

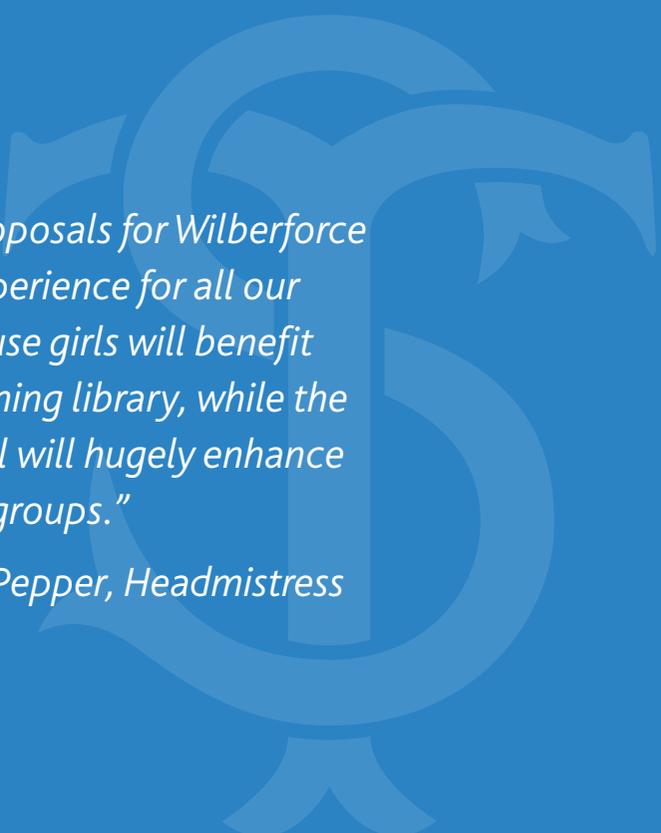


The Study  
Wimbledon



## The Development of Wilberforce House:

*Vision for Now and for  
the Future*



*"I am delighted to share these exciting proposals for Wilberforce House which will transform the school experience for all our current and future pupils. Wilberforce House girls will benefit from new spacious classrooms and a stunning library, while the impressive multipurpose performance hall will hugely enhance the life of the school for pupils in all year groups."*

*Mrs Susan Pepper, Headmistress*

# Background

*The acquisition of Wilberforce House in August 1993 marked a new chapter in the history of The Study, a school with a reputation for excellence in educating girls since 1893.*



At this time, the school had made the momentous decision to become a prep school and no longer take girls through their GCSE years. Demand for prep places drove the Board's decision to expand The Study by acquiring the purpose built William Wilberforce School, which sat on four acres of land adjacent to the Common, whilst still retaining the original school at Spencer House on Peek Crescent.

Since then, Wilberforce House has gone from strength to strength, and currently houses girls from Reception to Year 3. The central feature of the school, the Octagon, is a historical building and has

always been used as a school since it was built in 1758. It is a fitting symbol of The Study's ethos of history, longevity and traditional values. The 1970's purpose built classrooms adjacent to this central feature have served the school well over the years, but were designed for a different era and have had few improvements. The current Headmistress, Senior Leadership Team and the Governing Board are acutely aware that the site does now need to be developed and improved, both to enhance the educational experience for our current pupils, but also to ensure that the school is best placed to educate young girls for many decades into the future.

# Vision

*After careful consideration in partnership with architects, designers, engineers and in consultation with the local council, the proposed vision for the development of the Wilberforce House site includes:*

- 6 new large, light, airy classrooms for girls in Years 1, 2 and 3.
- A multipurpose performance hall to be used and enjoyed by girls in ALL year groups.
- New break out spaces and a large open plan library providing a stimulating and flexible learning environment.
- New public/visitor entrance and lobby with exhibition space and front of house office space, all with a welcoming, contemporary and airy feel.
- Re-landscaped playground to enhance the external aesthetic of the school and the girls' leisure time.

We are working with leading experts in their field to bring this vision to life and make it a reality for ALL our pupils to benefit from and enjoy. Nicholas Hare Architects have drawn up designs and plans for the new building which are both practical and inspirational, borne out of two years of getting to know the school and understanding its requirements and aspirations for its future. Developing Projects will be in place to manage the project, help minimise disruption and ensure its timely implementation over the build period, having already successfully project managed refurbishment schemes at Spencer House.

Jayne Bird, Partner at Nicholas Hare, sets out the architectural vision for the new development:

*"The new performing arts and teaching wing will provide state of the art facilities. The new development has been carefully considered to sit as a backdrop to the Octagon, which has been retained as the focal point of the development, recognising its historical significance.*

*The design has evolved taking influence from the existing context, a sympathetic and contemporary translation of traditional building forms, utilising crafted brick facades, pitched roofs and bay windows.*

*The new entrance is located on the south side of the Octagon, with a welcoming pathway leading to it alongside the performance garden, completely separated from car parking and vehicular access, creating a safer arrival for pupils and visitors.*

*A generous foyer and gallery provides opportunities to celebrate the girls' work and forms a vibrant gathering space alongside the new performance hall."*

We look forward to building on The Study's legacy of educating and nurturing happy, confident and successful girls for many more years to come. We value your understanding and support as we make this important investment for both the current girls and in the future of the school.



# Rationale

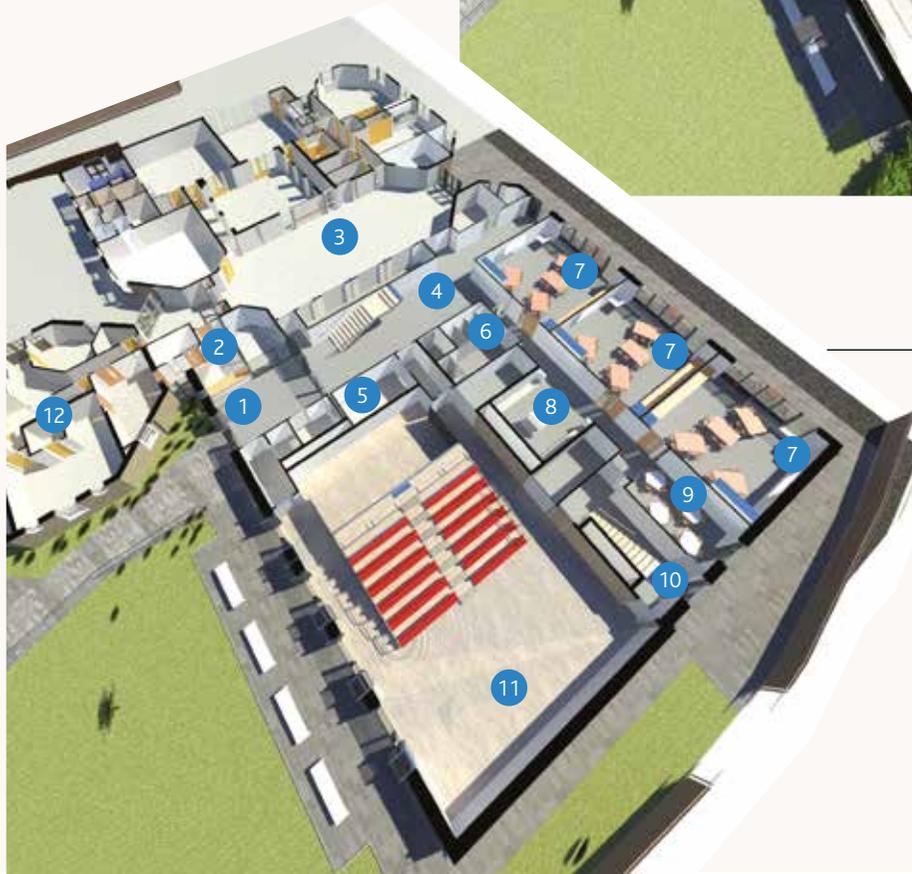
*The decision to make major enhancements to Wilberforce House has been under discussion by the Senior Leadership Team and the Board of Governors over the last five years.*

The school has greatly enhanced Spencer House during summer 2017, with many improvements to the classrooms and library, hall, kitchen, and a newly landscaped playground. It is now the turn of Wilberforce House, which, whilst a happy environment for the children, is ready for a long

overdue modernisation in order to deliver what our pupils need now and for the future. We have refurbished the Reception classes in recent years and now propose upgrading the southern half of the site by rebuilding this part of the school.

## First Floor - cut away view

- 1 Library
- 2 Reception and offices
- 3 Stairwell and lobby
- 4 Learning support office
- 5 Lift and WC
- 6 WC
- 7 Classroom
- 8 Cloaks
- 9 Group room
- 10 Secondary stairwell
- 11 Main hall balcony
- 12 Octagon



## Ground Floor - cut away view

- 1 Main Entrance foyer
- 2 Reception and offices
- 3 Existing hall
- 4 Gallery and stairwell
- 5 Store and WC
- 6 WC
- 7 Classroom
- 8 Cloaks
- 9 Group room
- 10 Secondary stairwell
- 11 Main hall
- 12 Octagon



The Study Preparatory School

020 8947 6969

[Development@thestudyprep.co.uk](mailto:Development@thestudyprep.co.uk)

[www.thestudyprep.co.uk](http://www.thestudyprep.co.uk)