



# Tormead

SCHOOL

Learn Today  
Lead Tomorrow

11-16 years

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“

We wanted to see our daughters thriving rather than surviving – somewhere to discover themselves and their passions.

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# Welcome to Tormead

**Your daughter deserves the very best start in life.**

At Tormead Senior School, we believe in no limitations on her future. That's why there's no gender stereotyping here – pupils are free to flourish in every subject.

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**We are very proud of our school and its ethos of encouraging each individual pupil to develop her talents to the full, in a happy and caring school. Our vision is to provide an excellent, all-round education in a warm, stimulating and supportive environment.**

A Tormead education is one of academic excellence, outstanding pastoral care and a wealth of extra-curricular opportunities and enrichment. We pride ourselves on nurturing flexibility of thought and resilience in our pupils, both key dispositions for future-proofing them in a world where traditional professions will be disrupted by the impact of AI and robotics.

Our commitment to academic excellence is evident in a strong track record in public examinations: a testament to our pupils, our teaching staff and the whole school community. The hugely impressive results speak for themselves. (See our latest results enclosed.)

Tormead values individuality, celebrates diversity and encourages pupils to be themselves, whilst emphasising equally the value of tolerance, teamwork and collective responsibility. We aim to instil a sense that they are members of a caring and outward-looking community and we measure the value of our education, not only by the standards of examination results and university destinations, but by the happiness of our pupils, the strength of our community and the success of our alumnae as they chart their course beyond Tormead's gates.

Our facilities for learning are first-rate, such as our beautifully constructed main teaching block, Atrium and Sixth Form centre; harder to see is our wireless network, which has allowed us to introduce iPads into lessons as part of our digital strategy as an Apple Distinguished School.

However, all the research shows that the most important factor in education is the quality of teaching. At Tormead, our pupils enjoy inspiring lessons, delivered by a well-qualified, talented, and caring staff – in small class settings which allow every individual to flourish to their full potential.

I am excited to be leading Tormead at a time when we are looking towards further growth and development across our Prep School, Senior School and Sixth Form. Tormead is a school that has never rested on its past successes, as we continue to inspire the next generation of pupils.

I look forward to welcoming you and your daughter to Tormead.

**—Mr David Boyd**  
Head of Tormead School

*At Tormead, our pupils enjoy inspiring lessons, delivered by a well-qualified, talented, and caring staff.*

**Our Senior School has  
academic excellence and  
achievement at its core.**

Because we believe that happy and confident pupils simply learn better – which is reflected in our outstanding GCSE results each year.

It's all about sharing the enjoyment of knowledge and letting the results look after themselves.





# Academic

## Academic Enrichment

Our enrichment programme offers students the opportunity to attend a 30-minute university-style lecture every week. This initiative aims to foster a love of learning outside of the traditional classroom environment. The lectures are enormously popular and we usually have between 50-100 pupils attend each week.

The lectures are led by staff and Sixth Form students and the topics covered are designed to challenge and inspire students. The programme encourages our Sixth Form students to take a leadership role in the school community and learn the valuable life skill of presenting complex ideas to a large audience.

Lecture topics have included:

- Women in STEM
- The holocaust - a personal story
- Crime and punishment in late medieval England
- The British Empire: heroes or villains?
- Untranslatable words

- Women's voices in poetry in the ancient world
- How to 'read' film with a critical eye
- What is the unconscious, and how can it explain the bully?
- The history of gunpowder

The Sixth Form students have explored a wide range of interesting and engaging topics such as:

- Why do we dream?
- What are the moral responsibilities for those who choose to protest?
- Who really won the space race in the 1960s?
- Will Artificial Intelligence take over the world?
- The use of digital technology in sport

At the heart of this programme is choice. Students choose to attend those lectures which most appeal to them. For those who do not want to attend a lecture, we run a series of enrichment sessions designed to encourage debate and extend the students' knowledge of current affairs and contentious modern issues such as AI and censorship.

## Beacon Enrichment Portfolio

We also offer the opportunity for every student to develop their own enrichment portfolio across the academic year in an area (or areas) of their choice. This portfolio provides a platform for students to showcase their super-curricular activities and achievements and allows them to demonstrate their ability to think critically and creatively. There is an expectation that the academic scholars engage with this wholeheartedly.

## Scholars

Academic scholarship holders are expected to take part in a wealth of super-curricular activities. They are given opportunities to attend the Gresham Society lectures and IMAG (Guildford 11-19 Partnership) events and to join the Oxplore Book Club.

The Clayton Society for scholars encourages critical debate of big philosophical or societal issues and this takes place every Tuesday lunchtime. Scholars are also invited to our annual Scholars' Dinner with a guest speaker.

# STEM

## The wonderful world of STEM

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) subjects are important in themselves. And, beyond subject knowledge, STEM teaches critical thinking skills and instils a passion for innovation.

*“It’s never been more important, ever, in the history of the world.”*

—Sir David Attenborough

Here at Tormead, we’re proud of our STEM provision in each of these key subjects:

### Biology

Biology holds a prominent position among the subjects favoured by students at Tormead. With a focus on cultivating a deep appreciation for the natural world and fostering inspiration, our biology curriculum delves into the captivating web of relationships and interactions that thrive among animals, plants, and microorganisms.

### Chemistry

Chemistry is crucial for comprehending the natural and man-made world. It aids in overcoming societal challenges and has a global impact, improving human health, preserving resources, and addressing climate change. Practical sessions at Tormead foster transferable skills like teamwork and problem-solving.

### Physics

Physics is the fundamental science that studies the behaviour and interactions of objects in the physical world, from sub-atomic particles to the universe’s largest structures. Its analytical power underpins modern technologies. Physics also offers pathways to technology-based university courses and careers in fields like astrophysics and materials science.

### Computer Science

Computer Science empowers our students to actively engage in an ever-growing technologically reliant society. By blending theoretical knowledge with practical application, it equips them with the essential skills required for careers spanning the entire spectrum of the IT industry.

### Design and Technology

Design and Technology revolves around the art of problem-solving, focusing on how technology and design can be harnessed to meet identified needs in our surroundings. The subject primarily centres on the process of designing and creating, with a specific emphasis on product design. At Tormead, we offer exceptional facilities, including 3D printing, to support and enhance the learning experience in this field.

### Mathematics

Mathematics fosters problem-solving, analytical thinking, and logical reasoning. It encompasses topics that find practical applications in real-life scenarios and establishes direct connections with other subjects and topics. With a focus on essential algebraic, numeric, and geometric skills, our curriculum encourages students to relish the intellectual challenges presented by mathematics.



## Geography

Geography is a captivating and diverse subject that encompasses geopolitics, geology, and more. In today's ever-changing world, geographical knowledge is essential for individuals to navigate their lives. It provides a deeper understanding of human-planet interactions, shaping future leaders in politics, science, and economics.

## History

History offers a window into the world, equipping us with critical thinking skills and a deep understanding of the past. Our engaging curriculum brings history to life, encouraging students to interpret events and develop their own perspectives. Through an inclusive approach, we demonstrate how history has shaped the world we live in today.

## Religious Studies

Religious Studies introduces students to the diversity of religion and the questions it addresses. It challenges them to think critically, examine their beliefs, and develop independent study skills. Reflective stillness is encouraged for deeper understanding. The subject focuses on research, learning, and critical evaluation of religions and moral issues.



## Classics

The influence of the Classical World is pervasive in politics, government, daily life, and more. Studying Classics at Tormead offers an enthralling and diverse experience for all, providing a broad foundation in the language, literature, and culture of ancient Rome and Greece. Beyond language proficiency, we foster skills in logical analysis, gaining a broader perspective, and understanding different viewpoints through Classical Civilisation knowledge.

## English

The English Department at Tormead aims to foster a love and passion for reading and writing which will endure beyond school. Students are introduced to drama, poetry and prose from a wide range of historically, geographically and culturally diverse writers. They learn how to adapt their writing and speech in style and format for a variety of purposes, honing the skills they will need in almost any career they choose to pursue. English is a very highly valued subject by employers as it ensures excellent written and verbal communication skills, critical thinking skills and empathy.

In Year 7 we study a wealth of texts, starting with the classical myths and legends; this provides a thorough foundation in the ancient stories which have inspired so much of English Literature. We also study a class novel, a Shakespeare play, and a range of poetry. Pupils have a reading lesson every two weeks in the library which allows them to read for pleasure. We also follow King's College London's 'Let's Think in English' programme for Years 7 and 8 which encourages oral debate and critical thinking skills on a range of unseen texts.



# Pastoral Care

## Care & Compassion

At Tormead, we fundamentally believe that pupils can only be successful when they are happy.

That's why pastoral care is the cornerstone of our provision as we strive to ensure that each and every pupil is supported to feel fulfilled, safe and secure within our community.

Our approach to pastoral care focuses upon strong and positive relationships between pupils and staff as well as an open partnership with parents.

The relatively small size of our school also makes a difference: each pupil is visible and well-known as the individual she is.



*Wellbeing is at the core of everyone's journey, both on a personal and academic front. We aim to help students fulfil their potential and ambitions while equipping them with tools to navigate choppy waters – as we recognise growing up is not simple.*

—Tony Breslin, Deputy Head  
(Pastoral)

## Our Wellbeing Centre

Our Wellbeing team is made up of School Nurses, Counsellors and Pastoral Support Officers; together, they provide support in response to specific needs.

- Our Counsellors are available for a free and confidential counselling service; each pupil has access to a number of sessions each academic year.
- Our School Nurses are available every day to respond to acute and chronic medical problems.
- Our Pastoral Support Officers are available throughout the day as a listening ear for any pupil experiencing upset or difficulty.









# Extra-curricular

**Our extra-curricular provision is exciting and varied, giving each pupil the opportunity to experience new activities and find their niche.**

Activities are offered before school, at lunchtime and after school, with additional trips running at the weekends and during the holidays. From chess, knitting, climbing to performing in a musical, the pupils are encouraged to be actively involved in the running of a club (in collaboration with a member of staff). This allows them to develop their leadership skills for the benefit of the wider school community.

## **The Duke of Edinburgh's Award**

All pupils are encouraged to participate in The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, a worthwhile scheme for both personal development and applications for employment and university.

Expeditions run throughout the year at all three levels of the Award and prepare the pupils for our international expeditions to Nepal, Mozambique and Cambodia.



## **KYTOS Programme**

The KYTOS Biology Enrichment Programme offers unparalleled opportunities to explore the subject beyond the classroom. Pupils can develop their surgical skills in the Dissection Club, enhance the school environment in the Conservation Club and delve deeper into the fascinating world of forensic science and criminal investigation in the popular Forensics Club.



# Sport

**Sport, fitness and physical education are so important for all our students, whatever their ability. That's why we always aim for a balance between encouraging inclusivity and developing elite performers.**



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As well as nurturing the roots of a healthy lifestyle, all types of movement support mental and emotional good health. The transferable life skills involved in being part of a team and showing mutual respect for opponents are also invaluable.

Our diversity of options reflects what the pupils enjoy – from team sports to individual activities such as cross-country (and we've just introduced rowing to our wide range of choices). Our two-week timetable enables the pupils to stay involved across different sports and compete for several teams. In fact, any pupil who wants to be in a school team can do so.

## Facilities

Our sports facilities on site include netball and tennis courts as well as a purpose-built sports hall with fitness suite and full-sized gymnastics sprung floor area. Our new Urnfield home ground, located just one mile away, includes a full-sized hockey Astro pitch, athletics track and football, rugby and cricket pitches. We are also fortunate to have access to some of the best facilities in Surrey at the Surrey Sports Park, the Spectrum and Blue Spider Climbing Centre.

## Elite Athlete Programme

For pupils aiming to train and compete at an elite level, we offer exceptional training opportunities and support their aspirations with our Elite Athlete Programme which tailors a strength and conditioning programme to their individual needs (plus advice on nutrition, rest and recovery, and sports psychology). Our elite athletes represent Tormead at county, regional and national levels.



A close-up, side-profile view of a person playing a violin. The person is wearing a dark blue long-sleeved shirt. The violin is a light-colored wood. The background is dark, with a spotlight illuminating the person and the instrument. The overall mood is dramatic and focused.

# Spotlight on the Performing Arts



# Performing Arts

## **The performing arts help to develop each pupil intellectually, socially and pastorally.**

The performing arts engage with the entire school curriculum. Drama, music and dance's public aspects – performing and sharing work with others – provide important links between the pupils, parents and the wider community. Above all, the performing arts at Tormead strive to be enjoyable, accessible and actively involve pupils in different ways and at all levels. The performing arts have a vital part to play within Tormead's academic curriculum, providing a unique outlet for self-expression, creativity, teamwork and fun.

## **Music**

Music is central to school life at Tormead. Pupils make music at over 60 events each academic year, with additional opportunities for informal performances.

Tormead has a 25-strong team of music teachers and instrumental specialists. Nearly 50% of pupils learn an instrument in school and a range of co-curricular ensembles enhances the music curriculum.

***Our ethos at Tormead is to enable our pupils to feel comfortable and confident when performing to an audience, whatever their performance level.***

## **Co-curricular**

Co-curricular music thrives at Tormead with larger bands and orchestras and smaller ensembles accommodating musicians of all abilities. Over 20 ensembles rehearse every week with large-scale performances featuring pupils in their hundreds to music festivals and more intimate soloist evenings.

## **Wider Opportunities**

Music has taken Tormead pupils all over the UK and beyond. We hold a biennial music tour to Europe, with previous tours having visited Germany, Italy and France. Closer to home, pupils have recently performed concerts, recitals and choral services at a number of venues including Winchester, Southwark and Portsmouth Cathedrals, G-Live and the Yvonne Arnaud Theatre.

Music scholars and exhibition holders follow a programme of enrichment and extension including workshops, masterclasses and concert visits. Tormead also runs an endangered instruments scheme, offering 10 fully-funded places to learn an endangered instrument each academic year. This year places have been offered on bassoon, double bass, French horn, oboe, orchestral percussion, trombone and viola.









## Drama

The aims of Tormead Drama are threefold: enjoyment, innovation and self-expression. Drama has a unique place in the school curriculum.

We aim to give every Drama student skills that are transferable and useful in the wider world, such as co-operation, self-control and, most importantly, self-confidence, through a wide and varied curricular and extra-curricular programme.

We promote a job in the performing arts as a possibility to be considered and therefore encourage professionals in to teach workshops whenever possible. We make our pupils aware of external events and opportunities, as well as offering a varied plethora of internal activities for them to be involved in, both on stage and behind-the-scenes.

### Stretching our most talented pupils

We stage at least two productions per year, often more, involving pupils from every year group within the Senior School. The style of the productions varies but every other year the School aims to stage a musical. As a department, we try and use professional venues where possible to enhance the learning experience for our performers and tech team. For example, our recent production of 'Legally Blonde' was on the main stage at the Yvonne Arnaud Theatre.

Weekly drama clubs run for pupils in Year 7 (Drama Club) and Years 8 and 9 (Youth Theatre) for one lunchtime per week plus Upper School Theatre Company for Years 10 and above. The work undertaken often leads to a formal performance of some sort or for inclusion at events such as the Music, Drama and Arts Evening, assemblies and school productions. Pupils are encouraged not only to act but also to help in other areas of theatrical production, such as stage management, costume, make-up, lighting and sound. Technical Theatre Club meets for one lunchtime per week.

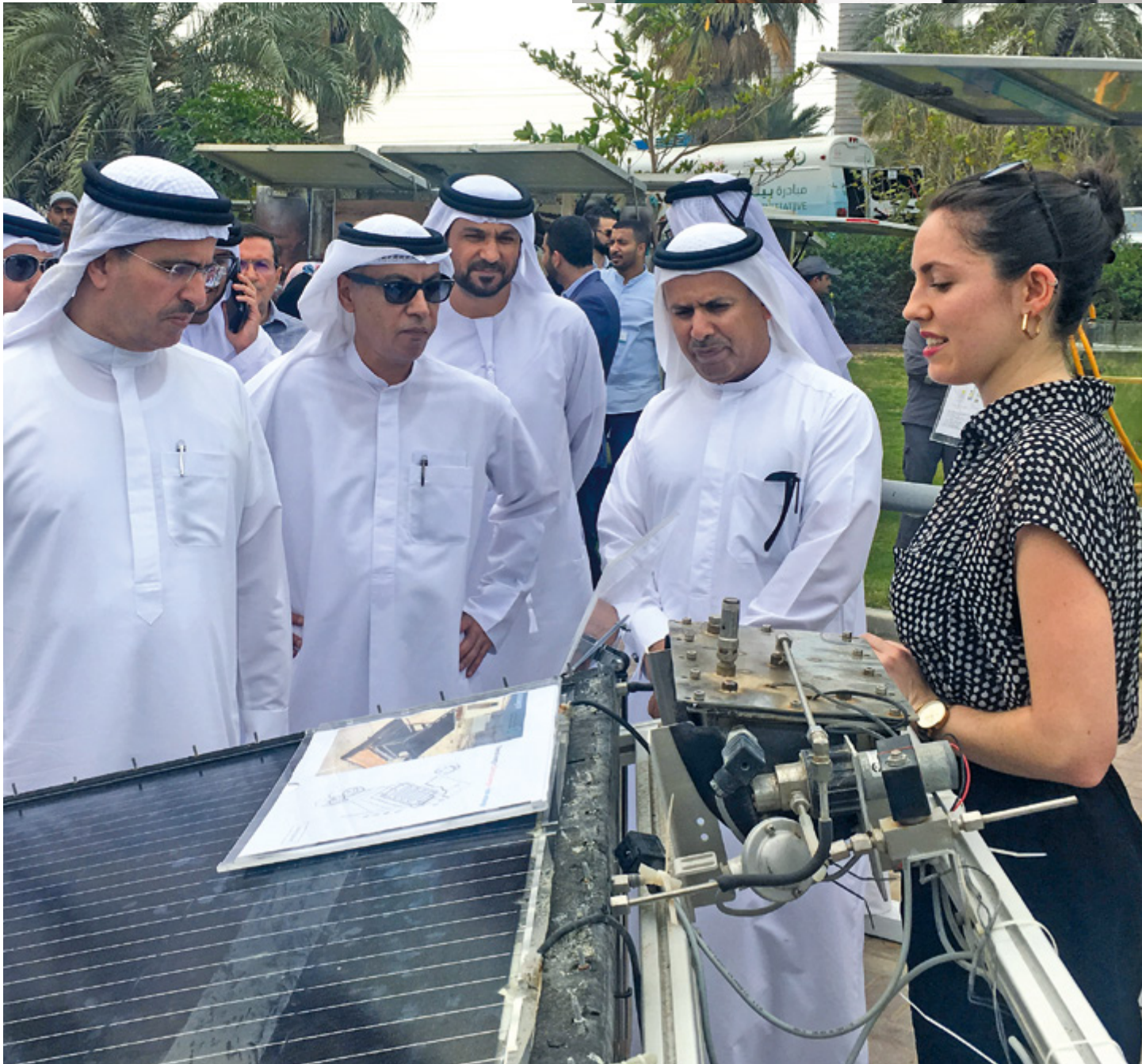
*Being involved in Tormead Drama activities has been a hugely rewarding experience, encouraging me to experiment and explore new concepts from the past, present and future in a highly creative and fun environment.*

— Poppy, Tormead Drama student

An annual House Drama competition takes place written, devised, auditioned, cast and directed by the Sixth Form House Captains with a cast selected from pupils in Years 7, 8 and 9 under the supervision of a member of staff. Students in Years 10 and 11 are encouraged to direct and assist where possible.

We run four theatre trips per year and aim to introduce outside practitioners to the Drama department wherever possible. For example, Frantic Assembly and Splendid Productions have run recent workshops. We have created links with other local arts establishments such as the Guildford School of Acting and the Surrey Arts Wardrobe to share good practice.

Additionally, students from all year groups may take individual lessons in Speech and Drama, working towards the LAMDA examinations. Results are consistently excellent, with many students achieving Distinctions.



# Careers

Our Careers Education Programme complements an exciting curriculum which promotes academic excellence, intellectual curiosity, and creative learning, as well as a variety of co-curricular activities. It encourages pupils to build essential career management skills, namely the ability to recognise their strengths, interests, and values, build their network, and explore the world of work, training and learning. Cultivating these essential skills in our students ensures they are future ready and can navigate an ever-changing landscape of higher education and employment with resilience and flexibility. The Careers Education Programme is delivered through curriculum PSHE lessons, careers events and experiences, and one-to-one coaching appointments available throughout the academic year.

We provide impartial advice, coaching and support to all pupils and parents, to facilitate informed, suitable and impactful decision making at every stage. Focusing on the right path for each individual pupil is at the heart of provision provided by our qualified and experienced Careers Advisor. All career routes post-Tormead are considered valid and achievable.

## Work Experience

All our Year 11 and Year 12 students are expected to undertake work experience. This is a brilliant opportunity to explore their potential career interests and gain much needed experience for UCAS or Degree Apprenticeship applications. We work closely with our parent and alumnae community to identify unique and valuable opportunities. Extensive support is provided for sourcing placements, writing CVs and attending interviews.

## Encounters with Employers

Professionals from within our parent and alumnae community share their career experiences and tips for success through a variety of formats. Our popular annual networking event provides an opportunity for pupils to learn about different career paths and professions. Pupils are empowered to approach professionals in a safe, familiar environment, providing a taster of what it means to network and increasing their independence and confidence.

We have links with the National Theatre and other performing arts professionals who visit Tormead to impart advice and run workshops on how to successfully record self-tape auditions. In 2021, four Tormead students were successful at their National Theatre auditions.

## Encounters with Higher Education

Our links with the University of Surrey include a visit to The Court of the Future in the Law School to watch mock trials and debate human rights as well as visits from Veterinary School students to give advice to Tormead students interested in studying veterinary science. The University of Surrey admissions team also delivers presentations to our Sixth Form about choosing a degree, student finance and student life.





## Beyond Tormead

Our Careers Advisor collaborates with the Head of University Admissions to advise on course and university choice and writing personal statements. With nearly 20 years of career coaching experience and an open-door policy, pupils have access to one-to-one appointments to ensure each pupil chooses the pathway that suits them best. Our UCAS Days and Beyond Tormead events provide invaluable information and advice to students and parents through our links with degree apprenticeship providers, the University of Surrey, gap year providers and employers.

In partnership with our Alumnae & Development Office, we offer an exciting programme of networking evenings and sector specific workshops to inspire, inform and encourage our students to achieve their goals. Virtually all our Upper Sixth achieve their first-choice university places – with approximately 10% applying to Oxbridge places.

## Oxbridge Application Support Programme

Students applying to Oxbridge receive a dedicated support programme from our Oxbridge Application Coordinators and tutors. We provide intensive personal statement feedback and a mock interview programme with the support of relevant sector professionals and experienced Oxbridge alumnae.

***“We treat each pupil as an individual and I provide one-to-one coaching and expert advice accordingly. My door is always open, and my coaching style encourages insight, challenges unhelpful beliefs, and focuses on action-oriented goals. It is always rewarding to see light bulb moments and to hear of the students’ successes beyond Tormead.”***

—Fiona Thie,  
Careers Advisor

# Visiting Tormead

*“For grounded girls  
who want to achieve.”*

—Good Schools Guide

**Attending an Open Morning event is an ideal way to get to know our school, meet our Head, David Boyd, and hear from our pupils as they explain what they like best about Tormead.**

If you are unable to attend an Open Morning, our Head of Admissions, Mrs Jo Drury, will be pleased to arrange an individual tour. She can be contacted on 01483 796040.

## Transport

Guildford is easily accessible by both road and rail and our pupils travel to school from the many towns and villages throughout Surrey. The School is a short walk from London Road Station and many Senior School pupils travel by train.

Our dedicated Tormead coach service offers pupils and parents a convenient, safe, reliable and

environmentally friendly means of transport to and from school. We currently operate eight routes, using well regarded local coach operators, covering Camberley, Cobham, Cranleigh, Esher, Ewhurst, Farnham, Godalming, Haslemere, Peaslake, Surbiton, Walton, Weybridge, Woking and the surrounding villages.





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