




BASSETT HOUSE
SCHOOL



Bassett House School
is an inclusive,
co-educational
prep school for ages
3-11, located in leafy
Notting Hill

As a member of the
Dukes Education
family, we work
alongside some of the
UK's top independent
schools, nurseries
and colleges.

**Small enough to
be bespoke, big
enough to thrive.**

Welcome
from our
Headmistress,
Kelly Gray



If you're reading this, you have taken the first step in exploring our vibrant, inclusive family school where every child is known and loved. As you read on, you will get a sense of what the Bassett buzz is all about.

What gets me out of bed in the morning is knowing I am making a difference to young people through a brilliant Bassett education. At Bassett House School, we expose children to an irresistible curriculum and rich extracurricular experiences, creating a space where pupils have a voice, take risks, are brave with their ideas and build a bright future for themselves. We are proud of our amBassettors, who are confident and inspirational.

We create a nourishing environment at Bassett House School, where dedicated and highly trained staff go above and beyond to ensure pupils are active participants in their learning journeys. No two children are alike, and with that in mind, we tailor our pedagogy to the individual needs of each child. What we do as educators matters - it has a lasting impact - and that is why I believe there is no bigger privilege than enabling pupils to experience the magic of childhood learning. We are passionate about developing the whole child: teaching core subjects expertly - with writing taught inspirationally to ignite a spark which opens a world of possibilities and where the arts and sport are celebrated. Pastoral and safeguarding care lovingly wrap around all that we offer.

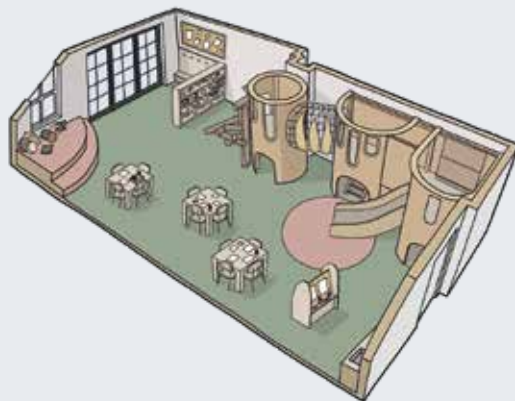
We are small enough to be bespoke, yet big enough that our children thrive in their learning. Their pathways are important to us, and we strive to ensure that they move on to their next schools as considerate and tenacious amBassettors. Our 11+ results speak for themselves, with our children continuing their education at some of London's best senior schools, including Godolphin and Latymer, Francis Holland, City of London, and UCS.

I invite you to join us for a private tour and to attend the variety of events we host throughout the academic year to learn more about our school, and more importantly, witness first-hand just how enthusiastic the pupils are about their learning. As one Bassett school leaver put it, "At Bassett you learn about English and maths but also how to be yourself." I don't think I could put it better myself! I look forward to meeting you soon,

Kelly Gray

Early years

Children can join our preschool as soon as they turn 3 years old.



Design for our new Early Years centre, welcoming children from May 2022.

The key to successful learning in the Early Years is to teach children without them realising they are being taught. Bassett House School first opened its doors in 1947 offering a holistic and child centred Montessori approach, which still continues today. The Montessori method of education develops children's natural interests and allows them to make choices in their learning. It also helps to build leadership, coordination and concentration skills.

Learning is seamlessly interwoven into the fabric of our pupils' exciting day-to-day experiences. We want all children to develop a love for learning and to have fun and enjoy success in all aspects of their education. Our recently refurbished Early Years building called Bassett Bear House is located at 73 St Helen's Gardens, close to our main school site. Located across four floors, it comprises three bright and airy classrooms, a versatile interactive learning zone and an all-purpose performance studio. We are excited to unveil further developments with this academic year!

Children enjoy a wide variety of stimulating resources, which are mostly physical or visually engaging at this stage in their development. Our skilled Early Years staff provide children with appropriate and exciting play and learning experiences to play to their strengths and support them to develop new skills.

We strive to ensure that children feel happy in their environment and immediately feel part of our school community. Individual care is given to all children and each child is encouraged to reach developmental goals at a pace that is right for them. It is important to remember that every child learns in a unique way and, therefore, we plan carefully to cater for all types of learners to stimulate their senses and support and optimise their learning styles.

Teaching takes place with individual children, in small focus groups, and as a whole class. Children are given opportunities for indoor and outdoor activities every day and through play and structured learning, pupils develop a variety of skills and interests. We want all children to develop a love for learning and to have fun and enjoy achievement and success in all aspects of their education.

We incorporate all seven areas of learning in the Department for Education's Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and endeavour to allow our pupils to go beyond and reach their full potential.

"It's such a sweet school that really cares about the children. It's just what you want when you've got a toddler."

—Current Parent



Love of Learning

We boast a rich curriculum which offers a diverse range of subjects for our pupils. Achievement comes in all forms at Bassett House School: whether on the field, on the stage or in the classroom, pupils benefit from learning from specialist teachers who spark the love of learning within them.

Beginning in Preschool, at the age of 3+, right up until Year 6, pupils actively contribute to their learning.

The quality of the teachers are top notch and it is very impressive to see the outstanding academic results from Form 6 – all achieved in a way that is not pushy or too stressful for the children. They have all developed an appetite for learning which they will keep for life.

—Form 6 Parent



Teaching Philosophy

“From the start, the support [our son] got was fantastic.”

—Current Parent

The best education has always had the same thing at its core — wonderful teachers spending quality time with students.

In response, at Bassett House School, we only recruit the very best teaching staff. With them, we create an environment to challenge, encourage and nourish the growing minds of our pupils.

The advantage of being independent is that we are able to glean the best practices in terms of international standards of pedagogy, and cherry-pick from these various methods which, when combined with small class sizes, allows us to tailor our teaching approach to each individual child.

As a member of the Dukes Education family, we also know there's power in the collective. Our students benefit from the constant sharing of best practice among Dukes schools, and the stringent standards held to by a wide team of senior leaders who, combined, have an exceptional record of experience and expertise in education. Students develop culturally and socially, as well as academically, enjoying a well-rounded education full of fun and laughter. We work hard to help every child find something that fulfills them – to find their extraordinary – the thing only they can contribute to the world.



Children blossom when they feel safe, happy and valued.

Pastoral Care

No child has any doubt our teachers will lend a sympathetic ear to their issues. We also have a 'Pupil Plan' so pupils can note any private thoughts or worries.

Our buddy system helps newcomers through their early days, and we encourage older children to mentor our younger pupils, instilling a sense of responsibility.

Our House system encourages teamwork and a competitive spirit, allowing children to celebrate their own success as well as the achievements of others. Whole school events and charitable activities foster a sense of pride in belonging to the wider community.

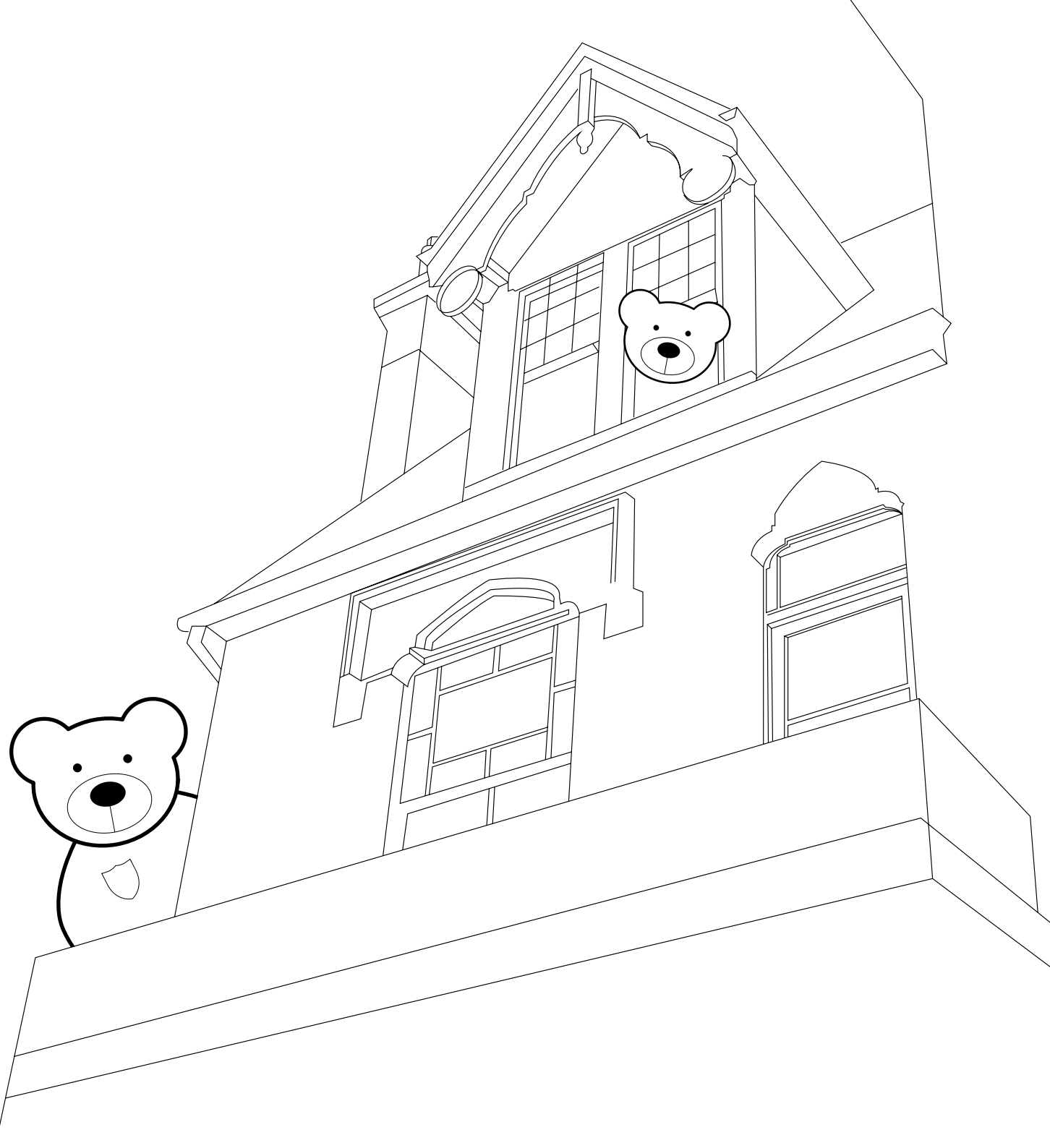
We give our students the skills to achieve their personal best to go on to lead fulfilling and successful lives.

Bassett is such a lovely school; warm, kind, supportive, loving, safe, fun, quirky and it has been like a second home for my children over the last 6 years. I honestly cannot think of anything that can be even the slightest improved.

—Parent of Form 2 and 4



**Colour our school
picture in and share
it with us using
#BassettColour**



"We are trying to raise the children as independent, confident, hardworking and happy girls. BHS environment has always allowed our girls to flourish thanks to its amazing nurturing environment and constant care of their development needs. I am very much grateful for all BHS has done and will continue to do for them."

—Current parent,
Form 6 and Form 3



"To me Bassett House School was the clear choice for my son as I believe BHS has a great balance between academic aspirations for their students, extra-curricular activities and pastoral care."

—Pre-School Parent

Facilities



"I look at his timetable and it's amazing. He seems very fulfilled at the end of the day."

—Current Parent



Formally a large family residence, the school's main building was built in the late 19th century in the leafy streets of Notting Hill. 60 Bassett Road was refurbished for the school in 2001, whilst holding true to the Victorian architectural principles of large, bright and airy rooms. It now houses ten classrooms and an outside play area, complete with climbing wall. Our pupils in the Upper Prep Years are based here. You may have heard the cries of joy from the playground as you walk past!

The school's premises also include a sizable hall at St Helen's Church just around the corner, providing a professional stage and assembly hall/gymnasium, complete with sound, performance tech and piano and three airy classrooms, including a specialist art room. This historic space with a custom-built kitchen and garden play area is a beautiful space for our children to learn, bring out their inner-artist and perform. Our Bassett family worked with charity Growing Space to redevelop the garden into an area for our children to provide both a tranquil oasis and a space for adventure and fun, to fulfill the needs of our pupils. Here the children also grow vegetables,

which go directly into our delicious home-cooked meals.

The school opened an additional building in a former dairy in St Helen's Gardens in 2019: Bassett Bear House. Our Preschool (aged 3+) and Reception (aged 4+) are based here in three light and spacious classrooms. The building also provides an impressive Interactive Learning Zone and a Performing Arts Studio in the basement.

Our children are blessed with three stunning buildings which have the sole aim of saying, 'You matter' so that we can get the most out of teaching and learning for our pupils.



"It is very child-centric; it is very committed in a very real and practical way too. What I view as the new way of schooling children; developing resilience and a growth mindset"

—Form 6 Parent

Continuous Provision

We work in partnership with parents to explore the nature of any challenge a child might face in or outside the classroom, and to put in place a programme of tailored support, such as one-to-one sessions, extra support in class and/or differentiated tasks where necessary. Our goal is always to ensure that every child can make good progress and achieve the fullest success.

During the recent lockdown, we worked hard to ensure that there were no gaps created by home learning. Our strong channels of communication between home and school make certain that every child feels confident in their abilities and skills.

Extra-Curricular activities

A child who once struggled with maths may well excel once they discover they have a hidden talent for something else.

Bassett House School offers a wide spectrum of activities that encourage self-expression and the development of talents outside the classroom. This also helps build relationships by allowing us to interact with our pupils in different environments.

Visiting music teachers offer individual instrumental tuition in a variety of instruments. We have a school orchestra, chamber choir, senior and junior choirs and many instrumental ensembles, including a rock band. Coding, chess, drama, textiles, fencing, art, animation, swimming, netball, cooking, martial arts and yoga are just some of the many clubs on offer. Budding journalists have the chance to develop their reporting skills via our radio station club, 'Bassett Radio', and through our newspaper club 'Bassett's Big News' where the children create the content for both clubs.

We are committed to nurturing pupils, who are not only capable and partake in a range of interests, but have life skills that will prepare them for life beyond Bassett such as adaptability, perseverance, tenacity, resilience and kindness.

"The school excels at music and art. The music teacher is just incredible: passionate and talented. And the art teacher has been inspirational."

—Current parent




Parents' Role

We firmly believe in the partnership between home and school - teachers, staff and pupils: The Golden Triangle - and actively encourage transparency throughout your child's education with us.

The well-being of our pupils is our number one priority as we guide them in their progression. We operate a consultative approach in ensuring that only the very best for each child is considered.

Membership to our Parent Association offers an intimate insight into the relationship between parents and with the school. Our parents keep in touch with class reps, and make use of the Classlists app to arrange birthday parties and playdates between each other.

We value parents as vital members of our Bassett Family and have great pride in the strength of the close-knit warm community they have created.



“We’re totally sold on the school. We’ve just been gushing about it to everyone.”

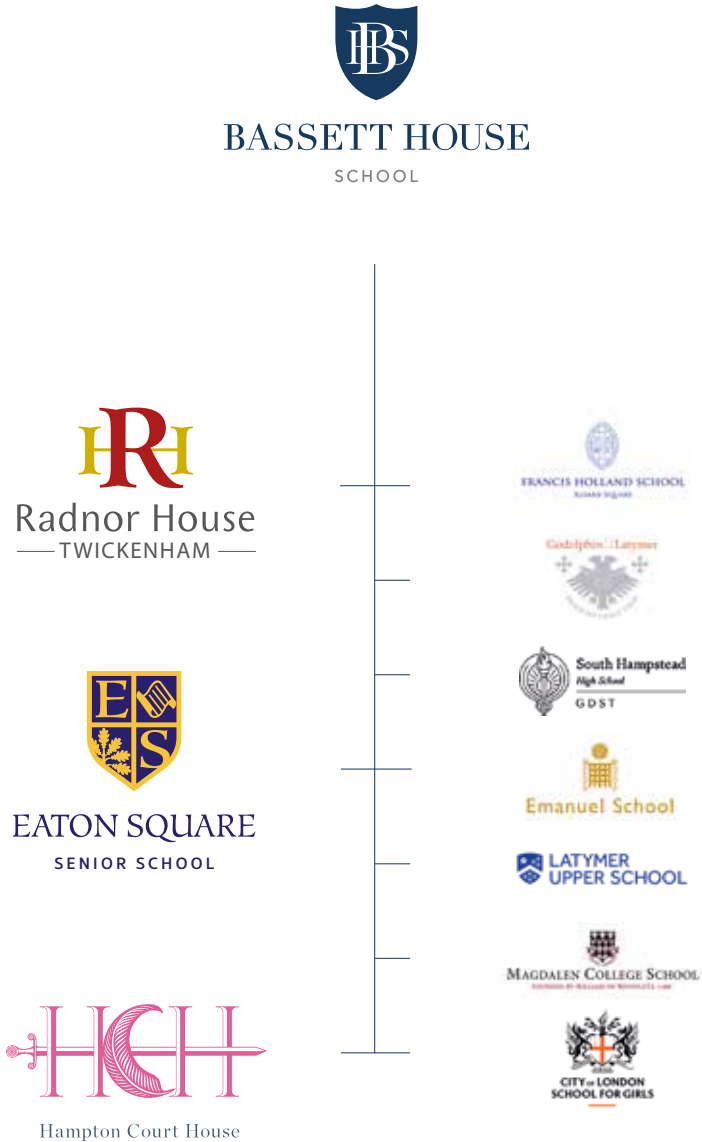
—Current Parent


The 11+ and senior school preparation

Our Year 6 pupils are uniquely prepared for entrance to a senior school which is best suited to their abilities, character and interests. Our Headmistress and Teachers work in close consultation with each pupil and their families to select schools in which they will thrive. We prepare children for senior school life of which the 11+ test is just one part. However, to ensure success we provide an expert programme of senior school preparation. In Year 5 parents and pupils will attend Senior School Open Days, have an individual meeting with the Form teachers and Deputy Head to discuss choices and meet with the Headmistress about all options.

Our families receive coaching and advice from experts in the 11+ process, including David Goodhew (Headmaster of Latymer Upper School and member of the Dukes Educational Advisory Board) and Libby Nicholas (former Headmistress of South Hampstead High School and Governor of Bassett House). With a wealth of experience gained in the educational landscape of London, our expertise and knowledge has resulted in over 90% of our pupils receiving offers from their senior school of choice in the last few years.

As part of the Dukes Education family, our pupils also have the option to benefit from priority entry to in our Dukes Senior schools: Radnor House, Twickenham; Hampton Court House or Eaton Square Senior. If a child is not suited to the 11+ entrance exam, we can even offer early access in Year 5 so that your children can relax and look forward to the transition to senior school.



A photograph of two children in school uniforms standing in a field of white flowers. The child in the foreground is a boy with short brown hair, wearing a blue blazer over a grey shirt and a blue and white striped tie. The child in the background is a girl with glasses and braided hair, also wearing a blue blazer. Both are smiling.

*"It was really smooth,
they were really nice
about everything,
very flexible."*

—Current Parent

Joining Bassett House

Once you have decided that Bassett House is the right school for your family, we endeavour try make the process of joining us as smooth as possible for you and your child.

The first step is to register your child for a place via our website. Places are offered on a first come first served basis from birth, so we encourage parents to register their little ones as soon as possible to have the best chance of receiving an offer. You'll then be invited for a private tour of the school with Mrs Gray and our Head of Admissions, where you can see the school and ask any questions.

Once you've confirmed you'd like a place, we simply send a formal offer letter and a link to an online form where you can easily accept your child's place and pay the deposit.

After you've accepted your place, we'll start inviting you to community events, festive celebrations, and closer to the time of joining, you'll be invited to come to the school to meet the rest of your child's class, your fellow parents and the teaching team.

To get in touch with our admissions team, please register online, email registrar@bassetths.org.uk or call us on 020 8969 0313.

Who we are



Kelly Gray
Headmistress

Graduating from the University of Leeds, Kelly first worked in an inner-city state school and then went on to work for many years at Thomas's Kensington, heading up key pastoral projects and driving English and History forward.

Aiming to blend the best of state and independent education, Kelly was the founding Deputy Head of an aspirational trust-run school and, more recently, was Deputy Head and Designated Safeguarding Lead at Jacques Prévert.

Kelly believes there is no bigger privilege than enabling staff and pupils to experience the magic of childhood learning.



Aatif Hassan
Founder and Chairman
Dukes Education

Aatif founded Dukes Education in 2015. He is also Chairman of Cavendish Education, a group of 11 schools for pupils with dyslexia and autism; and a trustee of St James Independent Schools. Aatif is also on the board of CReSTeD.

Aatif has a first-class degree in Mathematics and Economics and also had a British Army commission. In 2020, he was awarded the Freedom of City of London for services to education.



Libby Nicholas
Managing Director
Dukes Education

Graduating from the University of Bristol with a degree in English & Philosophy, Libby realised her true vocation whilst working with the Prince's Trust. Progressing from teaching English to increasingly senior roles, Libby has held positions such as Headmistress, Deputy Director of Education at the Girls' Day School Trust, and Regional Director of Education for the Academies Enterprise Trust. Most recently, Libby founded and was CEO of Astrea Academy Trust.

Libby is committed to learning-centred leadership; securing high-quality education through excellent staff development, at all levels.





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