

SCHOOL REPORT

Summer Term 2016

IS THERE REALLY
A TEACHING
CRISIS IN THE UK?

EXPLORING THE
WORTH OF THE BTEC

DISCOVERING THE
ADVENTURES OF
A LIFETIME

SPEAKING UP

*The benefits of
debating in schools*

TOWERING ABOVE

FORWARD-THINKING AT BRIGHTON COLLEGE

Key stages

For over 30 years, The White House Preparatory School has been inspiring children to develop a love of learning

Words MARK KEBBLE



The words 'The White House' are not far from our newspapers at present, as the world looks on in wonder, awe and - it's fair to say

- with a little concern about what is happening across the Pond in the process of finding President Barack Obama's successor. It's a behemoth of a story, but a little closer to home another White House is doing wonders on a much smaller scale.

Based in a stunning Cubitt-designed Victorian villa in Clapham Park, The White House Preparatory School caters for pupils aged three through to 11. It started life over three decades ago as a small Kindergarten and Pre-prep, but has grown wonderfully in the time since. 'Many educational changes have been witnessed over the last 30 years and The White House Preparatory School has ensured it has maintained excellent standards through commitment to well trained professionals and never losing sight of the academic standards required to attain entrance at prestigious London Day Schools,' says Headmaster, Daniel Cummings. 'The school is committed to offering the best to its pupils.'

I have had the pleasure of visiting The White House Preparatory School on a couple of occasions and I have been hugely impressed with what I see in their classrooms, with pupil numbers kept deliberately low. 'Every child can be

treated as an individual and, therefore, challenged or supported in the correct manner for them personally as learners,' Mr Cummings explains the benefits of that approach. 'We find that children in smaller class sizes experience more adult interactions within the classroom setting and, therefore, develop a higher self-esteem and confidence over time.'

The day at The White House Preparatory School starts at 8.30am, and through to 3pm (for Reception children) and 4pm (for Years 1-6) it's evident that fun and dynamic teaching leaves the children enraptured. All areas of the National Curriculum are covered, with a key focus on literacy, numeracy, science and computer science, but the school also offers the opportunity for the young children to experience French, Spanish, drama and even verbal and non-verbal reasoning, geared towards future 11+ exams. 'As Headmaster and as a father of two young children, I believe that Pre-prep and Preparatory age learning is very important,' Mr Cummings says on the breadth of teaching offered. 'Starting from a safe and secure foundation, children develop confidence, zest and passion for learning. Children who love learning at this early stage are inspired through excellent teaching, develop the adaptable skills required to



The White House Preparatory School offers plenty to enthral their pupils

progress in an ever-changing world where they will sustain a lifelong love for learning?

What also stands out, for me, is the school's dedication to traditional values.

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'Individuality, so often absent in schools these days - lost in a chase for targets and exam successes - is actively encouraged, and we manage to combine

this with the academic success that is intrinsic to modern life today.' This is The White House to create a future to be inspired by.

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The school is based in a stunning Victorian villa