

ACS  
INTERNATIONAL  
SCHOOL  
HILLINGDON



READY?





THE  
WORLD  
NEEDS  
NEW  
THINKING.  
GET  
READY.





**MARTIN HALL**  
HEAD OF SCHOOL

## HELLO AND WELCOME TO ACS HILLINGDON, WHERE INNOVATION INTERTWINES WITH HISTORY AND STUDENTS FLOURISH IN A WARM, PERSONAL SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT.

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ACS Hillingdon is a beautifully green and welcoming campus close to central London, bursting with innovation and enterprise. We're home to around 580 students, aged 4 to 18, from nearly 50 countries, taught and supported by 150 teachers and staff members. Our global perspective reflects our world-renowned curriculum that builds on the very best of leading education standards, giving our students the flexibility to tailor their studies from a wide range of options.

Our dynamic mix of curricular, co-curricular and experiential learning activities ensures that students at ACS Hillingdon develop a firm knowledge and understanding, with the skills that will enable them to thrive in the years ahead. We're proud of both our academic programmes and our commitment to visual arts, drama and music, all of which are an integral part of our curriculum, ensuring that our students are ready for whatever comes next in their lives.

Our emphasis on innovation and technology starts with our youngest students. Our Lower School has been designated an Apple Distinguished School in recognition of its iPad learning programme which encourages independent learning from a young age. We have superb facilities that support and enable our passion for innovation, including a well-equipped Science Centre with seven new labs, our "Think Tank" and inspiring facilities for students to develop their understanding of coding and robotics.

Physical activity, outdoor learning, service, environmental projects and our Duke of Edinburgh Award programme all encourage Hillingdon students to be adventurous and try new things, reflecting our belief that success outside the classroom is just as important as success within.

# READY TO QUESTION AND CHALLENGE THE STATUS QUO.

## OUR CURRICULUM

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The broad and flexible curriculum at ACS Hillingdon is designed to help students excel, ensuring they're ready for the next stage of their academic career. Underpinned by the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme, the International Baccalaureate Career-related Programme, Advanced Placement courses, AP Capstone Diploma and the US High School Diploma, our curriculum emphasises life skills as much as academic excellence, with a focus on experiential learning and leadership that ensures we nurture confident, caring, well-rounded individuals.

## CO-CURRICULAR

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We have over 40 clubs, 60 sports teams and a wealth of facilities. These include 14-acres of sports fields within easy reach of the main school, something almost unheard of this close to central London. Together these encourage our young people to try new things, building skills and resilience that will benefit them inside and outside the classroom and prepare them for the future.



## 720s Architecture

## 730s-740s Making Art

## 780s Music & Film







# READY TO TAKE RISKS AND THINK INDEPENDENTLY.

## INSPIRED TO LEARN

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We believe that learning is one of life's great pleasures, so our teaching is designed to inspire and instil a sense of wonder. At the heart of this approach is an encouragement of intellectual curiosity and excellence from a young age. We teach our students to think for themselves, work hard and make creative connections between ideas to arrive at a deeper, more nuanced understanding of the world and their place in it. Future-focused, inclusive and engaging, our teaching fosters conceptual understanding, collaboration, critical thinking, communication, social and research skills within the academically rigorous International Baccalaureate and Advanced Placement programmes.

An important part of this is our international curriculum. Its breadth and flexibility gives us the freedom to find the best fit for every student, tailoring their academic pathway to reflect their needs and aspirations.

We don't 'teach to the test' with a narrow focus on grades; instead we personalise our teaching to enable students to reach their own conclusions, set challenging personal goals and to have a positive impact on their local, national and international community.

Our aim is to help students become effective learners, confident individuals and caring contributors with a genuine curiosity that inspires them to ask new questions and formulate new answers. Armed with the courage to take risks, we want them to leave us ready for both higher education and the rest of their lives. It's the most important and fulfilling job in the world.



# READY TO BECOME THINKERS, AND DOERS.

## A BALANCED EDUCATION

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The world is changing fast and there are new challenges and opportunities everywhere you look. Undoubtedly, life today demands a new kind of school, one that creates well-balanced individuals able to overcome life's challenges with confidence and integrity. That is why education at ACS is never just about academic performance, crucial though that is.

Our classroom learning inspires students to challenge the status quo, take intellectual risks and think independently. We also offer a wide range of opportunities for students to find and follow their individual strengths, including an impressive range of co-curricular activities, clubs, field trips, service learning, student ambassador roles and volunteering.

This emphasis on social and emotional skills means our students grow in ways that will

stand them in good stead in the workplaces and communities of the future. To support our students, we provide the best in personalised pastoral care.

Our mission to make our student ready for anything means that in many respects we are an active learning partner rather than a passive education provider. Working with students and their families to create a holistic experience that builds solid academic and personal skills. This partnering approach starts on day one of a student's time with us; our staff, student ambassadors and counselling team know that starting a new school can feel a little unnerving, so they go out of their way to offer a truly warm welcome to those joining the ACS Hillingdon family.











# READY FOR A WORLD WHERE THE ANSWERS AREN'T ALWAYS OBVIOUS.

## GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

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Our students and staff come to us from every part of the world. The result is a wonderfully open-minded, outward-looking culture that celebrates international diversity and harnesses different perspectives.

As well as our many expat families, ACS Hillingdon's global outlook also attracts many local families who want to ensure their children are ready to make a difference and contribute to a wider society.

In fact, internationalism is at the very heart of ACS's philosophy. We are intensely proud of our multicultural identity and commitment to diversity and choice, while never forgetting the common humanity that binds us all together. We celebrate the things that make us different, not because they're fashionable but because they make the world a better, more interesting place.



## A THRIVING, WELCOMING COMMUNITY

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At ACS Hillingdon we have worked hard to create a warm, welcoming atmosphere and a strong community of support that brings students, teachers and parents together to overcome barriers of language or culture. We actively promote global citizenship in the form of a stimulating international community where everyone feels they belong and are valued.

Our flourishing parents' association organises events throughout the school year that reflect our diversity and culture. Events such as our highly popular International Food Day that celebrates customs and food from different countries around the globe, while educating our students about global issues relating to food supply.

When new families join our community we do all we can to ease their settling-in process via our orientation sessions, a friendly, fun and informal way for families to connect and learn more about the school.

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Hillingdon is a warm and welcome environment for students and their families. Students enjoy going to school every day and as parents we have been lucky enough to have made some lovely friends which have led to some amazing opportunities to network within our community.

PARENT



READY TO MAKE  
FRIENDS AND  
COLLABORATE.





# LOWER SCHOOL

## AGES 4–10 / PRE-KINDERGARTEN TO GRADE 4

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During these early years, we establish positive teacher-student relationships so we can provide the individual attention and tailored teaching programme that enables our students to fulfil their potential. We focus on developing each student's confidence, nurturing their strengths and supporting them as they grow, reflecting our deeply held belief that children enter school as natural explorers, engineers, investigators and designers.

We believe in encouraging and enhancing these qualities, celebrating each child's imagination and enthusiasm, planting the seeds of learning within them that will grow and develop over a lifetime so they are ready for anything.

To achieve this, our experienced educators cultivate curiosity, critical thinking, teamwork and self-confidence. Equipping our young students with the tools they need to take part in a huge range of exciting activities including Forest School classes, musical performances, field trips, extracurricular activities and community service.











# UPPER SCHOOL

## AGES 10–18 / GRADES 5–12

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Students in Grades 5 and 6 take a broad range of subjects including coding, media and design, social studies and language acquisition. They also follow a project-based learning class, which includes service learning and entrepreneurial skills. The classes end the year with a showcase of their project work, which takes the form of an exhibition for parents and students to attend.

In addition to their core subjects and electives, students in Grades 7 to 10 follow the newly implemented Personal Development Programme. In these classes students focus on developing skills in communication, research, self-management, thinking and social skills. These skills compliment the academic focus in other lessons and enable us to educate the whole-child.

Students in Grades 11 and 12 can select from a wide range of pathways that can be tailored to their individual strengths and aspirations. Our aim is to create students fully confident in their abilities and with a voracious appetite for learning. We deliver this through the breadth of our teaching programme, which incorporates the International Baccalaureate Diploma and Career-related Programmes, Advanced Placement courses and US High School Diploma.

Students in Grades 9 to 12 also follow the Global Citizens Diploma (GCD), a unique qualification that goes beyond academic results to acknowledge all of the exceptional citizenship and service-related activities students undertake to become global citizens. The GCD comprises 16 key elements, which are split into core values, competencies and areas of expertise, and include elements such as: community engagement, global understanding, intercultural communication, wilderness engagement, work experience, artistic expression and leadership.

Our experienced, committed Upper School team inspire young minds to set and exceed their own goals. By using the latest technology, building an appreciation of cultural diversity and encouraging students to get involved in local and international community projects, we ensure they leave us as globally-minded, digitally adept citizens, ready to take their place in a rapidly evolving world.



## ACADEMIC PROGRAMMES

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We offer a robust curriculum, built upon international standards, and adapted to the needs of our diverse student body.

The IB Diploma is the world's most recognised academic programme for students 16–18. It offers a rigorous curriculum requiring six subjects which can be selected according to a student's strengths and interests and provides students with an excellent foundation for university.

In ACS's University Admissions Officers' research conducted over the last ten years, the IB and AP programmes have been shown to significantly outperform A-Levels in developing qualities such as a global outlook, open-mindedness, self-management, coping under pressure and analytical thinking.



IB

### The International Baccalaureate (IB):

Fosters critical thinking and independent learning

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Assesses through more than one examination technique

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Provides an international qualification

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### Diploma Programme (DP):

Encourages breadth and depth of learning

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Fosters international outlook through insistence on language learning

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Develops academic research skills through the Extended Essay

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### Career-related Diploma (CP):

Encourages specialisation in the area of choice

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Prepares students for career-specific pathways

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Develops academic research skills through the Reflective Project

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AP

### The Advanced Placement (AP) Courses:

Offers breadth and flexibility

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Allows subject specialisation

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Highly recognised in the US and Canada

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### AP Capstone Diploma:

Encourages team collaboration and critical thinking through the AP Seminar Course

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Develops academic research skills through the AP Research Course

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Requires students to complete four APs throughout the course of their High School

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## FILMON, GRADE 12

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The academic support that I've received from ACS has shaped my future.

The school has given me the opportunity to improve as a person, helping me to manage my time and learn how to work with people from all around the world.

The IB is an intense programme, but the experience that I have gained from it is truly extraordinary. It has given me the chance to pick the subjects I need, plus the subjects I love as well. There is almost no limit to what you can do within the course.

ACS is an ocean of cultures. It is very diverse and I have met people from all around the world. I have always been in love with the idea of travelling the world and now I feel as though I have a friend that I can meet wherever I might go.

I have recently been offered a scholarship to study art at the Savannah College of Art and Design in Georgia, United States. I'm optimistic about my future and the opportunities that lie ahead of me.



## HANNAH, GRADE 11

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ACS is a place of diversity in so many areas.

It has allowed me to grow my knowledge of the world through the many cultures, backgrounds, and education styles we are exposed to. I've been able to travel the world without leaving home!

Having been at ACS for seven years now, I feel the school has given me many opportunities to grow academically, athletically, and personally. I feel ready for the rigorous academic programme that I have chosen which includes a combination of the IB and AP. In the next two years, I have chosen to focus my education on my strengths and passions, concentrating on maths and science-based classes. These classes will prepare me for a university environment, teaching me how to manage my time, use my resources, and develop self-discipline. I am still deciding my future path. No matter what it is, I know my desire to learn and the empowerment I've received started here at ACS.









## SPORTS AT ACS

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### Hillingdon Hawks

Sport is an essential part of an all-round education. Developing teamwork, dedication, self-confidence and discipline, so our students are ready for the wider world. It's also great fun, which is why so many of our students take part in after-school sports at some point during the academic year, with many participating in a different team each season.

To support this philosophy, our 11 full-time coaches and students have an array of facilities at their disposal, including a full-size, multi-functional gym, all-weather tennis courts and – the jewel in our crown – 14 acres of football pitches, rugby fields, softball and baseball diamonds, just a short ride from our campus. We also have priority access to a 50-metre Olympic-size swimming pool and athletics track in the local area.

In a typical school year, we field 56 different teams at all levels. Our young athletes compete against local and international schools across Europe, with past fixtures taking place in Paris, Brussels, Frankfurt, Vienna and Athens – providing international level competition and an enriched sporting event experience for students.



ACS INTERNATIONAL  
SCHOOL HILLINGDON





READY TO   
DREAM.



A close-up photograph of a person's hand, wearing a black long-sleeved shirt and a black wristband, using a paintbrush to apply vibrant, multi-colored paint (red, orange, yellow, blue, and white) onto a canvas. The background is a blurred, colorful abstract pattern, suggesting a larger artwork or a collection of similar pieces.

## VISUAL ARTS

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At Hillingdon the arts are a vital part of school life, so we make sure our students are exposed to the widest range of participation opportunities.

Studying the visual arts not only develops cultural understanding and visual literacy, it also enriches the way our students engage with the world around them. It improves concentration, increases writing, speaking and listening skills, enhances group participation and develops dexterity, self-discipline and respect for alternative points of view. Put this together and the visual arts enhance and inspire our entire learning community.



# READY TO PERFORM.

## PERFORMING ARTS

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Our high-quality music education programme inspires a life-long love of music while developing self-confidence, creativity and sense of achievement. Students of all year groups perform, absorb and evaluate music from a wide range of periods, genres and traditions. They learn to sing, they create music on their own and with others using a variety of instruments, and they have the opportunity to learn a favourite instrument through expert one-to-one tuition. They also learn about the role of technology in music, giving them a keen appreciation of how modern music is created, produced and communicated.

We're proud to say drama is a fundamental part of the student experience at ACS Hillingdon, helping to develop a passion for theatre that lasts a lifetime.

Our co-curricular play and musical productions – often among the highlights of our academic year – together with our participation in drama competitions and festivals, teach students to collaborate, solve problems and explore ideas, transforming how they see the world.

Drama also helps our students develop as leaders, fostering excellent communication skills and building confidence – essential qualities that ready them for success in the workplace.

Our drama programme builds on the National Core Arts Standards and is enriched by our membership of the International Schools Theatre Association (ISTA). As part of this, we offer annual trips to attend theatre festivals throughout Europe for Upper School students. Through ISTA, our students work with international theatre practitioners, developing their cultural literacy and appreciation of different perspectives.

We also have a drama programme so students can earn LAMDA (London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art) qualifications as part of their practical examinations in communication and performance. As well as developing self-confidence, performance techniques and language awareness, LAMDA qualifications have the added benefit of enabling students to earn UCAS points that support their university applications.











# READY FOR A WORLD THAT DEMANDS ADAPTABILITY AND CURIOSITY.

## FILM

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We introduce photography and film to children as young as 5 throughout the Lower School technology classes. In Grades 5–8, filmmaking is a significant part of our exciting STEAM curriculum, which includes a “discovery week”. In High School, our film study cumulates in the IBDP Film course, part of the IB Diploma and IB Career-related programmes.

Through film, our students learn about the context and setting for some of the most exciting stories in human history, before deconstructing the techniques their creators used to bring them to life on the screen.

As part of our film curriculum, students get the chance to work as directors, cinematographers, editors, sound designers and screenwriters, learning professional creative filmmaking techniques through exciting, hands-on projects that are an opportunity for them to tell their own stories.



# READY TO CHANGE THE WORLD.



## STEAM

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If you're not familiar with the acronym STEAM, it stands for "Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Maths", a whole-school interdisciplinary approach that reflects the growing importance of design and technology in today's world. To bring this important topic to life, we continually invest in the latest equipment, including building our own 3D printers, so our students are ready for the careers of tomorrow. Our facilities, including a well-equipped Science Centre with seven new labs, a "Think Tank" as well as a Coding and Media space, mean Hillingdon students have creative areas to bring their ideas to life.

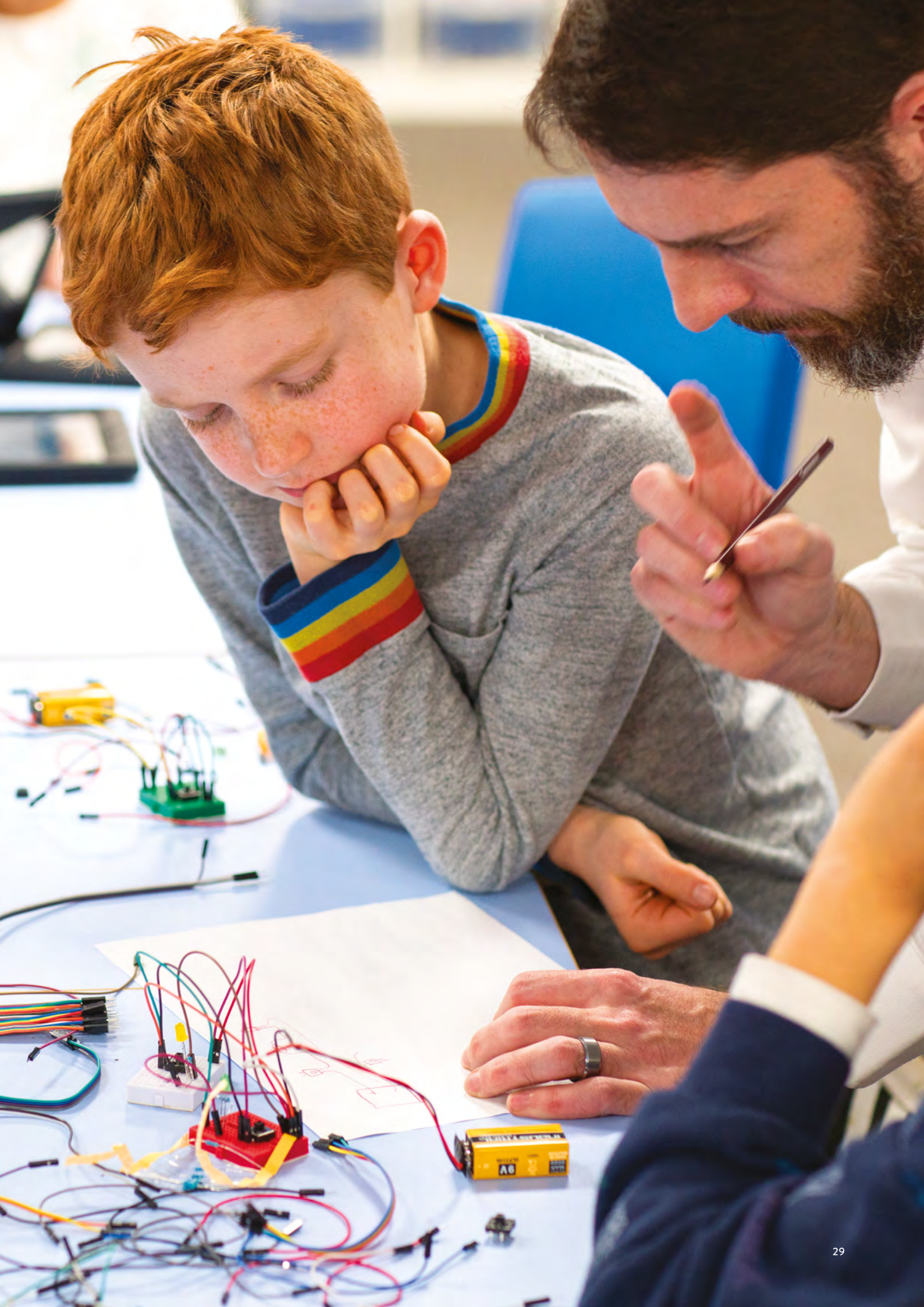
In Lower School we offer a Coding, Media and Design programme which provides students with the skills necessary to problem solve, to learn when things don't go according to plan as well as investigate, explore, create and reflect in the physical and online worlds. They will also use age appropriate apps and programmes to support learning across all curriculum areas

including computer science. Digital resilience and citizenship encourages students to demonstrate personal responsibility and ethical behaviours and digital literacy is taught helping students find appropriate, relevant and reliable information. In addition, augmented reality, introductory electronics and robotics are explored.

In Upper School our students continue to develop and hone their skills, covering topics including cinematography, editing, animation principles. They try different design cycles, utilise design criteria and consider the impact on their audiences. Communication, planning, budgeting and making connections continue to be key 'life skills' that they will practice alongside extending key concepts in media creation, design and coding.

In Grades 11 and 12 students can choose to follow the IBCP in Digital Arts programme which includes computer science, coding, animation, visual effects and game design.











# READY TO ENGAGE WITH THE WORLD.

## BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

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We have a wide programme of co-curricular activities, underscoring our belief that learning doesn't stop when lessons end. As well as our service and volunteering programme, we offer sports, drama productions, musical groups and design and technology. All of which are available to students throughout the school week.

With over 40 clubs and 60 sports teams at ACS Hillingdon, there's something for every student at every age. Several of our clubs are organised and run by the students themselves, helping to develop their leadership skills.

One of these is our Model United Nations club where we debate topics of international concern. As part of this students can attend conferences each year in The Hague, where they take part in debating the world's most pressing issues with thousands of other students. It is all part of our commitment to educating the whole student so they're ready for tomorrow.





## MIRIAM

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At ACS, teachers don't just present you with information, they want you to infer things from it yourself, and challenge your thinking. I found this really interesting, it appealed to me right away.

My overall time at ACS surpassed my expectations. The welcome was amazing. My student ambassador was great, my counsellor too. Everyone wanted me to be part of the community but also to know about me. They were interested in my opinions and experience, not just my academic work, but my well-being as a person.

I chose to study the IB as it is a challenging programme. It makes you think about learning; it is so diverse that it helps you become a more rounded person, which I want to be. It really allows you to be the best you can possibly be.

Since graduating I have been studying medicine at university and I hope to become a doctor in the future. ACS gave me an inner confidence and prepared me for my future path.



## TAALIA

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Since leaving ACS Hillingdon, I have been studying biomedical science at Imperial College London.

As a career, I would like to work as a scientist in industry, possibly in pharmaceuticals or biotechnology, or another branch of science.

I found the IB to be an intensive programme, one that goes into great depth in the subjects that it offers. I believe that this depth has heightened my understanding of my degree course and has allowed me to make connections between topics and concepts. Since the IB tests not only knowledge, but also the application of knowledge, I feel that I am capable of thinking more broadly and profoundly. I feel as though this will help me in my career, as I have become accustomed to looking beyond simple information to get a more holistic understanding of its meaning. This, I believe, is key to curiosity, innovation, and ultimate success in any field.





## LIFE AFTER ACS

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We want every student to outgrow us and leave ACS Hillingdon feeling ready to take the next step in their lives, secure in the knowledge of who they are and what they do best.

Not surprisingly, the majority of our students go on to university. Our university and college counsellors provide a wide range of expert support tailored to the individual student, from researching their options to succeeding in selection. This attention to detail and in-depth guidance, based on many decades of university counselling and admissions experience, significantly improves our students' chances of securing a place at their chosen college or university.

The result is that students leave us with world-class qualifications that enable them to flourish in the most prestigious and demanding university environments, including the Russell Group and the Ivy League. Just as importantly, they leave ACS Hillingdon with a real understanding and respect for the world around them, a thirst for learning and confidence in their own abilities. It is an unbeatable combination.





## JOINING THE ACS FAMILY

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Whether you are making an international move or simply changing schools locally, we're here to help, starting with answering your every question.

We are committed to supporting our students from their first day with us through the very best in personalised pastoral care. We do everything we can to ensure a smooth introduction to the ACS Hillingdon family - with our student ambassadors, buddy families, country representatives, welcome committees and social events for new students and their families.

If you'd like to know more you can visit our campus for a one-to-one tour or come along to one of our Open Days – whatever suits you best. Just contact our admissions office on **+44(0) 1895 816802** or **[hilladmissions@acs-schools.com](mailto:hilladmissions@acs-schools.com)**

To apply for a place for your child please visit **[www.acs-schools.com/hillingdon](http://www.acs-schools.com/hillingdon)**

**We look forward to welcoming you to our school.**

A young boy with dark hair, wearing a grey and white checkered shirt and a teal tie, is shown from the chest up. He is looking off to the right with a focused expression. The background is dark and out of focus. Overlaid on the image is the text "READY? SET. GO!" in large, white, sans-serif capital letters.

READY?  
SET.  
GO!



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