



Stratford-upon-Avon Grammar School for Girls

Sixth Form Prospectus



Entry September 2012



Stratford-upon-Avon Grammar School for Girls

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Headteacher
Ms K.J. Barnett M.A.

Dear Students

Welcome to the Sixth Form Handbook for Stratford Grammar School for Girls. We hope that you will find it useful. In it, we outline our main structures and procedures for school organisation, and draw together into one place the key information that you will need over the coming weeks.

Whether you are joining us new in KS5 or continuing from Year 11 in Shottery, you will, I hope, find the sixth form an exciting new phase in your education. As you develop your learning skills at an advanced level and take increasingly specialised courses, you will also have opportunities to develop the leadership qualities, key skills and other characteristics that will help you prepare for both higher education and the world of work. You are also joining the sixth form at a very interesting time in the school's development, with both academy status and vertical tutoring new to us this year. I hope that you will take an active role in helping us to develop the school in a very positive way for all of its members over the next couple of years, too. And I hope that this Handbook will help you on the way in a very practical sense!

Take particular note, therefore, of the information about key staff in the school and their roles: we are here to support you. Communications are important in any organisation – and particularly so in learning communities. There are various channels of communication open to you, from Tutors and subject Teachers through to the more public School Student Council meetings. We are always willing to hear girls' views and concerns, and Shottery has a very strong tradition of student participation and leadership. We also expect you to be responsible members of the school community: attending tutor time, lessons and other commitments punctually and regularly, observing the dress code, and taking responsibility for your own learning.

The community here is a close and vibrant one, and there are excellent opportunities, curricular and extra-curricular, for academic and personal development. We value each individual and her talents. We hope that you will enter enthusiastically into the life of the sixth form, take up the opportunities on offer and enjoy the next two years.

I wish you much happiness in this next stage of your education at Shottery.

Yours sincerely

Kate Barnett
Headteacher



Studying at Shottery

The Curriculum

You will see from the thirty-one A-level subjects on offer that we believe a breadth of academic opportunity is essential for a well-educated person who is fit to play a full part in the society of the future.



Most girls at Shottery will study four AS levels, and General Studies or Critical Thinking, in Year 12 and continue with three of them to A2. Girls can choose to specialise in humanities or sciences, or can elect to study a breadth of different subjects. Some of these courses are run collaboratively with other sixth form providers in Stratford – Stratford School, Stratford College and King Edward VI School – which allows us to strengthen the range we can offer to prospective sixth formers.

The following AS level options are offered:

Accountancy
Art
Biology
Business Studies
Chemistry
Classical Civilisation
Dance*
Design Technology
Economics
English Language

English Literature
Food Technology
French
Further Maths
Geography
German
History
Latin
Maths – Mechanics
Maths – Statistics

Music
Philosophy and Ethics
Photography*
Physical Education
Physics
Politics and Government
Psychology
Spanish
Theatre Studies

(Please note, a course can only run if sufficient numbers of girls opt for it.)

**These courses are run at the college and require students to supply a portfolio (Photography) or attend an audition (Dance) prior to acceptance on the course.*

Teaching is good and frequently outstanding. This is helped by consistently hardworking students who are keen to do well. Teachers have excellent knowledge and understanding of their subjects.

Ofsted 2009

We believe that education is about far more than just the rigour of developing individual intellectual ability. We therefore pride ourselves on our extensive and vibrant extra-curricular programme which encourages our girls to work within and make a positive contribution to our wider community. PSHE is a compulsory part of the sixth form experience alongside either General Studies or Critical Thinking and our curriculum enrichment programme (please see Curriculum Enrichment section for details). The AQA Baccalaureate, which is the overarching qualification all our sixth formers take, enables our students to bring the important aspects of learning and personal development together under one umbrella. It incorporates three A level passes, General Studies or Critical Thinking at AS level, 100 hours of a combination of personal development activities and an extended project.

Beyond the Curriculum

All students in the sixth form take part in curriculum enrichment. This is an opportunity for students to gain experiences beyond the curriculum that can enable them to develop skills for life beyond school and to prepare them for university courses. Girls can opt from a wide variety of opportunities depending upon their needs and interests.

Curriculum Enrichment Opportunities include:

General Studies (AS level) Young Enterprise scheme Work experience Community service Language courses Open University	Volunteers Scheme World Challenge Duke of Edinburgh Student mentoring GCSE Astronomy Engineering Education scheme	Critical Thinking (AS level) Active Citizenship Work Related Learning Mock Bar Trial Competition Public Speaking Competition Sports activities
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During a recent presentation at the school Dr Partington from Cambridge University affirmed the values of the Extended Project as an excellent preparation for the demands of university education and the development of independent learning.

Towards the end of Year 12 and during the autumn term of Year 13 the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) forms a part of our sixth form programme of study. Each girl is given the opportunity to undertake extensive research into a topic of her choice and then create a final 'product' which is presented to her peers. Whilst most girls choose to do this as a 5000 word essay, it is possible to present work in an alternative manner if it is more appropriate for the subject area under consideration. In previous years girls have conducted research into genetics, criminal behaviour, eating disorders, dark matter, the future of physics in medicine, legal meta-language, Uganda, Spanish politics, theology, and mathematics – amongst many other areas.



Students taking part in Operation Wallacea, Madagascar, July 2011

We also run three Extended Learning Days per year. The timetable is collapsed and a variety of opportunities are made available to broaden, and so hopefully enrich your life experiences as well as providing food for thought as to the future.

Being a Sixth Former at Shottery



This is an extremely inclusive caring and supportive school where students feel safe and well cared for. Students' personal and social development are outstanding, as is the care, guidance and support they receive.

Ofsted 2009

Sixth formers at the school are mainly based in the heritage building on our site – with the sixth form common rooms, IT room, study areas and kitchen being housed in the Manor building. Other rooms are made available for study in other areas of the school. The girls also have access to the Stratford Academy for Music which houses tremendous resources for those with musical aspirations, the Stratford Language Centre with its modern language labs and IT rooms as well as our well-stocked library.

"Shottery has given me a fantastic school experience. It has a caring, studious atmosphere and everyone gets on with everybody else. I genuinely have to think hard to work out who was a "new girl" and who is an "old" one – and I know that isn't just my bad memory: we all mixed together right from day one. We have great relationships with our teachers who treat us as equals, not just pupils. This is a great place."

Libby Atkinson, Head Girl

<p>Name Fran Mills-Baker Year 12</p> <p>Previous School Stratford upon Avon Grammar School for Girls</p> <p>Subjects being studied PE, Chemistry, Biology, Ethics</p> <p>Reason for coming to this school I did have an offer to go to another school but felt that the quality of the education here was such that I wanted to stay.</p>	<p>Name Imaan Iqbal Year 12</p> <p>Previous School Light Hall</p> <p>Subjects being studied Chemistry, History, Biology, English Literature</p> <p>Reason for coming to this school The school has a friendly atmosphere and the quality of the teaching is high.</p>
<p>Name Jo Parsons Year 13</p> <p>Previous School Stratford upon Avon Grammar School for Girls</p> <p>Subjects being studied Maths, Biology, Economics, Chemistry</p> <p>Reason for coming to this school I had been here for five years and enjoyed the supportive and friendly environment. I was always going to carry on at the school because of the great atmosphere.</p> 	<p>Name Beth Charnley Year 13</p> <p>Previous School Arden School</p> <p>Subjects being studied Maths, English Literature, French, History</p> <p>Reason for coming to this school I felt that there was a better quality of teaching and great support for University applications.</p> 

Life after Sixth Form

Preparation for life beyond school begins now. We want you to have confidence about every decision that you will make regarding your future. To support you in this, all prospective students, whether external or internal, will have a meeting to discuss where they hope to be in the future. The aim is to ensure that you make the right decisions now for your future. We hope that this will help guide your thinking and increase your confidence in our community as the best choice for your A-level studies. Throughout this process we will offer personal support as you decide the options you will study. Our expert staff will advise you of the implications of the decisions that you make and how this might impact on life after Year 13.

Students leave school at the end of both Key Stage 4 and the sixth form as confident and competent individuals and many as multi-linguists.

Ofsted 2009



Girls receiving their results on results day in August 2011

Last year 94% of our leavers went on to university, seven girls gaining entry to Oxbridge colleges, and over 50% going to one of the Russell Group Universities. Our Careers Adviser, Post-18 Co-ordinator, and Director of Sixth Form Studies will, along with form tutors and subject staff, support you as you investigate your next steps and the best way forward post sixth form. In addition we work closely with you when it comes to writing personal statements, UCAS applications or applying for jobs.

We want you to be confident that your aspirations are achievable so we will keep you fully informed of your progress. We monitor this against national baseline data, which is available for each student. You will receive an interim and full report in each of Years 12 and 13. All staff work closely together to ensure that you will achieve success and if extra support is needed then we will ensure that staff are to hand to facilitate this.

An important element in building confidence is to celebrate success. We look for opportunities to highlight all achievements, whether they are academic or other. Our Day of Celebration is our annual opportunity for the whole school community - parents, pupils, staff and other stakeholders - to come together to celebrate **all** that has been achieved. Our very active Parents Association (FOS) holds an annual Leavers' Garden Party which is a special time when we are able to reflect on the past and wish you well for the future. Many girls make life-long friendships from the relationships they make here in the sixth form.



Leavers' Garden Party

Admission Arrangements

Academic entry requirements

- Entry to Year 12 is on the basis of academic ability demonstrated by achievement at GCSE. To gain entry into the sixth form, students normally require a minimum of 380 QCA points* from their best eight GCSE results (ie the equivalent of 4 x A grades, 2 x B grades and 2 x C grades at GCSE) including at least C grades in English and Mathematics.
- To be able to take a particular subject at AS level, students are expected to achieve at least an A grade at GCSE in that subject (or a specified equivalent subject) – a B grade is considered an absolute minimum. The Headteacher reserves the right to make the final decision on admissions.
(*QCA points: A*=58, A=52, B=46, C=40 etc)

Girls continuing from Year 11 in Stratford Grammar

The vast majority of Stratford Grammar School girls continue from Year 11 into the sixth form. The academic qualifications given above apply. Priority for admission to Year 12 of the school will be given to pupils progressing into the sixth form from Year 11 of the school.

Girls joining the school from outside

We welcome applications from external candidates. The projected admission number for pupils joining Year 12 in 2012 will be 50, giving a planned cohort size of 120. Details of the application process are given below. Conditional places will be offered on the basis of the predicted GCSE grades supplied by the applicant's school, subject to maximum set sizes not being exceeded in individual subjects, and these places will be confirmed following the publication of GCSE results. The deciding factor in cases of oversubscription will be average GCSE points score in the candidate's best eight subjects (predicted at the point of offers being made in the spring and actual in August). A waiting list will be compiled of applicants who meet the general academic requirements for admission to Year 12 but who, in accordance with the criteria given above, cannot initially be offered places. If the number of pupils in Year 12 falls below the admission number in August, or if the number of pupils studying particular subjects falls below the maximum set sizes for the subjects, then those on the waiting list will be offered places, in accordance with the admission criteria, in order of priority, revised in the light of actual GCSE grades. Top priority will be given to looked-after children, followed by other applicants in strict order of merit, subject again to maximum set sizes not being exceeded in individual subjects.

Application process for girls wishing to join the school in the sixth form

- The Application Form should be completed and returned to Director of Sixth Form Studies, at the school, at any time between the Pre-Sixth Open Evening and the deadline, which is **12.00 noon on Friday 27th January 2012**.
- A reference will be requested from the Head of the candidate's current school, including predicted GCSE grades and suitability for the chosen AS/A2 courses.
- An appointment will be made from mid-November to meet sixth form admissions staff who will discuss the individual requirements of the applicant, including her subject choices, and her aptitude, interests and career direction.

Applications received after 12.00 noon on Friday 27th January 2012 will still be considered, but it may not be possible to accommodate all AS/A2 subject choices at this stage. Once conditional offers have been made and the initial waiting list drawn up, very late applicants will be advised to contact us again in August, once they have their GCSE results.

Applying to the Sixth Form

1. Sixth Form Open Evening

An information evening for girls interested in the sixth form and their parents will take place on **Thursday 10th November 2011** (7.00 – 9.00). Teachers from all departments will on hand to answer questions, and current members of the sixth form will be present to give their perspectives on the sixth form and the courses they are following.

2. Applications

Girls applying to join the school from outside should ensure that their Application Forms arrive by 12.00 noon on **Friday 27th January 2012**.

3. Options choices

All girls will be invited to discuss their applications with admissions staff. And all girls applying to join us, are asked to indicate their option choices plus one reserve choice by Friday 27th January 2012. Further discussions regarding option choices will be held with girls following this date should there be any issues arising from their choices. It should be noted that subjects that do not recruit sufficient numbers will not run. If a girl changes her mind about subject choices after this point, her wishes will be considered, but it is possible that teaching groups may be full. Waiting lists are held for individual subjects if necessary.

4. Conditional offers of places

Following discussion of their applications with admissions staff (see above), and after receipt of a satisfactory reference from the applicant's current Headteacher, formal conditional offers will be posted to external applicants before Easter.

5. Sixth form induction course (June)

A two-day pre-sixth induction course is arranged for the end of June and all girls intending to join the sixth form are invited – and, indeed, expected – to attend. The dates this year are expected to be **Thursday 28th and Friday 29th June 2012** (tbc).

6. GCSE results and registration for the sixth form

GCSE results will be published on **Thursday 23rd August 2012**. Girls who have met the academic requirements must register for the sixth form on that day – both Shottery girls and external applicants. If further places become available at this point, they will be offered to girls on the waiting list on **Friday 24th August** according to the admission criteria and in strict order of priority.