

The global schools group Cognita is delighted to announce that North Bridge House will be expanding to include a sixth school in West Hampstead in September 2020. Stuart Rolland, Cognita's CEO for Europe, explains how North Bridge House Nursery and Pre-Prep West Hampstead will be Cognita's 75th school: "As North Bridge House celebrates its 80th anniversary this coming academic year we look forward to expanding the highly successful group in London. The curriculum and ethos at North Bridge House continues to thrive in London, to include now a new provision for families in West Hampstead."

North Bridge House Nursery and Pre-Prep West Hampstead will be opening in September 2020, becoming the sixth North Bridge House school. Building on North Bridge House's commitment to provide successful independent, co-educational, and mixed ability schools, the school will mirror the well-established provision in existence across Hampstead, Islington and Regent's Park.

Head teacher Christine McLelland will oversee all three lower schools and aims for them to share the same balance of happiness and success, with excellent academic results, led by qualified teachers who are subject specialists and experts in EYFS and KS1 in every year group.

"We follow a holistic approach to children's development, which means that the progress made in one area will positively impact on other areas," says Mrs McLelland. We focus on the individual child, developing the characteristics of effective learning and creative arts. Building on children's interests and passions will be at the heart of the curriculum, as will fostering a genuine love of learning, leading to excellent academic outcomes. By the time children reach Reception, they are often writing independently and last summer 46 per cent of pupils were performing in the top 4 per cent of the country for literacy and 38 per cent of pupils were performing in the top 4 per cent of the country for numeracy. 42 per cent of Year 2 pupils were in the top 4 per cent of the country for literacy and 50 per cent in the top 4 per cent of the country for numeracy.

Academic progress is enhanced at North Bridge House (NBH) by Philosophy for Children (P4C), a powerful approach to teaching and learning that boosts children's reasoning, social skills, and overall attainment. Just one year after adding the subject to the curriculum, NBH Pre-Prep gained a Bronze Award for its outstanding commitment to P4C. As well as facilitating pupils' ability to recognise and talk about big ideas, philosophy enables them to better articulate themselves. The Education Endowment Foundation stated that a year of philosophy results in two-month's additional



ACADEMIC EXPANSION

BUILDING ON THEIR COMMITMENT TO PROVIDING SUCCESSFUL INDEPENDENT EDUCATION TO FAMILIES IN NORTH LONDON, [NORTH BRIDGE HOUSE](#) ANNOUNCES THE OPENING OF A NURSERY AND PRE-PREP IN WEST HAMPSTEAD IN SEPTEMBER 2020

progress in reading and mathematics.

Reading and writing are further developed through speaking and listening activities, which are part and parcel of the musically rich curriculum. "Music is essential to the children's personal development as it encourages confidence and growth of character," says Mrs McLelland. As well as their timetabled music lessons, NBH Nursery pupils enjoy music and movement classes with The Finchley Ballet School, drama workshops with the Unicorn Theatre and optional, extra-curricular LAMDA (London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art) lessons.

A child's development is very much a personal journey: children develop at different rates and learn in different ways, "particularly in the Early Years of education, when curiosity can often and more naturally be sparked outside the classroom," explains Mrs McLelland. As such, outdoor learning, school trips and extra-curricular activities are fundamental to child development and academic progress at NBH Nursery and Pre-Prep. Themes such as Wild Science Week see pupils making the most of the schools' impressive playgrounds, or nearby Hampstead Heath and Regent's Park. Trips to the local fire station, country farms and the Science Museum all help to develop knowledge, skills, attitudes and behaviour that can be utilised in and outside the classroom.

"School pets also add enormous value to our community," says Mrs McLelland. "At NBH Pre-Prep we have three bantam hens, each named and very much loved by the children.

They have been fantastic for the social and emotional development of the children, and perfect for a cuddle too! We very much look forward to rearing and naming some new pets at NBH West Hampstead. NBH West Hampstead will also join the annual tradition of being transformed into a petting zoo for the day, welcoming a family run farm from Cambridgeshire and an impressive menagerie of educational helpers. From alpacas and ponies to bearded dragons and hedgehogs, the children get to touch and hold the animals whilst learning all about the science behind their growth and development."

A popular choice among North London parents who want the option, as a result of the academic success seen at every stage, of the country's leading destination schools, North Bridge House also reassures parents by providing a stress-free all-through education from 2-18 which does not compromise on academic excellence. The results speak for themselves and pupils continue to excel at both GCSE and A Level.

"Happiness is the key to successful learning – particularly in the formative years of education – and we are committed to providing children with an enjoyable learning experience", concludes Mrs McLelland.

The new school will be hosting a launch party for local families in February 2020. For details and to register your interest, email: admissionsenquiries@northbridgehouse.com

