

Why Teach in South West London & Surrey?

TimePlan Education has been successfully placing teachers in Southwest London & Surrey schools for over 20 years. We have helped Primary and Secondary teachers find their ideal teaching job in the local education authorities of: Surrey, Kingston, Richmond, Merton, Croydon, Sutton, Bracknell Forest, Slough, Reading, West Berkshire, Wokingham and Windsor & Maidenhead.



Southwest London & Surrey offers a beautiful local in which to live and teach. The region strikes the perfect balance between thriving boroughs and wooded parkland. Surrey itself has many smaller, picturesque villages, which have easy access to central London. You also have the choice to live in the South West of London in the hub of the city life. There are approximately 2.7 million people living in the area and it is one of the wealthiest sub-regions in London. There are excellent road and rail links into London, allowing you to not only explore England but also the world. The major airports of Heathrow and Gatwick are within easy reach. Home to a number of low cost airlines, cheap flights can be found to hundreds of destinations throughout Europe and North Africa – You will never be short of things to do!

There is something here to suit everyone. We all love living and working in Surrey and hope you will too!

The S/W London & Surrey Office offers opportunities in a diverse range of settings with some urban and extremely rural areas. Surrey itself has many smaller, picturesque villages, which have easy access to central London. You also have the choice to live in the South West of London in the hub of the city life. There is something here to suit everyone.

With such fantastic transport links and so much to do there is always something new to discover. Whether it be in England or by the quick transport links to Europe - who knows, you could spend your Friday evening in Paris or Amsterdam!

We all love living and working in Surrey and hope you will too.

The schools we cover

TimePlan's Southwest London & Surrey office is located in Kingston upon Thames and offers teaching job opportunities in a diverse range of settings, from urban to extremely rural schools. This office serves the London Boroughs of Richmond, Kingston, Merton (Wimbledon), Sutton and Croydon as well as the counties of Surrey and Berkshire.

There are around 1500 schools in the area, including very small village schools, very large secondary schools similar to those found in larger cities, and everything in-between. More often, you find that schools in this area are more affluent than the ones found in inner London and others are in Education Action Zones, meaning that a plan has been put in place to raise the standards in disadvantaged urban and rural areas.

Several schools in the TimePlan Surrey area achieve the highest academic results in the country and it has a high proportion of grammar, private and fee paying schools. Of course the area is also home to Eton College; the school for the Royal Family. TimePlan's S/W London & Surrey office is located in Kingston-upon-Thames, South-West London. This office serves the London Boroughs of

Richmond, Kingston, Merton (Wimbledon), Sutton and Croydon as well as the counties of Surrey and Berkshire.

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Things to do

If you can't decide between the country and the big city, then Surrey is the place for you! It's a good job teachers get such great holidays to explore all that Southwest London and Surrey have to offer.

You'll find a dazzling array of places to see, and things to do, from the thrills and excitement of Epsom or Ascot Race Course and tennis at Wimbledon, rugby at Twickenham or cricket at the Oval to the heart-stopping rides of Chessington World of Adventure. There is also close-by Henley, where the famous Henley Regatta is held each summer.

Shopaholic? Then why not enjoy a flutter in the chic boutiques of Richmond and Wimbledon Village, explore Kingston's large shopping centre, or hop on a train and be spoilt for choice in central London! Surrey's lively nightlife consists of stylish bars, excellent clubs, and good old English pubs.

Prefer something a little quieter? Surrey has some of the most beautiful countryside away from the hustle and bustle of city life. Richmond Park is a must for the odd picnic or cycle through the ground where the deer wander freely! Or why not get lost in the famous maze at Hampton Court Palace, just along the river Thames from the TimePlan office or ice skating at the Palace at Christmas? You can even try your hand at narrow boating along the English rivers or go and see if the Queen is home at Windsor Castle.

Accommodation

TimePlan's Surrey office is located in Kingston upon Thames, South West London. This office serves the London Boroughs of Richmond, Kingston, Merton (Wimbledon), Sutton and Croydon as well as the counties of Surrey & Berkshire.

The region is very diverse with some urban and extremely rural areas. Surrey itself has many smaller, picturesque villages, which have easy access to central London. There is something here to suit everyone.

When You First Arrive.....

Finding a place to stay is not as daunting as it first seems. There are many different options in South West London and Surrey, with thousands of places to stay!

Some people want to be close to the countryside, others would like to be near bars/clubs! Some people would like to share houses while others want flats on their own. All of which the area offers!

We recommend that you stay in temporary accommodation when you first arrive. Avoid signing a 6 month lease until you have looked around to find the right area for you. Remember it's a new country!

Temporary Accommodation.....

Below is some helpful information about getting settled with a place to call home once you arrive in the UK. There is a lot to take in, but it doesn't have to be an overwhelming process if you just focus on getting a short term arrangement first that can enable to you focus on setting yourself up in England.

You will make a lot of friends in your first few weeks – especially at the TimePlan socials! It's very likely that you will meet people in a similar situation who are also looking for places to live. It's best to look around as there are lots of great accommodation options in London at reasonable prices!

And remember, we are here to help you as well, so give us a ring if you have any questions!

“My Hostel Experience” - Kristin (Science and PE Teacher)

So you've decided to come and teach in England! How exciting! When I first decided to come to London I had no idea what areas were safe, which ones were 'happening' and did not want to arrange accommodation in a house without seeing or meeting the people. I stayed on a friend's couch for a while, but when my body imprint was permanent in the couch, I thought it was better to find something else!

I stayed with the [London Hostel Association](#). These hostels provide stays from a day up until retirement (no joke). It is most economical to stay for 2 weeks.

There are 11 hostels in some great areas in London which provide different levels of catering; catered houses or self-catered houses.

Prices start from £74/week for a self-catered dormitory style room. I'm currently staying at Holland house (above) for about £93/week meals included (bargain!) and it is on the same block as Buckingham Palace – Fantastic!

Check it out as it is a great way to settle until you really find what you are looking for.

Other Great links for long term hostels:

<http://www.cheaperthanhotels.co.uk/United-Kingdom/London/>

<http://barmybadger.com/>

www.travelstay.com

What about the YMCA?



If you are planning on being near the Surrey/South West London office when you first arrive, then have a look at the YMCA in Surbiton at www.kwymca.org.uk

Lots of people stay at the **YMCA Surbiton Centre**. They offer accommodation for one night or for several months plus they have health and fitness facilities. Rooms are basic, but comfortable with

en-suite facilities. Room rates start from **£42.50** and include a cooked breakfast.

The YMCA is only minutes from Surbiton station which is a 15 minute train ride to the London Eye, Westminster, Big Ben and other sightseeing!



Other avenues.....

Check out the sites below for short term accommodation suggestions for after you arrive in the UK:

www.hostelworld.com

www.bestlondonhostels.com

www.hostels.com

*A note about searching these sites would be that they don't sort by area, so it can take some time to trawl through the information to find one that is within good access of the trains/tubes going to the Surrey area schools.

Otherwise, accommodation located near Waterloo is convenient for getting to schools anywhere near Kingston/Surbiton/Wimbledon/Richmond whilst accommodation near London Bridge is convenient for Croydon/Sutton/south-central London area schools.

A lot of teachers look at [Accommodation London](#) when they first arrive as they do not require you to sign up for a six month lease, unless of course you want to. You can stay in this accommodation for a week or two while you get yourself settled!

If you look on [Gumtree](#) there is a section for short term flat/house share. Postings on this website are usually made by people who have leased a room themselves but the room becomes available for a few months when the tenant is travelling or absent. Usually, lets are for one or two months.

Long-Term Accommodation

For **long term accommodation**, it is a good idea to think about accessibility to the school(s) you'll be commuting to, and thus areas such as Clapham Junction/ Putney/ Wandsworth/ Earlsfield/ Wimbledon are quite convenient.

(Wimbledon is a particularly convenient area because of its access via train, tube and tram throughout all of southwest London.)

Of course, there are a ton of websites with information about finding accommodation in London, and it can be overwhelming. Remember, we have been in the same position before and can offer some advice on finding the location and flat/house that is right for you if you are uncertain and need your questions answered.

Take a look at areas our teachers have settled.....

Steph chose Kingston-upon-Thames

I first decided to move to Kingston-upon-Thames due to its location; it has great travel connections to central London (15 minutes by train), as well as a brilliant bus service all around Surrey, Richmond & Wimbledon and to all the places you may wish to visit in the area.

The cost can often depend on the room size - £100 week for a small single and around £200 for a large double bedroom, but generally they are reasonably cheap and most rooms are fully furnished and ready for you to move in.

I would also recommend the website www.flatmateclick.com as a good place to find others who are looking for a place to live.



Kingston is predominantly a retail area, with the large Bentalls Shopping Centre and beautiful Market Square containing all the shops you could need, as well as various coffee shops and cafes.

Along the river Thames, there is a wide selection of bars and restaurants to suit everyone, and with a large student population, the nightclubs are known as some of the best in the area.

There are also lots of places to escape the hustle and bustle of everyday life, such as Richmond Park, and Hampton Court, where you could try not to get lost in its famous maze. Esher is a great little town to visit and has the notorious Sandown Park Race Course.

Sarah chose Wandsworth/Clapham Junction.....



I found it really easy to find accommodation in this great area. My flat in Wandsworth/Clapham is situated very close to the river Thames; it has a lot attracting people to the area including great train and bus links to Gatwick airport, central London is only 15 minutes away and the South of England. The social life is great around here there is always a lot going, just over the bridge is Chelsea and Fulham, Putney is 5 minutes away and Wimbledon is just down the road. It is bustling with people and activity and is a great place to make friends for life. Sport and picnics are always going on in the common or in the parks and there is plenty to do at night from

great restaurants to a hive of pubs and even clubs! A number are in the good pub guide for Britain! You can find out about things to do in the free SW magazine and the TNT bible!

Of course it is only a train ride away from Twickenham Stadium to watch the amazing England rugby team at their home ground or in the summer the 'Rugby International Sevens' are played here and is a great day out of £10. Bargain!

Richmond and Kew is just a couple of stops of the train or a bus ride away, here you can go and watch the boat races along the Thames or visit the famous Kew gardens or Ham house. Don't forget each weekend Wandsworth has a great farmers market by the station or down Northcote Road.

Price range in this area but you can get a shared house/flat from £190 per week bills included. Property seems to come and go very fast in this area but there is always a wide range to see and to match everyone. You will find a lot of properties on www.gumtree.com and is a good place to start. Also I kept looking in local estate agents and signed up to their promotional emails of when properties become available.

Websites such as www.wandsworthtown.com are also helpful but you can plug in locations and postcodes into www.google.co.uk and it can direct you to a lot of local estate agents websites. Word of mouth is very big in this area so once you have got yourself a circle of friends someone always knows of a room properties near their homes or friends that have a room coming available. Anywhere with the 'SW' (South West) postcode also has a free newspaper and there is a section for rentals they are: Putney & Wandsworth Guardian or Post and Clapham Guardian or Post.



I was a bit dubious at first of moving, as house rental prices in Luton where I am from are relatively cheap, and I was worried that being so close to London, the prices here would be out of my range. I was recommended the website www.gumtree.com as a good place to start looking for accommodation. It turned out to be really helpful – you can find a flat share, a short term or long term lease, and find a price to suit you. After phoning a few of the phone numbers on the website, I finally found a place that sounded perfect, and after a viewing I was able to move in a week later, which meant no waiting around.

The cost can often depend on the room size - £100 week for a small single and around £200 for a large double bedroom, but generally they are reasonably cheap and most rooms are fully furnished and ready for you to move in.

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Mandy chose Wimbledon

Wimbledon's a great place to live, with lots of bars, restaurants and the famous Wimbledon Common. As a newcomer to the London and Surrey area, I found it easy to adapt to and everything I need is within reaching distance. Wimbledon has a great transport network, there are rail links to central London and it's on the District line. If you want to see the sights at weekends and get out and about, Wimbledon is really convenient, within 20 minutes you can reach central London, Clapham and places like Kingston and Sutton.



It's really good for shopping, with high street stores inside and around the Centre Courts shopping centre and a selection of smaller boutique type shops in Wimbledon Village. Wimbledon Village is close to the famous Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Club, during Wimbledon you may well spot famous tennis players wandering round. Bars and restaurants are plentiful. Walkabout (Australian bar) isn't far from the station; there are lots of bars around the Village and a selection of restaurants from Thai to Gastro Pub, all within walking distance from Wimbledon centre. The Greyhound Track is also a fun night out!

If you enjoy the outdoor life, Wimbledon Common is beautiful for walking and running, at the start of Wimbledon tennis, there's a fete on the Common too. There are several gyms within Wimbledon and a local leisure centre with swimming pool.

There are loads of places to let; rent varies so there's something for everyone. A room in a shared house can cost around £200 per week. Flats and houses vary, it's cheaper to rent towards South Wimbledon Tube Station, more expensive accommodation can be found closer to Wimbledon Village.

If you're looking for somewhere that offers great shopping and entertainment but is within easy reach of the countryside, Guildford is the place for you. The town centre has an excellent range of shops, with designer stores, cafes and restaurants. Guildford offers first class shopping and entertainment, however, it is also the gateway to some of the most stunning scenery in south east England. When you need a break from town and city life; villages, traditional pubs, stately homes, village greens and quaint rural hotels are all within easy reach – Just one quick train away from Wimbledon!

Shelley chose Raynes Park.....



Coming from South Africa I had been living in north London for a few months before I decided to cross the great divide and move south of the Thames! I decided on Raynes Park because a few of my friends lived in the area and because it's on a direct train line into central London (15 minutes to London Waterloo). It's also really close to the shops and restaurants in Wimbledon. I have a lovely house with a huge kitchen, lounge, dining area and a beautiful garden for bbqs in the summer. For a double room, you'd be looking from £180 per week. I've made so many new

friends in the area and it doesn't take long before you're running into people you know on the way to the station in the mornings and evenings!

You can easily find places to rent or buy in this area www.gumtree.com is a great first place to look but also local estate agents are helpful.



Raynes Park itself is one stop away from Wimbledon and has transport as well with tubes, buses, trains and trains linking you to the whole of London and South of England. It is very close to the Royal Borough of Kingston which is a beautiful town on the river Thames, Hampton Court Palace and of course Wimbledon itself where you can find plenty of things to do from shopping to culture and nightlife. Raynes Park is also on the same train line to Epsom

where you can have a great day at the races.

Lisa chose Battersea.....

I am Canadian teacher who arrived in England last year. When I first got to London, my biggest concern was finding somewhere affordable, yet comfortable that I could call home. I wanted to share with others and meet new people, but I also wanted to have some space of my own, not just a closet with a bed! I was very happy to find that there were so many options through various letting sites, such as www.gumtree.com and <http://uk.easyroommate.com>. I had no idea where to start! I first decided that I wanted to be located within an easy distance of rail or tube links for getting about, and I really liked the vibe of Clapham, so I focused my search there.



In no time, I had lined up a few appointments to view flats around the area. Whilst they varied greatly in size and condition, there were a number of places that appealed to me. I found a beautifully renovated flat within days and moved in with two other professionals my age. All flats I looked at were in the range of £90-110 per week for a double room, fully furnished. The flat I now live in is within walking distance of loads of restaurants, pubs, a large park and Clapham Junction station, which gets me anywhere I want to go- quickly! My flatmates are great as well and we are always out and about in London on weekends together.



This area is also very close to Battersea which has a fantastic firework display in the park on Guy fawkes night and is a bus ride away from one of the oldest and famous 'fruit and veg' markets in London – Borough market! If

you're a big cricket fan then the 'Oval' stadium is just one stop away, great place to get tickets for test matches of 20/20 cricket is about in the summer and a nice wind down to an evenings work with friends.

Becky chose Richmond.....

Having moved to London and stayed around the Heathrow area as it was close to the airport, I decided to branch out and move to



a place which was much more accessible for Surrey schools and was easier for nights out in central London. My boyfriend and I decided that for a mix of countryside and transport, Richmond was the best option for us, given its closeness to Richmond Park and an excellent bus service. Richmond also has an Underground station (District Line) and regular trains into London, Wimbledon and Clapham Junction.

Now before we started to plan our trips to IKEA, we needed to find a place to live! Luckily, another couple we knew were also looking for new accommodation, so we teamed up and began our search! We used a number of websites, but the best one was www.findaproperty.com, which gave us an easy breakdown of the different estate agents in the area and what they had on their property lists. The website also lets you type in your budget, so you never need worry about over-spending!

After about a week, we had secured a place near to the station, with off-street parking and two double bedrooms-Excellent! Parking is restricted in Richmond, so you will either have to buy a Resident's Parking Permit (about £70 for the year) or rent a property with off-street parking.

Flats vary greatly in Richmond, and you can expect to pay a little more than other areas due to the proximity to both the park and the travel links. Our flat cost £90 a week, with bills being an extra £40 per week.

Despite its being a more expensive area, Richmond is great for pubs and enjoying the River Thames, with boat trips and bike hire being offered. It also has an array of shops, so even the most committed shopaholic won't get bored!

Tips...

Options for living in London include renting a flat of your own, renting a room with use of shared facilities or sharing a house, flat or room.

When budgeting, find out if bills are inclusive or additional.

The paying of electricity, gas, water, television license, council tax and telephone bills depends on your situation. If you are renting a flat by yourself, it is likely that most bills will have to be paid by you. However, in flat share situations, the bills are often split amongst all the occupants. Additionally, some landlords include the cost of these bills into the rental price.

Remember Council Tax is usually an additional extra but this can vary depending on the rate of council tax (which varies across councils- Wandsworth council is cheapest in the country and includes the areas of Clapham Junction/ Wandsworth/ Putney/ Earlsfield). Check out areas carefully before organising to view properties to make sure they are within your price range.

When first renting, you will usually pay one month's deposit and a month's rent in advance. This may seem like a lot of money, but bear in mind that your advance rent means you don't have to pay rent again for a month. It simply ensures that your payments are always ahead of time rather than behind. Also remember that to calculate how much rent you will pay, you need to multiply the weekly rent by 52 and divide by 12. For example, if you share a flat with a friend and the total price is £250 per week, £250 x 52 divided by 12 is £1083 per month, £541.50 each.

Most long term lets will require you to sign a rental agreement or contract that ties you into a fixed term, usually 6 months. Some lets listed on Gumtree.com and accommodationinlondon.net will have shorter term or week to week options, however that may suit your needs. Be careful before signing anything, though, and be sure you are clear on the terms, such as whether you can transfer the tenancy to someone else if you leave

and whether your agreement applies only to yourself (your room) or to all housemates together. Contract or not, almost any rental accommodation will require 1 month up front plus 1 month-6 weeks deposit and it is a good idea to get some kind of agreement in writing about this to ensure you get the deposit back at the end of the tenancy.

Once you have found a property, you will need to sign a contract. Read this carefully and make sure you are present when the inventory check is done. When you leave the flat, the inventory will be checked and you will receive your deposit a little later. Be aware that if you are moving immediately to another property, you will need to arrange sufficient funds before leaving your current place.

Particularly helpful sites for long term accommodation arrangements are as follows:

www.gumtree.com

www.accommodationlondon.net

www.findaproperty.com

www.easylondon.com

www.timeout.com/london

www.london-daily.co.uk

www.aussieinlondon.com

www.londonnet.co.uk

www.bokinlondon.com

www.kiwiinlondon.com

www.thisislondon.com

Socials

On the second Friday of every month TimePlan Surrey holds a social evening for all its teachers and support staff in Central London. This is a great chance for you to make new friends and meet colleagues, so come along and have a drink on us! The dates of upcoming socials can be found in our events section Don't worry about ways of meeting others - every month TimePlan Surrey S/W London & Surrey holds a social evening for all of its teachers and support staff. This is a great chance for you to make new friends and meet colleagues, so come along and have a drink on us!

Whether it be a night at the pub or a social in the area with trips to local events we will keep you updated! You will soon meet people from all over the world!

Teaching in Surrey

Surrey is a county located in South East England that borders central London. The name Surrey is Saxon meaning 'South Ridge.' There are excellent transportation links in the area allowing you to explore all that Surrey has to offer. There are many commuter towns and villages in Surrey and it is one of the more affluent parts of the UK. After Greater London it is the most densely populated county. However, the best part about living in Surrey is not only its proximity to central London, but also the balance it strikes between vibrant, thriving boroughs and large parks and woodlands. It is the most wooded county in England and has the oldest untouched area of natural woodland in England, Box Hill. The beautiful River Thames meanders through the boroughs and the paths that follow the river are ideal for taking a bike ride or going for a leisurely walk. You will find most of the shops and restaurants on the high streets in Surrey that you would find in central London. There are often free events and activities in the area, as well as many sporting events, including world renowned Wimbledon tennis. The museums, galleries, shows and shopping of central London are easily accessible using the train and underground system. Although there are no airports in Surrey itself, it is well connected with London Gatwick and Heathrow airports on your doorstep.

Surrey has around 400 schools in the area and is a great place to teach. This list includes state, independent, special and sixth form schools.

There is no doubt that Surrey has a lot to offer. Walk along the traditional cobblestone high street of Guildford or explore the many shops and entertainment the town has to offer. Delve into the

town's connection to Lewis Carroll and Alice in Wonderland or discover the fascinating story of the River Wey, Surrey's secret waterway. Guildford is also home to the first known record of cricket.

In the borough of Elmbridge you will find the Elmbridge Commons, comprising of 1300 acres of habitats including woodlands, ponds and heathland; home to a variety of plant and animal life. The area of Cowey Sale at Walton on Thames is popular for a riverside walk with superb views of Hampton Court Palace; Henry VIII's most beloved home. By the time construction was finished in about 1540 the palace was one of the most modern and magnificent palaces in England. Visit the Tudor kitchens, tennis courts and bowling alleys that each of Henry's six wives and three children frequented. Or take a turn through one of the most visited mazes in the world, set amongst the 60 acres of breathtaking formal gardens. If speed is more your thing then visit the site of the famous Brooklands racing track at Weybridge. This was the world's first purpose built racing circuit and portions of its banked track are still in evidence. Nearby is the Brooklands Museum, home to a fine collection of racing and sports cars, as well as aeroplanes. You will also find the popular attractions of Sandown Park and Kempton Park racecourses, Thorpe Park and Chessington World of Adventure and Zoo close by.

In Mole Valley you will find the twin towns of the Surrey Hills, Dorking and Leatherhead. Here you will find rich artistic traditions with historic market towns, festivals and live performances. England's largest vineyard, Denbie's Wine Estate can also be found nearby. For the history buff, you will find the home of Victorian poet George Meredith, as well as the magnificent house built by William Lock in 1774. Woking, Surrey's second largest town, is best explored on foot or by cycle.

Teaching in Kingston-upon-Thames

Kingston Upon Thames is a fantastic place to live, offering a combination of picturesque, rural areas and buzzing town life, all within easy access of London. Transport links and rail networks are excellent; Central London is approximately 15 minutes away on a fast train from Surbiton.

Kingston is a great place to teach. There are more than 45 primary & secondary schools in Kingston, many of which will at some time need to employ new permanent members of staff or supply teachers to fill those unexpected teaching vacancies. This means there is a wealth of teaching jobs throughout the school year in Kingston.

TimePlan has spent the past 21 years building up excellent relationships with schools throughout the authority. TimePlan teachers fill [day-to-day supply](#), [short-term](#) and [long-term teaching jobs](#) and many teachers often end up securing permanent contracted teaching positions. We currently have teachers working in long-term supply roles in primary, secondary and special needs schools in Kingston. We also have a team of [guaranteed supply teachers](#) working throughout Kingston Upon Thames in day-to-day primary assignments. View our [current teaching vacancies in](#) Kingston Upon Thames.

[TimePlan's regional office](#) covering Kingston has an experienced team of warm and friendly education recruitment consultants. With the Southwest London & Surrey office based in Kingston, and a member of the team living in Kingston, they have a wealth of knowledge about local schools and the local area. Regular socials, training and individual support ensures that all of our Kingston teachers feel part of the TimePlan team.

Visit our [teaching jobs](#) pages to view our current long-term teaching jobs in **Kingston Upon Thames**.

Teaching in Richmond

Richmond benefits from fantastic nightlife, great shopping facilities and beautiful landscapes, with more green space than any other London borough. Transport links and rail networks are excellent; Central London is approximately 15 minutes away on a fast train from Richmond.

Richmond Park is the largest Royal Park in London, covering almost 1000 hectares. It is home to over 600 free roaming deer and is a tranquil landscape of woodlands, ponds and grasslands.

Teaching in Merton

Great days out in Merton

There are some lovely places to visit in Merton, the suggestions below are just a few of the things you can do in the borough without it costing very much money.

Centre of the borough

Donald Hope Library – Start either with one of the many newspapers, free internet access or take the children to story-time run by the sure start team

The Chapterhouse – Visit the 12th century priory a site of great historical significance and central to the history of Merton, then stroll to

Merton Abbey Mills – the craft village on the river Wandle, have a coffee and then take a walk down the

Wandle Valley – local nature reserve, take in the complex vegetation, riverside trees and woodland arrive at

Deen City Farm – one mile from Abbey Mills, it's the only urban community farm in the 4 boroughs of Merton, Croydon, Wandsworth and Sutton. It's run as a working farm so there's always something to see

East of the borough

Mitcham Common - is a 182 hectare (460 acres) site of Metropolitan Importance for Nature Conservation, a full morning can be spent there taking in the habitats and ponds, from there prolong your walk and take in the greens of Mitcham, including one of the oldest cricket pitches in the world.

Merton Heritage Centre - provides access to the borough's heritage through regularly changing exhibitions, educational facilities, loan of artefacts to schools, and an annual tour of local heritage locations.

Canons Leisure Centre - for a swim and then lunch and finally a trip to

Wandle Industrial Museum - The exhibition at the Vestry Hall concentrates on two of the Wandle's better known industries, namely the snuff/tobacco and textile industries

Wimbledon area

Wimbledon Park – tour the Capability Brown landscaped park, follow the heritage trail, have a game of pitch and putt, tennis or go bowling. Have lunch in the café

Wimbledon Tennis Museum – 5 minute walk from the park, the brand new Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Museum is now open to the public. Highlights of the museum include the Championship Trophies, a 200° cinema screen and a 'walk-through' of the men's dressing room as it was in the 1980s, with John McEnroe.

Wimbledon Library – one tube stop from the park, it's open until 7pm most nights, on-going activity programme, meet the reading group on the last Thurs of every month – or visit

Wimbledon Leisure Centre for a cooling swim or fitness activity

Wimbledon Village area

Cannizaro Park – Tour the Grade II listed park, a site of great horticultural and arboriculture importance. Take in the Shona Sculpture Exhibition and view the resident artist's studios

Wimbledon Common – move onto the common and visit the Windmill museum, the story of windmills and windmilling told in pictures, models and the machinery and tools of the trade

Village – Lunch and shop in the village

Cannizaro Park – Return for the evening for the famous Cannizaro Park Festival. Recent programmes have included major stars such as Humphrey Littleton, Elkie Brooks, comedy, jazz, Bollywood and family events.