

ACCESS ALL AREAS - MARYLEBONE



Illustration: Maggie Li

STREET-HEARTS

Montagu Square

A majestic Georgian garden square, one of the jewels in Marylebone's property crown

Brunswick Mews

Compact, characterful mews houses – quintessential central London living

Bryanston Square

Imposing Georgian brick-fronted townhouses overlooking manicured communal gardens

TRANSPORT

Much of the West End is walkable from Marylebone, but if you're in a hurry, the Bakerloo line from Marylebone tube station will get you to Oxford Circus in five minutes and Piccadilly Circus in seven. The Bakerloo, Jubilee, Hammersmith, District and Circle lines all run through Baker Street station – and then there's the Central line at Marble Arch and Bond Street. Add that to 15 bus routes and a mainline station. Few areas are better served by public transport.

MARYLEBONE

History

Marylebone has its origins in the manor of Tyburn, which the Domesday Book records as having a population of 50 (fewer than the number of traffic wardens in the area today). Henry VIII persuaded the lords of the manor to part with the lands and turned the fields and woods into a deer park. In the early 18th century, men and women gathered at Marylebone Gardens to watch bear baiting, prize fights and duels. Building began in the mid-1700s; by 1799 virtually all land between Oxford Street and Marylebone Road had been developed.



“Marylebone Lane is my favourite corner. I really love the choice of small family-run businesses like Paul Rothe & Son and The Golden Hind. Other favourites are Caffé Caldesi, The Ivy Café (open from 7.30 – ideal for breakfast meetings) and the casual Korean street food at On The Bab. I also enjoy the eclectic shopping at Oliver Bonas, VV Rouleaux, and I love the clothes at Yacco Maricard.”

Dee Callanan, McGlashans



SCHOOLS

★ THE SHORTLIST

Portland Place School

Independent co-ed day school for pupils aged 8 to 18 years. (020 7307 8700; portland-place.co.uk)

Francis Holland School, Regent's Park

Independent day school for girls aged 11 to 18 years. (020 7723 0176; fhs-nw1.org.uk)

Wetherby Preparatory School

Independent day school for boys aged 7 to 13 years. (020 7535 3520; wetherbyprep.co.uk)

Queen's College London

Independent day school for girls aged 11 to 18 years. (020 7291 7000; qcl.org.uk)

International Community School – primary

Independent co-ed day school for pupils aged 9 to 11 years. (020 7298 8827; icschool.co.uk)



CO-ED 'VERSUS SINGLE SEX

If you're the parent of an über-bright daughter, the single-sex-versus-co-ed argument might seem pretty cut and dried: all-girls schools dominate the London league tables. And according to the Girls' Schools Association, pupils at its schools are far more likely to tackle 'tough' A-levels like sciences and maths – then claim a disproportionately large chunk of the top grades in those subjects.

"Girls tend to mature earlier, and have a stronger work ethic," says Susan Hamlyn of the *Good Schools Guide*. "Once you get over the silly time at about 12, when friendships are incredibly intense, emotional and fluid, there's something about the solidarity, camaraderie and friendship in all-girls schools that's very strengthening."

Boys, meanwhile, tend to thrive in co-education, where ambitious girls can spark them into action. But Adam Pettitt, head of co-ed Highgate School, believes that both sexes benefit. "Boys' low boredom threshold keeps teachers on their inventive and inspiring toes; girls' interest in mastering process and securing understanding

ratchets up ambition, maturity and insight," he says. "Two halves of a richer whole."

This chimes with the popular view that educating boys and girls together is more natural and healthy (as Adam says, it "leads our young women and men to forge their identity with confidence, thought and independence"). But in recent decades, the lines between single sex and co-ed have blurred. Single sex schools do a lot more mingling than they used to. And 'Diamond' schools like Forest School in Walthamstow, which takes boys and girls but educates them separately, can offer the best of both worlds.

So which option to go for? "Look at the child you've got," says Susan. "A bouncy little girl's going to be fine anywhere, but a shy one would be completely overwhelmed in a school full of rugby-playing boys. The same goes for boys."

"I always tell parents to try and imagine their 10-year-old child as a 15-year-old, when they'll have far more independence and a social life. And keep that future child in mind."

PROFILE

The Head



CHARLES GILLINGHAM

FRANCIS HOLLAND SCHOOL

What makes your school different?

It's somewhere every kind of girl can thrive, where she is known as an individual and where she will be inspired intellectually. Our girls also develop a social conscience through voluntary work, charitable fundraising and direct social action.

What's your personal educational ethos?

Good teachers inspire great learners. The best have a love of their subject, fantastic subject knowledge and a sprinkling of magic in the way they can enthuse a class of 20 teenagers.

What extra-curricular activities can you offer?

We have a swimming pool in the basement, which is a big plus. Otherwise, most of our sport takes place across the road in Regent's Park. We do everything from kick-boxing and yoga to netball and hockey. Art, drama and music are big news, too.

How do you balance these with the academic side?

We make sure that all girls have frequent one-to-ones. We have teaching and learning development groups for staff, there's a generous training budget and we make significant use of technology in lessons. *Francis Holland School, Regent's Park, Ivor Place, NW1 (020 7723 0176; fhs-nw1.org.uk)*