Dulwich College | Beijing

Our Heritage

Dulwich College Beijing was the second to join the Dulwich College International (DCI) family of schools, opening its doors in 2005 to a few hundred students. Dulwich College Beijing is made up of over 1570 students from age 3 to age 18, with over forty-five different nationalities represented in our diverse student body.

Our links to Dulwich College, founded in 1619, are strong, and we collaborate closely with the other schools in the network to encourage an international outlook and create an extended community where academic ability is fostered, creativity is valued, and diversity is celebrated.

We are proud to share a common heritage with all the schools in the DCI network, and equally value the traditions, unique to our school, that we have created since we opened.

Our Traditions

Dulwich College Beijing is much more than a British school. It is an International school in Beijing with British independent school ethos and values, which draws upon 400 years of excellence and tradition from Dulwich College. Our traditions and values form our culture and are firmly embedded in all that we do. They also build the sense of community and connect the school to past, present and future.

We celebrate the traditions of our diverse families through a focus upon festivals such as Christmas and Chinese New Year. We observe events of global importance such as Remembrance Day, where the ultimate sacrifice that was made by over 800 Old Alleynians (alumni of Dulwich College) through war and conflict is honoured and respected.

Founder's Day is an annual event on the calendar and a celebration of our links with Dulwich College and our sister schools around the world. It is our opportunity to enjoy everything that makes us Dulwich, and is always a special community day to remember.

Every day we embody the best of the traditions of a strong British international school through our pastoral structures, such as our house system and the opportunities that we provide for our young people to confidently articulate their thoughts and develop their leadership skills.

Student Leadership

We encourage students across the College to involve themselves in the wider College community and offer support to one another. Our Student Council is made up of students from each Year group who learn to listen and work with one another while voicing the views of their peers. Our most senior students are encouraged to take on additional responsibilities and to act as ambassadors for the College. Each year, our Head Boy and Head Girl are selected from our most senior students and a select number of students are nominated to take on the role of prefects. Our student leadership team sets a strong example to younger students and act as a point of contact for students throughout the College.

Pastoral Care and the House System

The system of pastoral care is highly developed at Dulwich College Beijing.

Our class teachers and form tutors are responsible not only for every student's academic development, but also for ensuring they receive the pastoral support they need. Our school has a pastoral support team for students at all levels, and all of them follow a Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) course appropriate to their age and coordinated across the year groups.

Our House system is an integral part of the College pastoral care structure. Many international school students experience a great deal of change in their lives. As their parents move from country to country, they make new friends and adapt to different cultures and school systems. We ensure that children are welcomed into the Dulwich community, that we know them well and that they are supported during their time at the College.

The House System builds a sense of community within the student body and helps to develop students' leadership skills. House Captains and students are responsible for helping to organise House activities, which normally take the form of friendly competitions.

Our Houses

On arriving at our school, all students and staff are allocated to one of five Houses, where they remain during their time at Dulwich. Our Houses are named after inspirational and accomplished people: Edward Alleyn, Sir Pelham Grenville Wodehouse, Jesse Owens, Soong Ching-ling and Amy Johnson:

Alleyn House

Named for Edward Alleyn (1566 – 1626). Actor Edward Alleyn, through his association with Philip Henslowe and Christopher Marlowe, ignited the theatres on London’s Bankside with thrilling and ground breaking plays. His most important legacy was the founding of Dulwich College, the “School of God’s Gift”, in South London 400 years ago.

Johnson House

Named for Amy Johnson (1903 – 1941). Amy Johnson was an intrepid British aviator and the first female pilot to fly solo from Britain to Australia. She set numerous flight records during her career and rose to First Officer in the British Air Transport Auxiliary during the Second World War, transporting Royal Air Force aircraft.

Owens House

Named for Jesse Owens (1913 – 1980). In the space of 45 minutes in 1935, African-American athlete Jesse Owens set three world records in athletics and tied a fourth. The following year he was the most decorated athlete at the Berlin Olympics, breaking two Olympic records and winning four gold medals for the United States. He later became an inspirational speaker and spent much of his life working with youth groups. In 1976 U.S. President Jimmy Carter awarded him the Medal of Freedom, the highest American civilian honour.

Soong House

Named for Soong Qing Ling (1893 – 1981). Soong Qingling held several prominent positions, representing the Chinese Government in her travels abroad in the early 1950s. She demonstrated an unswerving commitment to human rights and the elimination of poverty. She was Honorary President of the All China Women’s Federation and formed the China Welfare Institute, dedicated to the welfare of children. She was named Honorary President of the People’s Republic of China in 1981, making her the first female president of an Asian country.

Wodehouse House

Named for Sir P.G. Wodehouse (1881 – 1975). Sir P.G. Wodehouse was one of the greatest comic writers and humorists of the 20th century, sending up elite British society in fiction and drama. He was educated at Dulwich College, to which he remained devoted all his life. He published more than ninety books, forty plays and two hundred short stories.

"Mentorship comes from our school’s ethos of respect and collaboration. We start allocating students to houses in Junior School, and ensure that the Senior School students encourage them to join in activities as well. We want to give voice and ownership"

- Klaudia Tomaszun, Assistant Head of Enrichment

“I love the friendly competition between the houses. In the end, it teaches us more about teamwork and sportsmanship than anything. There’s a heated rivalry, but it makes us come together as a student body, thanks to the guidance of the older students”

- Elvis, Year 9, Alleyn House

Uniform

Students from Reception to Year 11 wear the school uniform. School uniform isn't about conformity, but reflects a long-standing tradition from the founding school and is a badge of pride and school identity. See file below for details of our uniform.

Founding School

The future, founded in 1619

Dulwich College was founded by Edward Alleyn on 21 June 1619 with letters patent from King James I. This historical document, affixed with the Great Seal of England, still survives. An actor linked to Shakespeare's Globe Theatre and an entrepreneur in the world of Elizabethan and Jacobean theatre, Alleyn was a colourful and famous figure of his days. At the age of 47, Alleyn decided to establish a school for boys in London that would provide sound learning, strong artistic pursuits and good manners.

Today Dulwich College is an academically selective boys’ school, attracting students from the top 15% of the UK academic range. Set in South London, the school benefits from historic buildings sitting alongside modern architecture and beautiful green open spaces. Dulwich College has built a solid reputation with its strong academics, inspired teaching and educational innovations.

The College has long been a pioneer in education. In the 1880s, Master Canon Carver introduced the “Modern Curriculum” to the College, and in the 1940s the College embarked on the "Dulwich Experiment", admitting students on a needs-blind basis, based on academic ability alone. Among the beneficiaries of the Dulwich Experiment was Lord George of St. Tudy (Eddie George), the Dulwich postmaster’s son who became Governor of the Bank of England. Dulwich College was the first British independent school to take its practices and ethos to Asia. The College also has produced leading scientists, actors, film directors, musicians, sportsmen and writers, a number of whom have visited Dulwich College International (DCI) schools to talk of their experiences.

Dr Spence and Deputy Master (External) Cameron Pyke make annual inspection visits to DCI schools, whose teachers and students enjoy close collaboration with their peers from our founding school on academic and co-curricular projects each year.

Guiding Statements

Our guiding statements provide Dulwich College Beijing with the compass in which to base our decision-making and to ensure we remain focused on our students and the broader DCB community. The Vision, Mission and Values underpin a range of policies and form the parameters of our annual College Development Plan.

Our guiding statements include not only our vision, mission & values but also include our definition of learning and our commitment to internationalism and global citizenship.

Internationalism

At Dulwich College Beijing, we believe internationalism encompasses respect between everyone in our school and our wider community. We celebrate the diversity that exists within our international community and we aim to contribute to the understanding and mutual respect between our host country of China and the rest of the world. We adhere strongly to our College ethos and values, which allow us to thrive as a community. Internationalism helps us recognize all that we can share, all that we can learn, and all that we can build, together.

Global Citizenship

Everyone in our community – students, staff and parents – is a learner. All our learning supports the belief that we each have a responsibility to ‘build bridges to the world’. In doing so we try to ensure our actions seek the deepest understanding of, and most positive impact on, the circumstances and dignity of our fellow human beings, regardless of who they are or where they are. For us, this is global citizenship in action.

Our Philosophy and Objectives have been converted into child-friendly statements with relevant Values attached to each. We will use these regularly to help guide our school community towards the Philosophy and Objectives.

A) We provide a safe, secure and stimulating environmen

Our school is a fun and safe place to learn.

VALUES: KINDNESS AND RESPECT

B) We recognise that each child is unique

We can be ourselves

VALUES: CONFIDENCE AND OPEN-MINDEDNESS

C) We challenge and support each child to be the best they can be

We all work together to do the best we can

VALUES: CONFIDENCE AND RESILIENCE

D) We educate the whole child

We learn through everything we do

VALUES: OPEN-MINDEDNESS

E) We emphasise the benefits and responsibilities of working together

We play and work together as a team

VALUES: OPEN-MINDEDNESS AND RESPONSIBILITY

F) We know that meaningful learning involves taking risks

We trust ourselves to try new things

VALUES: CONFIDENCE AND RESILIENCE

G) We value awareness of the natural world and its resources

We will try our best to take care of our world

VALUES: RESPONSIBILITY AND KINDNESS

H) We prepare children to live their lives with a spirit of respect for themselves and others

We respect ourselves and others

VALUES: RESPECT AND INTEGRITY

I) We aim to prepare them for a future that is unpredictable

I will be prepared for change

VALUES: OPEN-MINDEDNESS AND RESILIENCE

Facilities

Our College offers an educational environment designed to nurture the intellectual, physical, social and emotional development of our students. Our campus provides outstanding facilities, including two sports domes, a multi-purpose sports hall, six tennis courts, a FIFA two-star rated football pitch, a natural grass rugby pitch and Beijing's only cricket pitch. The school building houses the 602–seat Wodehouse Theatre, 300-seat Edward Alleyn Theatre, two Black Box theatres (offering more intimate spaces for performance), spacious music rooms, two ICT suites (including one specifically for music production), a fully equipped radio studio, light and airy art rooms and three libraries with access to over 70,000 resources.