupils' understanding across the curriculum. While our teaching is aligned with the National Curriculum, we are not limited by it. This gives us the freedom to be creative and ambitious, offering our pupils a broad, enriching and inspiring English experience.

A key part of our approach is our all-through reading curriculum which ensures pupils engage with high-quality texts throughout their time at Talbot Heath. From picture books and poetry to classic literature and contemporary novels, every stage of their journey fosters a love of reading and a growing confidence in literary analysis.

Our Junior pupils enjoy fortnightly library lessons in our dedicated library space as well as lunchtime library clubs. In Year 6, pupils begin to use the Senior School library, broadening their reading opportunities and preparing them for the next stage of their learning.

We love to celebrate literature and creativity throughout the year with a host of special events such as Dahlicious Day, National Storytelling Week, World Book Day and National Poetry Day. Pupils are also encouraged to enter competitions to showcase their ideas.

## **FOOD TECHNOLOGY AND NUTRITION**

From Year 5, pupils are introduced to Food Preparation and Nutrition. Through engaging, practical lessons, pupils learn how to prepare a variety of dishes while applying key principles of nutrition and healthy eating. Pupils are encouraged to cook with confidence and make informed choices about what they eat to ensure they develop positive eating habits for the future.

Food lessons are taught to all pupils in Year 5 and 6 on a rotation with Textiles and Design respectively and take place in our bright, fully equipped Food Technology classroom. Through practical, hands-on tasks, they experiment with ingredients, follow recipes and develop important time management and organisational skills.

## **FOREST SCHOOL – OUR LIVING CLASSROOM**

Set within six hectares of beautiful pine woodland, Forest School offers pupils a truly unique outdoor learning experience. Led by our qualified Forest School Leaders, pupils from Nursery to Year 6 enjoy hands-on activities that nurture confidence, curiosity and a deep connection with nature.

In January 2026, we opened our stunning Roundhouse, an additional woodland learning space with a natural living roof. This atmospheric structure provides a sheltered hub for storytelling, reflection and practical outdoor learning throughout the year.

Forest School encourages controlled risk-taking, helping pupils learn to assess and manage risk safely while building resilience, independence and problem-solving skills. Through small, achievable tasks, pupils gain confidence, develop new skills and grow a strong sense of self-worth.

Our nurturing approach supports each child as an individual; helping them develop teamwork, communication, empathy and respect for the natural world. With two dedicated Forest School areas, including a smaller, secure trail for EYFS, every pupil can explore, discover and thrive.

## **HUMANITIES**

We dedicate two lessons each week to Humanities, ensuring History and Geography truly come alive for our pupils. We want children to understand the past, where they come from, the sacrifices made by previous generations and to develop a deep appreciation of the natural world and their responsibility to care for it.

Learning is enriched through interdisciplinary connections, themed learning days and regular educational trips that extend pupils' understanding beyond the classroom. Our expansive school campus also provides unique real-world learning opportunities with our very own WWII bunker and study habitats within our grounds for surveying diverse ecosystems.

## **MATHS**

Our Maths curriculum is designed to spark curiosity, build confidence, and develop a deep understanding of the subject. We follow the National Curriculum and ensure we remain up to date with its developments, while also extending learning beyond its expectations to provide a rich and engaging mathematical experience.

Our teaching focuses on developing key skills in fluency, reasoning and problem-solving. Alongside traditional teaching methods, we place a strong emphasis on practical, hands-on learning and making meaningful real-life connections. Wherever possible, we take learning outdoors, using our school grounds and natural environment to bring mathematical concepts to life in creative and engaging ways.

To support each child's progress, we make use of a wide variety of high-quality resources, including manipulatives, visual models, games, and interactive tools. Every pupil also has access to DoodleMaths; an adaptive online platform that tailors learning to individual needs and helps reinforce key concepts both at school and home.

We want every child to see maths as a relevant, exciting subject they can enjoy and succeed in. By nurturing resilience, creativity and curiosity, we lay strong foundations for lifelong mathematical confidence. We nurture confident, expressive musicians who enjoy music in their own way - both within and beyond the classroom.

## **MUSIC**

Music is at the heart of life at our school and Junior pupils benefit from outstanding facilities within our purpose-built Music School, which features a beautiful Concert Hall, an iMac music suite, large teaching rooms and eleven practice rooms.

Music is taught by specialist music teachers from EYFS to Year 6. This ensures continuity, high expectations and a depth of expertise that nurtures pupils from their earliest musical steps through to advanced study. From Year 3, pupils further enhance their learning through Music Technology using iPads and GarageBand. Our highly skilled team of peripatetic teachers also provides individual lessons on all orchestral and popular instruments as well as singing and music theory.

Our thriving Junior ensemble programme includes orchestras, choirs and a range of instrumental groups which offer opportunities for musicians of every level. Pupils perform regularly in concerts, services and community events with highlights such as the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra's Participatory Concert and Young Voices at the O2.

## **SCIENCE**

We aim to instil a genuine love of the sciences from the very beginning. While emerging technologies such as AI enhance and enrich learning, it is our pupils' natural curiosity, critical thinking and spirit of enquiry that remain at the heart of true scientific discovery.

We empower our pupils to explore, question and understand the world around them. Through an integrated, topic-based approach combining Biology, Chemistry and Physics, pupils develop strong investigative skills and a lifelong passion for discovery. Hands-on practical work forms the core of their learning, enabling them to test ideas, explore new concepts and experience the excitement of scientific enquiry. Enriching trips and real-world experiences further deepen their understanding and enthusiasm.

In a world that is rapidly advancing on many fronts, we foster an adventurous spirit grounded in a structured, evidence-based approach to problem-solving. Pupils learn about the importance of sustainability and are equipped with the knowledge to make informed decisions about health, technology and the environment.

Our Year 5 and 6 pupils are taught by subject specialists in our senior science laboratories which aims to support a smooth transition into Year 7.

Our commitment to nurturing confident, capable young scientists is reflected in the exceptional outcomes achieved higher up the school. At A Level, our pupils consistently achieve outstanding value-added scores across all three sciences which is testament to the scientific journey our pupils commence in the Junior School.

## **SPORT**

Sport is a vibrant and valued part of life at Talbot Heath. From Kindergarten, pupils are taught by specialist PE teachers who help them develop confidence, skill and a lifelong enjoyment of physical activity. Our pupils benefit from exceptional facilities including a spacious Sports Hall, extensive school fields, tennis courts, indoor 25 metre swimming pool and a full-size all-weather astro pitch. Across the year, pupils enjoy a broad range of sporting activities such as dance, football, gymnastics, hockey, netball, swimming, athletics, rounders, tennis and cricket. Our lively inter-house competitions also ensure sport remains fun, inclusive and accessible for all.

From Year 3, pupils may also be selected to represent the school in fixtures against local state and independent schools. Junior athletes also compete in IAPS competitions with teams regularly reaching national finals in netball and swimming.

We also offer a wide range of extremely popular after-school clubs which include netball, hockey, football, lacrosse, athletics, rounders, tennis, martial arts and dance.

### Swimming

We recognise swimming as a vital life skill. From Kindergarten, pupils have fortnightly swimming lessons year-round in our 25-metre indoor heated swimming pool. This early, consistent experience ensures children learn essential water safety skills and develop early confidence in the water.

Pupils who would like additional swimming opportunities can join our swimming pathway programme as part of our Swimming Academy. This offers additional coaching before and after school and access to competitions as they progress through the levels.

## **TEXTILES**

Textiles is a dynamic and forward-looking subject, reflecting the exciting changes happening across the modern textiles industry where science, engineering and design increasingly come together. Taught in our STEAM Hub, our Textiles studio is a vibrant, well-equipped space that inspires creativity and innovation.

Pupils in Years 5 and 6 study Textiles as part of their respective design and food study rotation. They develop creativity and technical skill through practical projects, learning to plan, design and make with confidence. Pupils use sewing machines, hand-stitch, experiment with colour and pattern, and explore both traditional and modern techniques such as appliqué, quilting, tie-dye, block printing and batik.

Textiles nurtures 3D thinking, problem-solving, teamwork and independent creativity. Pupils are encouraged to take thoughtful risks, persevere with challenges and develop their own design ideas.

Smaller class sizes and a supportive environment ensure every pupil receives individual guidance while working safely with a wide range of tools and materials.