

A HISTORY OF LEARNING



DLD
COLLEGE
L O N D O N

ESTABLISHED 1931





DLD College London is a leading independent boarding and day college situated in the heart of this iconic capital city, overlooking Westminster and the River Thames. Our students, aged 14 years and upwards, study a range of programmes including GCSEs, BTECs, A-levels and International Foundation Programmes. At DLD we focus on each student as an individual, offering each person the best teaching and educational resources in a dynamic and energetic environment with modern world-class facilities. Our College is noted for its friendliness and informality; we treat our students as young adults, and aim to build their confidence and raise their expectations of themselves.

The College's location at 199 Westminster Bridge Road is its fifth home since Davies, Laing and Dick (or DLD as it's now known) was founded in 1931 to provide tutoring for Oxbridge and Colonial Service entrance exams. Though many changes in education have taken place in the numerous decades that followed, our vision and fundamental aim of helping individual students to achieve their academic potential has remained the same.



34 Gloucester Terrace *



The origins of this vision took root with the founding of Davies, Laing and Dick in 1931 after the meeting of three tutors: Mr Vernon Davies (BA), Mr A G Laing (BSc) and Mr J Bernard Dick (MA), but can be traced back further to the years after 1924 when Mr Davies taught at Fernley, Maidenhead, a residential educational institution run by Mr Lucian Oldershaw (MA JP). The firm, Oldershaw and Davies, expanded with a London branch set up in Lancaster Street, Hyde Park along with a separate establishment under Mr Davies' name in Sussex Place, for Civil Service Examinations for the Foreign Office and Diplomatic Services, of which Mr Davies was Head.

In 1927, Mr Laing joined Fernley as a tutor and when Mr Davies took over the running of the London branch in 1929, Mr Laing joined him as a Partner and it became known as Davies and Laing. Lancaster Street was where Mr Dick joined as a tutor and was offered a partnership, joining Mr Laing and Mr Davies (Senior Partner), and thus Davies, Laing and Dick was established at 34 Gloucester Terrace, Hyde Park, London.

As the business thrived, there was an expansion into 36 Gloucester Terrace, before larger premises were found in 1937 at 7 Holland Park, a prestigious residential building which backed on to Holland Park. To meet the demand of increasing numbers of students, many of whom were from public schools, further rooms were rented in neighbouring buildings during the 1930s. Science tuition was organised by Mr Laing, who also taught Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry, and Mr Dick was the Principal of Davies, Laing and Dick. The work, which was individual tuition, concerned Service Candidates, the Ordinary and Higher School Certificates, University Entrance Examinations and Mechanical Science qualifying at Cambridge; later Elementary and Advanced tuition were also taught after hours.

In the earlier years at Holland Park, the tutorial system took place in spacious classrooms, which contained glass offices for individual tuition, and also for supervising students' studies.

* Buildings as they appear today.



7 Holland Park *



Educational requirements did not cease with the outbreak of the Second World War in 1939, although there was a discontinuation of the Civil Service Examinations. Therefore, the staff and forty students of DLD were temporarily rehoused at Radley College, Oxfordshire and educational successes continued there until all returned to Holland Park, in January, 1940. The demand for education continued to grow, with Mathematics tuition reported at its highest level. Despite the difficulties experienced during these uncertain times, DLD was reportedly described as having a happy and homely atmosphere.

During the Post-War years, significant shifts in attitudes towards education occurred on a national level, with the introduction of free secondary education for all, and the establishing of the tripartite system for state-funded education. For DLD there was a growth in the development of tuition for the Lower and Higher certificates of the Joint Boards. The atmosphere in the College at this time was a welcoming and friendly one; staff and student numbers continued to grow, including an increase in

female students, prompting the introduction of more mixed-study groups. Females represented 25% of all DLD students by the mid-1950s and this rose to 40% in the 1960s, which was a reflection of the general change in gender roles in society as a whole during this period. The early 1950s also marked an important change in leadership for DLD: shortly after the war Mr Laing decided to step down from his position as Director. Then, sadly the deaths of founding member Mr Davies in 1952 and Mr Dick's in 1953 affected the College.

The continuing educational changes experienced in the country during the 1950s had an impact on private education, such as the emergence of new universities and polytechnics offering free higher education, and tutorial colleges at the time were viewed as 'crammers', intensely preparing students in a short time for their examinations. The introduction of the General Certificate of Education examinations, O Levels (GCE) and A Levels (GCE Advanced) in the 1950s meant that services or professional bodies began to require A Level qualifications instead of their own examinations, affecting the candidates attending DLD.

* Buildings as they appear today.



10/11 Pembridge Square



The College's student population, the majority of whom came from the independent sector, was continuously expanding and included an increasing number of international students. During this period the Managing Director and Principal was Dr Tom Winslow, and the Chairman of Directors was Colonel Dalby, who had a long association with the firm and its founders. The increase in students aged 16-18 years old attending DLD for O and A level studies was accompanied by a growth in tutors and subject departments (such as English, Maths, History, Modern

Languages, Geography and Economics) and a general redevelopment of the College's facilities, which also encompassed substantial additions to the Science laboratories, equipment and department.

As DLD continued to prosper, the development of the College hastened the need for greater, more suitable premises, which were found at 10/11 Pembridge Square, Notting Hill; and so the College began to move its students in January, 1960.

By 1960, DLD had helped around 3,000 candidates to success in their examinations, and over the next decade would help a further 8,000 pupils pass their O and A level qualifications. During the 1960s and 1970s DLD occupied both premises, 7 Holland Park and 10/11 Pembridge Square. These listed, Victorian buildings were styled similarly, being three-storeys and situated on tree-lined streets, and increased DLD's capacity to over 400 students. In 1967, Dr Rolf Schroder (PhD) was appointed Managing Director and Principal of the College and this was followed in 1969 by the appointment of Mr John Dalby (MA) as Chairman succeeding his father. Further advancements took place





Pembridge Square illustration produced in water colour by Sir Hugh Casson to celebrate DLD's Diamond Jubilee.

and the College offered spacious and contemporary laboratories, a newly formed extensive library and an examination area so students did not have to sit exams externally.

These changes occurred alongside expansions in departments such as Art, Modern Languages, Science, Careers, Welfare and the introduction of extra-curricular activities, sports, and students' annual social events. The updated equipment and facilities of the College meant the presence of technological developments was also becoming more noticeable. The College tutorial system was transformed to incorporate group tuition during the mid-1970s, though individual tuition still took place, and students were under close supervision from the Directors of Studies in each house.



By 1981, the Holland Park premises had been closed and DLD's students were mainly at 10/11 Pembridge Square. At this time the Davies, Laing and Dick Group consisted of DLD, Wetherby School, Dr Rolfe's Montessori School and the Falcons School, and grew to twelve schools by the late 1990s. The College was under the management of Mr Peter Boorman (MA) who was appointed Principal in 1986. Its personal tutor system offered one and two-year courses as well as short and retake courses and prepared students for university entrance with the close monitoring of students' progress in a structured and supportive environment. Prior to joining DLD, Mr Boorman had set up Abbey Tutors in London in 1985, and during his time with the company



100 Marylebone Lane

a group of Abbey Tutorial Colleges was established during the 1990s including Abbey Cambridge, Abbey Manchester and Abbey Birmingham. DLD had long shed its association as a 'crammer' and the negative connotations that accompanied this label, and was becoming the choice of sixth form educational destination for many students.

The reputation of DLD was strengthened further under the leadership of Mrs Elizabeth Rickards (MA, PGCE & FRSA), who became Principal of the College in 1996. In the years that followed, the overall student population was 400 and there was a strong sense of community among tutors and students. The personal tutoring system offered a stimulating learning environment and the traditional focus on the individual student's needs remained. This sense of belonging and personal approach extended beyond the classroom, and was also enhanced by the rich variety of extra-curricular activities on offer, including Film Making, Vocal Ensembles, the Philosophy Club, DLD Youth Theatre, along with an array of sports and other pursuits including Football, Basketball, Yoga, Dance and Rock Climbing.





Abbey College London



22 Grosvenor Gardens

In 2001, the Davies, Laing and Dick Group (and educational institutions within it, including the Abbey Colleges), became part of the Alpha Plus Group. During this time average class sizes were 6, there were 360 full time students and in 2003 the A level pass rate was 98%, with A/C grades at 78%. The College was continuing to expand and moved to larger premises in 100 Marylebone Lane, Marylebone in 2004. The two interconnecting buildings, which housed the newly designed College, had a Victorian façade and featured a courtyard. The College now contained an 80-seat theatre, a sizeable Art, Design and Photography department with studio and darkroom, and three modern Science laboratories among other facilities, supporting the growing departments such as Art, Drama, Music and IT.

Over the last decade, successes at DLD have included placing over 600 students at Russell Group universities, over 50 students at Oxbridge, with many more going to prominent Art, Music, Drama Colleges and prestigious international universities. Further changes occurred in academic development and the student population, most notably in 2012, with the appointment of Principal, Mrs Rachel Borland (MA)

who was given the momentous remit of merging DLD with its sister College, Abbey London, based at 22 Grosvenor Gardens. DLD College functioned across two London campuses, Marylebone and Belgravia, with a multinational student population totalling 420.

After eleven years in Marylebone, DLD moved again in 2015 to 199 Westminster Bridge Road, joining London's iconic skyline with its modern crystalline building including 15 floors of boarding and outstanding bespoke educational facilities, set among the historical, esteemed buildings and culturally rich surroundings of Westminster.

With over 200 contemporary accommodation rooms, the new boarding college offered a unique learning environment with cutting edge technology, modern teaching resources and a wealth of pastoral support for DLD's 500 students.

Academic successes continued: in 2017 the A-level pass rate was 99% at DLD, with 87% A*-C grades and BTEC students achieved a 100% success rate for the fourth year in succession. Further successes were achieved by the International Foundation Programme students with a 100% pass rate in Engineering and 84% pass rate in Business and Economics.



199 Westminster Bridge Road



“Developing the next generation of leaders to take their place in a challenging and diverse world (DLD)”

Irfan Latif, Principal of DLD College London.

With the appointment of Mr Irfan Latif (BSc (Hons), PGCE, FRSA & FRSC) as Principal of DLD in 2018 the College's global vision moves forward, embracing the diversity within our staff, student population and wider community, encompassing our ever-expanding domestic and international scholars, while still focusing on the development and journey of the individual.

Our academic portfolio continues to grow. The successful programmes we offer, ranging from the traditional GCSE and A Level course to the new BTEC and IFP programmes such as Fashion Management or Engineering, combined with our exceptional educational facilities and Enrichment Programme demonstrates the College's innovative and flexible response to a rapidly changing and technologically advancing world.

This vision, together with our holistic approach and the unyielding high standards of DLD's teachers, gives our students a unique opportunity to progress and flourish both academically and personally. As the College evolves and responds to the challenges of a modern world, we retain our core values: helping individuals to achieve their full potential both as students and as future citizens of a globalised world, and lead them confidently on to the next chapter of their lives.





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