



Southend
High School
for Girls

Sixth Form

PROSPECTUS 2018



Message from the Director of Sixth Form

I am delighted that you are considering SHSG Sixth Form for your A level studies

It is our students at SHSG Sixth Form that define our community's academic, inclusive, spirited and supportive ethos. They are passionate about their subjects, take challenges in their stride and actively seek every possible opportunity to become a better version of themselves. Life here is not just about academic excellence; it is also building the characteristics necessary to succeed in the global community of the 21st Century.

We provide a rigorous approach to academic education within a caring and supportive community as well as a wealth of enrichment opportunities beyond the curriculum. We aim to enable students to develop the independence they will need to progress onto their first choice Universities, level four apprenticeships or high quality employment.

The teachers at SHSG are well qualified, experienced and passionate about engaging young people in their subjects. Our teachers will support you in developing the skills and knowledge necessary to achieve your goals.

I look forward to welcoming you to SHSG Sixth Form.



Miss H Riebold
Assistant Headteacher – Director of Sixth Form



Introduction

First and foremost the Sixth Form is a place for academic study

The school has high expectations of all its students and as a result, our curriculum is challenging and rigorous. All that is needed to succeed is a dedicated open-minded approach and the desire to always be the best you can be.

We know that all our students are individuals with different needs, skills, attributes and personalities. To support our students we have a well-structured pastoral system. Form tutors support students to overcome barriers to learning as well as tracking student progress and will be the first contact for parents.

Sixth Form is a life changing period in a young person's life where major decisions are made. Through our outstanding careers department, students are able to explore Universities, apprenticeships and employment opportunities, guided by our experienced staff.

We are keen to develop our students beyond the constraints of the A level curriculum. Our students have a wide variety of enrichment opportunities, including volunteering, school trips, EPQ, work shadowing, additional courses and sports activities.

“We are keen to develop our students beyond the constraints of the A level curriculum”

SHSG Sixth Form provides opportunities to...



Master your subjects

Our well-qualified teachers are passionate about their subjects. They inspire enthusiasm in every student they teach. They will encourage and support you in mastering your subjects and achieving your goals. We are committed to providing the best education to our students and as such, we continue to offer nine hours teaching per subject per fortnight and expect you to match this with independent study.



Shape the school

SHSG Sixth Form prides itself on the leadership responsibilities that it offers to students. From being elected to be on the School Council, to subject captains and Senior Prefects to the prestigious role of Head Student. Each of these roles gives you a unique opportunity to play a crucial role in the day to day running of the school, shaping its future, as well as giving you the opportunity to find and define your leadership abilities.



Develop as an individual

For the duration of your time at SHSG Sixth Form you will be assigned a form tutor who is more than someone who just records your attendance. Your form tutor will take an interest in you as an individual. They will meet with you regularly during your time in Sixth Form to monitor your progress and celebrate your successes.



Build your future

Students at SHSG Sixth Form have access to excellent Post-18 support. Our careers adviser will meet with you at least twice during your time in Sixth Form. From first choice University to level four apprenticeships or employment, we will ensure you are equipped with all the information you need to make an informed decision to build your future.



Apply to your first choice University

The vast majority of our students aspire to continue their academic studies at top Universities in the UK and beyond. We have an excellent track record in preparing students to make successful applications to their first choice Universities.



Enjoy enrichment opportunities

Having been established in 2017, we are excited to continue our Enrichment Programme. Each Wednesday afternoon, you will participate in a wide variety of enrichment opportunities. These include work shadowing, volunteering, EPQ and Future First courses. Each activity has been chosen to enhance your Sixth Form experience.



See the world

As a student of SHSG Sixth Form, you will have the opportunity to see the world through a variety of curricular and extra-curricular trips. Some are subject specific, such as the Geography field trip and the Physics trip to CERN. Some are specific to extra-curricular activities, for example the orchestra tour and Silver DofE. Some are available to anyone, such as World Challenge. These prove to be wonderful experiences that you will look back on in future years with fond memories.



We have maintained a broad curriculum that maximises opportunities for you

A levels

Our approach to A levels

We want your time in Sixth Form to be as rewarding as possible and aim to provide you with every opportunity to achieve success.

In line with the recent government changes, all A level subjects will be two-year linear qualifications. We have worked to give our students the flexibility to choose subjects that will facilitate their future goals, whilst also allowing for breadth of study.

Students beginning their A level studies here in September 2018 will be studying for linear examinations covering the full two year course at the end of Year 13. They will not be taking AS examinations at the end of Year 12, although they will undertake rigorous end of year examinations. This will give students more contact time with their teachers in Year 12 to develop the vital skills they need for A level success.

Most students will begin Year 12 with three A level subjects. Some students may start on four. The most appropriate program of study will be discussed with you once your GCSE results are known.

We have maintained a broad curriculum that maximises opportunities for you. We have also introduced the Enrichment Programme allowing you to pursue other interests.

Choosing your A Levels

Before you apply to Sixth Form you should have already thought about your subject choices and discussed this with teachers, parents, and careers advisers. SHSG Sixth Form offers subjects that allow for direct progression from your GCSE studies as well as subjects which you will not have

studied before at GCSE. The advice below may help you decide which subjects are best for you.

- Choose subjects which you enjoy. You are committing to studying these subjects for two years. Make the selection of subjects based on what you enjoy, not on the opinions of others.
- Choose subjects which you are good at. This may seem obvious but this should certainly be taken into consideration.
- Choose subjects that facilitate your future. University courses have prerequisites for entry. Research your chosen field before choosing your A level subjects. You can search for entry requirements at <http://search.ucas.com>
- If you are unsure of your plans post Sixth Form, keep your choices broad. If you study three A level subjects, consider selecting one facilitating subject. Facilitating subjects are:
 - Mathematics
 - Further Mathematics
 - English Literature
 - History
 - Geography
 - Physics
 - Biology
 - Chemistry
 - Modern and Classic Languages

You can find out more about facilitating subjects on the Russell Group website <http://www.russellgroup.ac.uk/informed-choices.aspx>

- Choose subjects that are structured to how you learn best. Research how the course is assessed. What is the split between examinations and coursework? How much practical work is expected? How is the practical work assessed?

Requirements

All applicants must have a grade 5 in English and Mathematics at GCSE level. Specific subject details can be found on our website shsg.org

Subject	GCSE subject requirement	Minimum grade requirement	
Art and Design	Art	6	
Biology	Biology or Additional Science	7	
Business	English Language or English Literature	6	
Chemistry	Chemistry or Additional Science	7	
Drama and Theatre	English Language or English Literature	6	
Economics	Mathematics English Language or English Literature	6 6	Students with a minimum grade 6 in GCSE Economics will be accepted
English Language	English Language and preferably English Literature	6	
English Literature	English Literature and preferably English Language	6	
English Language & Literature	English Language or English Literature	6	
French	French	6	
Further Mathematics	Mathematics	7 – Students must begin Year 12 with 4 A level subjects	
Geography	Geography	6 – Students who have not studied GCSE Geography may be considered	
German	German	6	
Government and Politics	English Language or English Literature A humanities subject	6 6	
History	History or Classics	6	
Mathematics	Mathematics	7	
Media Studies	English Language or English Literature	6	
Music	Music	6	
Physical Education	PE – if taken	6 – Preferable for students to be completing at club level	
Physics	Physics or Additional Science Mathematics	7 6	
Product Design	A technology subject	6	
Psychology	Mathematics English Language or English Literature Biology	6 6 6 – (Double Science 66)	
Religious Studies	English Language	6	If RS taken at GCSE student must have minimum grade 6
Sociology	English Language or English Literature A humanities subject	6 6	
Spanish	Spanish	6	

We hope to run all subjects as advertised in the Prospectus and on our website, but should numbers in a class fall below a minimum threshold, we reserve the right to withdraw a subject. We will inform all applicants who have chosen a withdrawn subject as soon as possible to try to accommodate an alternative subject.

Applications

All applications from prospective students must be received by **31st January 2018**

We will contact all applicants in the Spring Term after applications have closed and successful applicants will be invited to attend compulsory induction days on 27th and 28th June 2018.

The Sixth Form application form can be found on our website.

The overall entry requirement is 50 points from the best eight full GCSE subjects.

GCSE grade	9	8	7	6	5
Points equivalent	9	8	7	6	5

Grade 4 (or equivalent) and below will not count towards the total points score.

For our online application form please visit shsg.org

For external applicants, on receipt of the application form, a reference will be requested from the student's current school. The reference will ask only for details of estimated GCSE grades and the suitability of the student for A level study. Offers will be made where the reference supports the student's suitability to study at SHSG. Where estimated grades are below our admission requirement the student will be informed that they have not been offered a place to study at SHSG Sixth Form. Applicants may be invited into school if there is need for a discussion about grades and subject choices. However, this is not an interview. We will only accept one non-GCSE qualification as part of the eight subjects and we do not accept short courses.

Entry into Sixth Form is dependent on the availability of places within the subjects students wish to study. If more external applications successfully meet the admissions criteria than available places, we will apply the oversubscription criteria that can be found on our website.



Uniform

The uniform sets the academic tone of the Sixth Form

Items in **bold** must be purchased from the SHSG school-wear outfitters. A list of SHSG outfitters can be found on the school website.

Female and Male Uniform

- **Green Blazer with SHSG emblem** – to be worn at all times in the main school.
- Plain, collared white shirt (short or long sleeved) or **SHSG white open-collared blouse**.
- Black, smart, tailored full-length trousers or **black SHSG pleated skirt**. No jeans or leggings.
- **Plain, black V-neck jumper**.
- Plain, black socks or plain black/natural tights.

- Black, smart shoes with heel no higher than 5cm. No trainers or boots.
- **Green SHSG tie with emblem** (Optional).
- Permitted Jewellery – One small stud per ear plus one discrete necklace, bracelet and ring. No other piercings or tattoos are permitted.
- Hair – Natural colour hair. Plain black or green hairbands are permitted.
- Outdoor Coat – Plain, dark coat. No hoodies or sportswear.
- Make-up and nail polish – Discrete make-up is permitted. French manicure or neutral nail polish is permitted.
- Sportswear – You may wear any suitable clothing while participating in school sporting activities.
- Hijab – Black or green hijabs are permitted.

Financial support

Students can apply for financial assistance to support their education

The 16-19 Bursary Fund is provided by the Government for schools to distribute to students.

Eligibility for the Bursary Fund is based on government support or family income and the payments will be dependent on attendance criteria. The amount payable varies depending on the number of students claiming the Bursary Fund. Full details will be available at the start of the academic year.

Comments from Ofsted

Sixth Form overall grade 1 – Outstanding

Students make excellent progress, from their starting points, and achieve high levels of examination success, with the great majority of them going on to universities including some to Oxford and Cambridge.

Students' personal development is exceptional. They become mature young men and women who are eager to take on responsibility and to contribute to the community in which they live and study, as well as making themselves highly employable. They confirm that the outstanding opportunities made available to them help to create an environment in which they can flourish.

The quality of teaching is excellent, and students are expected to become independent, confident learners. Teachers' high level questioning and expectations ensure this happens. The wide range of subject choices available meets students' needs and prepares them extremely well for future studies. Teachers monitor students' progress extremely closely and use the information they collect exceptionally effectively to plan learning to make sure students' knowledge and understanding are secure.

Students' attitudes to work are exemplary. They work hard and take pride in what they achieve. In lessons they concentrate well, work maturely together, challenging each other and testing out their own ideas. The quality of support and advice is excellent, and students say that they rely on and appreciate the support they receive from staff.

Report published January 2012.

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Pathways to Universities

Medicine/Dentistry/ Veterinary Medicine

- 7-9 grades in GCSE Sciences and Mathematics and generally a minimum of a grade 6 in English Language.
- A Levels in Biology and Chemistry with a third subject of your choice.
- Conditional University offers for these subjects will generally be no less than AAA and are often higher.
- All applicants for Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Science will be interviewed.
- For prospective Medics, Dentists and Vets, a number of universities also ask you to complete a pre-entry test (usually BMAT or UKCAT). This will be completed prior to interview.
- Some universities have traditionally indicated a preference for a student's third A level to be in Mathematics or Physics for these degree subjects. However, increasing numbers of Universities are embracing a broader range of subjects for a student's third option. Please ensure that you check individual University entry requirements carefully, particularly if you have a preference for a specific University.

Education – Primary

- At least one A level in a National Curriculum subject (which is taught in primary school).

Economics

- Some institutions require Mathematics A level.

Law

- No specific subjects are normally required. However, it is recommended to have at least one extended writing A level subject such as RS, History, Geography or English Literature.

Engineering

- Physics and Mathematics A levels are essential.

Psychology

- A Science is often required. Institutions normally accept Psychology A level as a Science.

Art Foundation

- This is a one year programme required by many Universities before you specialise in a specific area of Art and Design for your degree subject e.g Graphic Design, Fine Art etc. An Art Foundation course is an exploratory, diagnostic year that enables you to establish where your strengths lie in the subject and then begin to focus on this area. The course is delivered at a range of colleges and some Universities. At least one Art based subject and a strong portfolio is required to undertake this programme.

Architecture

- Some courses want a mixture of Arts and Science A levels. Some require Art. Please check individual requirements carefully.

International Relations and/or Politics

- No specific A levels are required but a foreign language (for International Relations) and History can be a good foundation for these subjects. Other Arts or Social Science subjects can also be an advantage.

Pharmacy

- Chemistry is essential. The majority of Universities also require one or two further A levels from Biology, Maths or Physics. Please check individual entry requirements carefully.

For vocational degrees i.e. degrees which lead to a specific career, you should ensure that you undertake work experience in a relevant area before applying. Some institutions specify minimum requirements for work experience, so ensure that you research these carefully.

For further information on pathways to University please visit <http://russellgroup.ac.uk/for-students/school-and-college-in-the-uk/subject-choices-at-school-and-college>



23 students achieved all A*/A grades in their A level subjects. One student is attending a prestigious university in the United States having undertaken the Sutton Trust programme.

*Not including Oxbridge, Medicine or Veterinary Science.

Transport

Post-16 transport information

An application from Essex County Council can be downloaded from their website or they can be contacted at:

Telephone **0345 603 2200**

Website **essex.gov.uk/schooltransport**

Email **educationawards@essex.gov.uk**

The standard charge for Post-16 Transport is £900 per year. For low income families, the charge is £450 per year.

Low income families are defined as those in receipt of income support or an equivalent benefit, or being in receipt of an annual income of less than £16,190.

Application periods

There are two periods for new transport applications to be assessed. You only need to apply once for the academic year – the assessment period will cover the remainder of that academic year as long as the criteria are met.

The application periods are:

- Autumn Term – applications received between 1st March and 30th September
- Spring Term – applications received between 1st October and 31st January

Bus services

The Consortium for Selective Schools in Essex co-ordinates the negotiation with bus companies to provide major bus routes to and from SHSG. The CSSE Consortium Transport

Services issue tickets and ensure the most favourable travel rates for students. More details can be found at:

**CSSE Administrative Office,
PO Box 3087, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 3SY**

Telephone **01245 281194** Fax **01245 350522**

Website **csse.org.uk**

c2c Student Smartcard

Students in further education can apply for a c2c Smartcard and receive a third off the cost of season tickets for travel on c2c services. Details on how to apply for the card, and a full list of FAQ, can be found on the c2c website **c2c-online.co.uk/studentsave**

Directions

Students travelling on the Greater Anglia Liverpool Street Line will need to disembark at Southend Victoria. SHSG is approximately a 25 minute walk or students can use Arriva Bus Services.

Arriva Bus routes numbers 1, 4 and 4a run from central Southend to SHSG. Approximate journey time is 14 minutes with services every 15 minutes.

Students travelling on the c2c Fenchurch Street line will need to disembark at Southend East station. SHSG is approximately a 15 minute walk.

We have no on site car parking facilities for students. If Sixth Form students do travel by car, we ask that they park on the road with consideration for our neighbours.

A message from our

Head Girl

A warm welcome to SHSG Sixth Form!

Upon beginning my life at SHSG in 2011, as a bright-eyed year 7, never did I think that I would be fortunate enough to become Head Girl and to have gained so much from my time here. However, I have seen that this is the essence of SHSG; it opens doors and enables you to fulfil your potential, therefore presenting you with countless opportunities and pathways in life.

SHSG is more than just a school with an incredible academic record, it is a unique body of generosity and vibrancy. One example is our famous school birthday on which we not only celebrate but also donate gifts to many local and national causes, as well as to the school body itself; this day is, of course, great fun, but it also upholds the traditions of SHSG and the feeling of community here.

For me, the best thing about our school is the dynamic community and diversity by which we are all so privileged to be surrounded. There truly is nothing that fills me with more pride than seeing SHSG students succeed in absolutely anything they put their minds to, and then sharing this success with their peers. This diversity in talents, backgrounds, and interests can be seen in the spectrum of societies and clubs offered at SHSG; these range from Russian language club and debating to a whole range of sports and music ensembles. Inclusivity is our lifeblood and there is a place for every single student wherever their skills and fascinations may lie.

Our school is incredibly supportive and it is the norm to motivate and cheer on our peers when they are striving for success; we are able to work with and alongside one another whilst we recognise that independence is of equal importance. This is why I am certain that when we leave SHSG, albeit reluctantly, we are fully equipped for the world of opportunity that awaits us.



Anna Govett, Head Girl

