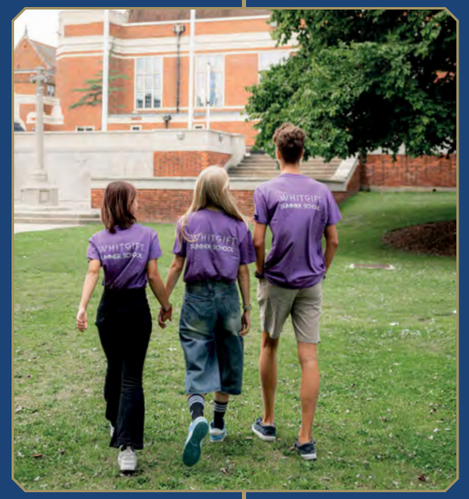
WHITGIFT
SUMMER SCHOOL

JOIN US IN 2027

"The best experience I have ever had."

Veronika (Ukraine)



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“It has become the best memories of my life.”

Akihiro (Japan)

Welcome to Whitgift Summer School

Summer 2027 will be my fifth year at Whitgift Summer School, and I am more excited than ever about what we have to offer.

Each year, our team spends considerable time reviewing and refining every aspect of the programme, with one goal in mind: providing the very best summer experience for the people who matter most, our students.

With that commitment at the heart of everything we do, we have reimagined our afternoon programme and are delighted to introduce the British Immersion Programme. This collaborative, project-based course draws on the very best of Whitgift's educational expertise, helping students develop the skills that are becoming increasingly essential in today's world: presentation and public speaking skills, effective communication, teamwork, leadership, and collaboration.

So, what makes Whitgift Summer School different?

One thing that will never change is the involvement of our Student Ambassadors. These English-speaking students from Whitgift School take part in the afternoon programme alongside our international students. With around 35 ambassadors participating each week, students enjoy countless opportunities to meet, speak with, and build genuine friendships with young people from the local area.

The impact of these connections is clear. In our Summer 2026 student survey, 93% of students told us they made friends with British students during their time here. These friendships help create an authentic cultural experience and ensure that the learning, confidence, and connections developed at Whitgift continue long after the summer has ended.

Whitgift's campus is truly exceptional. With peacocks roaming the grounds, a beautiful enclosure which contains flamingos, and first-class sports facilities, it provides a unique environment in which students can learn, develop, and thrive. The School is also well connected, located just 30 minutes from St Pancras International, 45 minutes from Gatwick Airport, and around one hour from Heathrow Airport.

I am incredibly proud of what we do here, and the dedicated team that makes it possible. We genuinely care about every student who joins us, and work hard to ensure that each one enjoys a memorable, rewarding, and transformative experience. The most fulfilling part of my role is seeing talented young people from around the world grow in confidence, form lasting friendships, and have the time of their lives. Being part of Whitgift Summer School is a privilege.

We look forward to welcoming you to Whitgift Summer School 2027.

Robbie Hancock
Summer School Course Director

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Flamingo by Angelica, 13, from Italy

Intensive General English (12-18 years)

"It is a good mix of having fun with your friends and actually improving your English in class."

Marlene (Germany)

We have developed a unique and engaging syllabus that combines morning English lessons with our British Immersion Programme in the afternoons. Students receive 22 hours of teaching and guided learning each week and stay with us for between two and six weeks.

Our aim is to develop students' English communication skills through a balanced focus on both fluency and accuracy, ensuring they leave feeling inspired, motivated, and confident in their abilities. Through a variety of communicative and interactive teaching methods, students are encouraged to use English naturally and effectively in real-life situations.

The Intensive General English Course is carefully designed to help students achieve and exceed their language-learning goals, regardless of the length of their stay. To join the programme, students should have a minimum English proficiency of A2 on the CEFR scale (Elementary level). Students are placed in classes according to both their age and language level, allowing for a supportive and productive learning environment.

Our passionate and creative teachers provide personalised support and challenge, helping every student make meaningful progress. Lessons are dynamic, motivating, and enjoyable, while maintaining a clear focus on measurable language development.

The course develops all four key language skills: reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Students also build their knowledge of grammar, vocabulary, and pronunciation, enabling them to communicate with greater confidence and accuracy. Elements of British culture and literature are woven throughout the curriculum and closely linked to our excursion programme, bringing language learning to life beyond the classroom.

English for Academic Purposes (EAP) (14-18 years)

"You get to work with people that don't speak your language."

Jimena (Spain)

Our English for Academic Purposes (EAP) course is designed for ambitious students aged 14 to 18 with an advanced level of English (C1-C2 CEFR) who are preparing for university study or other academic pathways in English-speaking environments. Available for students staying a minimum of two weeks, this specialised programme develops the language, study, and critical thinking skills required for success in higher education.
Through a focused and practical curriculum, students strengthen the core competencies of academic English. They refine their essay writing skills, learning how to structure arguments effectively, use academic sources appropriately, and communicate complex ideas with clarity, precision, and confidence.

Students also engage with authentic academic lectures, presentations, and talks, developing advanced listening comprehension and effective note-taking techniques. Seminar-style discussions encourage active participation, helping students articulate ideas, defend opinions, and respond critically and thoughtfully to the perspectives of others.

With a strong emphasis on accuracy, fluency, and academic conventions, the course equips students with the skills needed for study, research, and academic debate. Lessons foster independence, intellectual curiosity, and confidence, preparing students for the challenges of higher education and future academic success.

By the end of the course, students will have developed a practical toolkit of strategies for critical reading, persuasive academic writing, effective note-taking, and confident participation in academic discussions, enabling them to thrive in a wide range of educational settings.

Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths (STEM) (12-14 years)

"I really enjoyed the lessons, they were really good and entertaining."

Erica (Japan)

Our STEM Programme is designed for inquisitive and ambitious students aged 12 to 14 with a minimum English level of B2 on the CEFR scale. Available as a two-week course, it provides an exciting introduction to Science and Mathematics through engaging lessons, practical investigations, and collaborative problem-solving activities led by experienced Whitgift teachers.

Students develop their scientific understanding and mathematical reasoning through a curriculum that encourages curiosity, creativity, and critical thinking. Lessons combine academic rigour with hands-on learning, enabling students to explore key concepts in a stimulating and supportive environment.

What makes the STEM Programme unique is its integration of elements inspired by Whitgift School's innovative educational approach. Students are encouraged to think independently, tackle real-world challenges, and develop the analytical skills that underpin success across STEM subjects.

Throughout the course, students engage in practical experiments, investigations, and mathematical challenges that bring learning to life. Working both independently and collaboratively, they learn how to approach problems systematically, test ideas, interpret results, and communicate their findings with confidence.

The STEM Programme is ideal for younger learners with a passion for discovery and innovation. It provides a strong foundation for future study in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics while developing the confidence, resilience, and curiosity needed to thrive in an increasingly technology-driven world skills.

Business & Entrepreneurship (14-18 years)

"I really enjoyed the lessons"

Julianna (Hungary)

Our Business & Entrepreneurship course is designed for students aged 14 to 18 who are interested in business, innovation, and leadership. Available as a two-week programme, it provides an engaging introduction to how successful businesses are created, marketed, and managed.

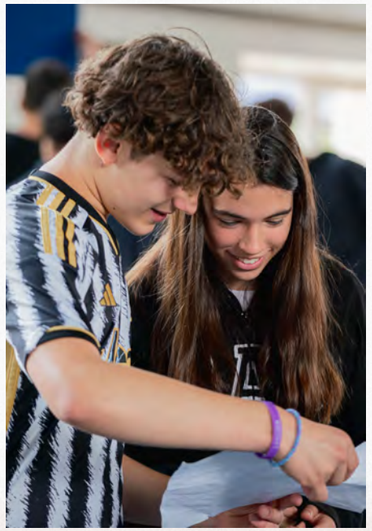
Students explore key areas of business including marketing, finance, branding, product development, and customer engagement. Through real-world case studies and practical activities, they learn how businesses identify opportunities, solve problems, and adapt to changing markets.

A major focus of the course is developing and pitching a business idea. Working in teams, students generate concepts, research their target audience, create marketing strategies, and consider how their idea could be brought to market. They then present their proposals, helping them develop confidence in public speaking, communication, and persuasion.

Lessons are highly interactive and encourage students to work collaboratively, think creatively, and make informed decisions. Business simulations and group challenges provide opportunities to apply new knowledge while developing leadership, teamwork, and negotiation skills.

Throughout the course, students gain an insight into the qualities that help entrepreneurs and business leaders succeed. They learn how to evaluate opportunities, manage risk, analyse markets, and communicate ideas effectively.

Business & Entrepreneurship is ideal for students considering future study in Business, Economics, Management, or related subjects. It is also well suited to students who simply want to develop practical skills that will benefit them in any future academic or professional pathway. By the end of the programme, students will have a deeper understanding of the business world, increased confidence in presenting ideas, and experience of taking a business concept from initial idea to final pitch. leadership, teamwork, and negotiation skills.



"The best summer school ever."
Hippolyte (France)

"I enjoyed the greatest summer in my life!"
Ayuko (Japan)

British Immersion Programme

"You practise everyday conversations in English and meet people from all around the world."
Fausto (Spain)

Our British Immersion Programme is a unique afternoon experience that combines English language practice with the development of essential life skills. Using specially developed Whitgift materials, students take part in engaging, interactive sessions designed to build confidence, communication skills, and cultural understanding in an authentic British setting.

A distinctive feature of the programme is the involvement of Whitgift Student Ambassadors, who participate alongside our international students. This provides regular opportunities for meaningful interaction with native English speakers, allowing students to use English naturally and purposefully while building genuine friendships and gaining insight into life at a British school.

Throughout the programme, students develop key skills including communication, teamwork, leadership, presentation, and problem-solving. Activities encourage students to share ideas, work collaboratively, think critically, and express themselves confidently in English.

Drawing on Whitgift's educational expertise, the programme uses a range of stimulating topics and real-world scenarios to help students develop both their language proficiency and their interpersonal skills. Sessions are carefully designed to be engaging, supportive, and inclusive, ensuring that every student can contribute and succeed.

The British Immersion Programme is much more than an English course. It is an opportunity for students to build confidence, develop lasting friendships, and experience British education and culture first-hand while becoming more effective communicators and independent learners in an enriching summer experience.

Student Ambassadors

"Nice idea with the Student Ambassadors."
Leonard (Germany)

Selected English-speaking students from Whitgift School and our partner school, Croydon High School, take part in the British Immersion Programme, co-curricular activities, and social events throughout the summer.

Known as Student Ambassadors, these students play a vital role in the Summer School experience. Their involvement provides international students with regular opportunities to practise English in authentic, real-life situations, helping them develop greater fluency, confidence, and cultural understanding. Many students form genuine friendships with their British peers and remain in contact long after the programme has ended.

The values and ethos that underpin life at Whitgift throughout the academic year are also at the heart of the Summer School. Students are encouraged to embrace a positive, inclusive attitude, challenge themselves, and develop a growth mindset in all aspects of the programme.

With approximately 35 Student Ambassadors participating each week, students benefit from meaningful interaction with local young people, creating a truly immersive British experience while strengthening connections with the wider Whitgift community.

Arrivals & Departures

Whitgift has an excellent location, just 45 minutes from Gatwick Airport and around one hour from Heathrow and London City airports. Set within a beautiful 45-acre campus, the School offers extensive green spaces, outstanding facilities, and 24-hour security, creating a safe, welcoming, and inspiring environment in which students can spend their summer.

Despite its peaceful setting, Whitgift is less than 30 minutes from Central London, giving students easy access to one of the world's most exciting cities.

South Croydon Station, the nearest railway station, is just a 10-minute walk from the School.

Included within the course fees is an arrival and departure transfer service on scheduled transfer Sundays. This service covers Gatwick, Heathrow, and London City airports, as well as London St Pancras International, for arrivals and departures between 09:00 and 18:00. Transfers outside these times are available for an additional fee.

We also support students travelling as Unaccompanied Minors, and our Operations Team are available to assist families with all necessary arrangements to ensure a smooth and stress-free journey.

Accommodation & Pastoral Care

"Everyone's welcoming and friendly. I had a very enjoyable two weeks."
Isabelle (Taiwan)

Our international students stay in Founder's House, Whitgift's modern boarding facility, originally built in 2015 and enhanced through a programme of renovation in 2025.

Overlooking the School's beautiful water garden, home to a variety of exotic wildlife including flamingos, Founder's House provides a safe, comfortable, and welcoming environment in which students can live, learn, and make lasting friendships.

Students are accommodated in single, twin, or triple en-suite bedrooms. Room allocations are carefully arranged so that students share with others of the same gender and a similar age, while encouraging international friendships by mixing nationalities wherever possible.

The boarding house features a range of communal spaces where students can relax, socialise, and enjoy time with friends outside of lessons and activities. These areas help create a strong sense of community and make Founder's House a true home away from home.

Students are supported by our experienced and caring House Parents, who live within the boarding house and provide supervision and pastoral care 24 hours a day throughout the programme. In addition, a dedicated Summer School Nurse is available in Founder's House each morning from Monday to Friday, and on Sunday afternoons, to provide medical support and assistance whenever required.

Wi-Fi is available throughout the boarding house, enabling students to stay connected with family and friends during their stay.

Welfare

"My Teacher was so kind and really cared about every single student."

Takuto (Japan)

At Whitgift Summer School, we want every student to feel happy, safe, and supported from the moment they arrive.

Living away from home can be a big step, so our experienced Welfare Team is always there to help. Led by the Welfare Manager and supported by House Parents and School Nurses, the team works closely with students throughout their stay, helping them settle in quickly and make the most of their summer.

Our boarding house has a warm and friendly atmosphere, and students are encouraged to speak to staff whenever they have a question, concern, or simply need some advice. We get to know our students well and are committed to making sure each individual feels valued, included, and cared for.

Support is available 24 hours a day, giving both students and parents peace of mind. Whether it is help adjusting to life at the Summer School, medical support, or encouragement to try something new, our staff are always on hand.

All students, whether residential or non-residential, receive three freshly prepared meals each day, with snacks available in the afternoon. We offer a varied menu and cater for a wide range of dietary requirements, including halal, vegetarian, vegan, and other special diets.

We strive to create an environment where students feel confident, make new friends, embrace new experiences, and enjoy an unforgettable summer at Whitgift.

Academies and Multi-Activities

"There's a wide range of afternoon activities."
Anne (France)

Learning beyond the classroom is an essential part of the Whitgift Summer School experience. Our Academies & Activities Programme provides students with opportunities to develop new skills, pursue their interests, and build confidence while making friends from around the world.

Students select their Academies and Activities before arriving at Whitgift, allowing them to personalise their summer experience. Our English-speaking Student Ambassadors participate throughout the programme, creating an immersive environment in which students can practise their English naturally and confidently.

Making full use of Whitgift's outstanding facilities, the programme offers a diverse range of sporting, creative, and practical activities led by experienced coaches and teachers.

Academies

Academies provide specialist coaching and instruction in a chosen area. Students take part in four 90-minute sessions over the course of a week, enabling them to build skills, develop techniques, and make meaningful progress under expert guidance.

Activities

Our Activities Programme gives students the opportunity to try a range of new experiences in a fun, social, and supportive environment. Students participate in two different 90-minute activities each week, developing new skills, meeting new people, and enjoying all that Whitgift's facilities have to offer.

WEEK 1 / 3 / 5

- STREET DANCE
- BASKETBALL
- TENNIS
- GOLF*

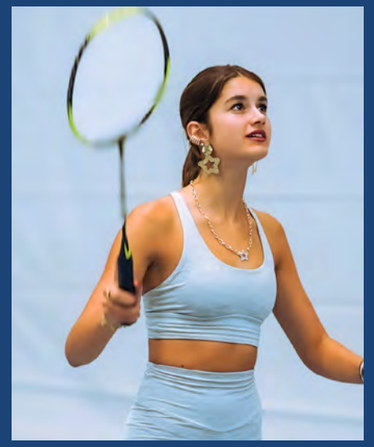
WEEK 2 / 4 / 6

- FOOTBALL
- DESIGN TECHNOLOGY*
- FENCING*
- HORSE RIDING*

*additional fee applies

MULTI-ACTIVITIES

- ART
- CRAFTS
- BRICK BUILD
- PHOTOGRAPHY
- ANIMAL CARE
- COOKERY
- BUSHCRAFT
- BADMINTON
- VOLLEYBALL
- FUTSAL
- PADEL
- SQUASH
- SWIMMING/AQUATICS
- TABLE TENNIS



Evening Programme

"A great international summer school where you improve your English, enjoy awesome activities, and make friends from around the world."

Alba (Spain)

The evening programme is one of the highlights of the Whitgift Summer School experience. Led by our energetic and experienced Activity Leaders, it provides students with the opportunity to relax, have fun, and spend time with friends after a busy day of lessons and activities.

Many of our evening events are team-based, encouraging students to work together, communicate effectively, and support one another in a range of exciting challenges. Through friendly competition and collaboration, students develop important skills such as teamwork, leadership, resilience, and problem-solving, while building friendships with peers from around the world.

Our Student Ambassadors from Whitgift and Croydon High School take part throughout the programme, giving international students further opportunities to practise their English naturally in a social setting and gain confidence communicating with native speakers.

The programme includes a wide variety of activities and events designed to appeal to different interests and personalities. Whether students are competing in sports tournaments, taking part in creative challenges, enjoying team games, or testing themselves in problem-solving activities, there is always something to get involved in.

A particular highlight of the week is House Night, where students work together to earn points for their House through a series of fun and competitive challenges. These events help to create a strong sense of community and school spirit while encouraging students to step outside their comfort zones and support one another.

Throughout the summer, we also welcome specialist external providers who deliver popular events such as laser tag, giant inflatables, and other interactive experiences. Each week concludes with our Graduation Ceremony and Disco, giving students the chance to celebrate their achievements and reflect on the friendships and memories they have made.

The evening programme plays an important role in bringing the Summer School community together, ensuring that students leave Whitgift with increased confidence, stronger communication skills, and friendships that often last long after the summer has ended.

Timetable - 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 – 15:30	The British Immersion Project	The British Immersion Project	Half-day excursion *e.g. London Eye, Leeds Castle, Outdoor activity centre*	The British Immersion Project	The British Immersion Project: Exhibitions and Presentations
15:45 – 16:30	Free Time	Free Time		Free Time	Free Time
16:30 – 18:00	Academies/ Activities	Academies/ Activities		Academies/ Activities	Academies/ Activities
18:00 - 19:00	Free Time	Free Time		Free Time	Graduation Ceremony & Prize-giving (18:30 – 19:15)
19:00 – 19:45	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner (19:15 – 20:00)
19:45 – 21:30	Evening options *e.g. Capture the flag, Quick Cricket, Yoga*	Evening options *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*	Disco (20:00 – 21:30)

	Saturday
08:20 – 09:00	Breakfast
09:00 – 18:45	Full-day excursion *e.g. Cambridge/Central London/Thorpe Park*
19:00 – 21:00	Dinner/Boarding House Night/ Farewells/Packing

	Sunday (arrival/departure day)
	Quiet Morning
10:00 – 11:00	Brunch
12:00 – 17:45	Garden Party/Ice Breakers/Shopping Trip
18:30 – 19:30	BBQ
19:30 – 21:30	Induction/Team-building games

Excursions

Whitgift's excellent location provides easy access to some of the United Kingdom's most exciting cities, attractions, and cultural landmarks, making excursions a highlight of the Summer School experience.

Each week, students enjoy both a full-day and a half-day excursion, giving them the opportunity to explore British culture, history, and entertainment beyond the classroom.

Saturday excursions allow students to experience a wide range of destinations and attractions. In Summer 2027, these include visits to Chessington World of Adventures, Thorpe Park, Cambridge with entry to King's College and a traditional punting experience, Brighton Pier and The Lanes, Canterbury Cathedral and historic river tours, and a visit to the London Eye combined with a guided walking tour of central London. These trips provide a memorable blend of sightseeing, culture, and adventure.

On Wednesday afternoons, lessons finish at lunchtime and students head out to enjoy a varied programme of cultural visits, attractions, and experiences. Highlights include the London Dungeon, outdoor activity centres, the Natural History Museum, SPYSCAPE, walking tours of London's most famous districts, and opportunities to explore areas such as Covent Garden, Carnaby Street, Chinatown, Leicester Square, and Piccadilly Circus.

These excursions are much more than days out. They give students the opportunity to experience British life first-hand, strengthen friendships, and use their English in authentic real-world situations. By linking aspects of the curriculum and the British Immersion Programme to the places students visit, we bring learning to life and help students build confidence, independence, and lasting memories throughout their time at Whitgift Summer School.

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