

SHEFFIELD HIGH SCHOOL
GIRLS' DAY SCHOOL TRUST



SENIOR SCHOOL



Welcome

Choosing the right school for your child is one of the most important decisions you have to make in life, so why do so many parents each year choose Sheffield High School for their daughters?

The Girls' High, (as many people locally know the school) is well-renowned for its academic excellence, but its real strength lies in how the school cherishes and develops the talents of every individual, whether in the classroom or laboratory,

in sport, music, drama, art or in serving the wider community.

Happiness and success go hand in hand and visitors often comment on the warm and friendly atmosphere and the sense of community which strikes them as they walk through our doors. Our girls really do thrive at Sheffield High School and when they leave us they are ready to take on the challenges of adult life.

We are passionate about our School and our students; we hope that we will meet your expectations in providing the very best for your daughter. We look forward to meeting you and your daughter and showing you the School in action.

Valerie Dunsford

Mrs Valerie Dunsford, Headmistress

"I love it here. It's very welcoming and you can make new friends very easily."

Y7 Pupil



An environment for girls to flourish and grow

Sheffield High School is very proud of its location, situated on an expansive site in the leafy suburbs of Broomhill (between the University and the Botanical Gardens).

One of the unique advantages of Sheffield High School is its size. As the largest independent school in the region we are able to provide the very best resources and facilities, although each section is still small enough for your daughter's potential to be recognized and nurtured. Our beautiful Victorian buildings provide outstanding facilities which are constantly being upgraded and developed. Recent developments have included extensions to the Art, Technology and Science areas; specialist Science, Art and Music facilities in the Junior School; a sensory

garden and outdoor classroom for the Infants and Juniors and a new extension to the Sixth Form Centre providing an independent learning centre, tutorial rooms and dining and relaxation facilities.

Founded in 1878, our Campus provides for three very distinct educational phases, giving a fresh and exciting experience at each stage of development, whilst making sure that all our girls feel part of the whole school community. Many girls will be with us from age 4 through to 18, enjoying a smooth transition between juniors and seniors and from seniors to sixth form. Others will join us at age 7, 11, 14 or 16 or at other ages when we have vacancies.

We make no apology for being a single-sex school; in fact we see this as one of our major strengths. In single sex classes the girls feel less pressure to conform to a stereotype and they gain confidence through being able to be themselves. They forge friendships and develop a healthy mixed social network beyond school. Our pupils come from diverse backgrounds – academic, social, ethnic and geographic – and approximately 20% of our pupils benefit from our generous bursary and scholarship schemes.

The ethos of the school was summed up in our last inspection as having “a very strong community spirit which is expressed in a quiet pride amongst the girls and is led by the example of the staff.”





Challenging and exciting

Our long history of academic excellence has been and continues to be achieved by focussing on each girl's potential and supporting her throughout her time at Sheffield High School. The atmosphere in and out of the classroom is lively, exciting and challenging, whilst at the same time supportive and nurturing.

Our academic results speak for themselves – we are consistently top of the league tables for the region, but you would be mistaken in thinking that the environment at Sheffield High School is a pressured one, or that we select only the very brightest pupils. Our girls do well because they are well-motivated and work hard but, more importantly, because from the day your daughter joins us, our outstanding teachers will get to know her inside out; understanding her as an individual and ensuring that they get the best from her. We will develop in your daughter a confidence and self-belief

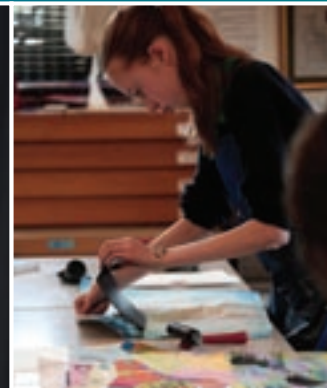
that she can achieve whatever she sets her mind to, and the skills to enable her to fulfil her dreams and aspirations. We will extend her in those subjects in which she excels and support her in those where she is less confident. Your daughter will learn to explore, question and express her own views across the wide range of subjects we offer, and the positive culture in the classroom will encourage her to give of her best.

Our curriculum combines the best of traditional, modern, scientific, creative and practical subjects to provide a broad, balanced and inspiring education. All girls study three separate sciences, two modern languages and Latin in addition to the standard national curriculum.

From Year 7 we will encourage your daughter to begin thinking about her strengths and talents and how we can develop these in preparation for her GCSE, A-level and future university and career choices.

“Throughout the school girls show enthusiasm for their learning and take pride in their work and achievements.”

Inspection Report



Developing confidence

One of the real attractions of Sheffield High School is the opportunity to take part in a broad range of extra-curricular activities, be they sporting, creative, musical, dramatic, cerebral, challenging or just plain fun!

We encourage the girls to try out new things from chess to trampolining, knitting to musical theatre or chamber choir to netball. The girls develop interpersonal skills, learn how to work well in a team, to lead and to take the initiative – all essential qualities for successful careers. The girls quickly realise that everyone has something to offer and this helps to build their confidence and self belief which adds to their success in the classroom.

Our excellence in creative and performing arts has been recognized by the *Artsmark* Gold Award and many of our girls go on to careers in Art and Design, Fashion, Music and Performing Arts. In Drama the girls have the opportunity to take part in two performances a year and in Music our chamber

choir and concert band are frequently booked for performances locally and in Europe. Dance is also very popular, with lunchtime clubs for all ages and a showcase for performers at our annual Movement Evening.

In Sport, the Daily Telegraph/School Sport Matters award of “The Best Independent School in the UK for Sport” formally recognized our outstanding provision for sport both within and outside the curriculum. A huge range of sports is available and your daughter will have every opportunity to take part in competitive sport or, if she prefers, to participate just for fun. National and regional success is achieved annually across many sports (netball, hockey, cross country, rounders, trampolining, badminton, skiing and gymnastics).

Adventure and challenge are always on offer at Sheffield High School and were recognized by the *Go4it* award – an award given to only a handful of schools in the country which encourages positive

risk-taking, enterprise, initiative and a “can do” attitude. The Duke of Edinburgh’s Award scheme is very popular among the older girls and the younger girls enjoy days off timetable, such as the House Challenge Day, Bridge Building, Industry Day and Maths Day which develop their problem solving, teamwork and leadership skills.

Whatever her interests, we will encourage your daughter to grasp the opportunities open to her with both hands and help her to see that there are no limits to what she can achieve at Sheffield High School and beyond.

“The School’s extensive range of extra-curricular opportunities stimulates learning and fosters girls’ individuality”

Inspection Report

Caring community

Visitors to Sheffield High School often comment on the warm, friendly and caring atmosphere which strikes them as they walk through our doors. One of our principal aims is for the girls to be happy at school and for them to feel valued and secure.

In our last inspection, inspectors reported on “the mutual respect and ease of relationships between girls and their teachers which is central to the girls’ educational experience. This encourages good behaviour and creates an atmosphere of trust in which even the youngest feel confident to express their ideas and opinions.”

One of the many reasons why our girls succeed at Sheffield High School is because of our strong pastoral care. Our teaching staff and our pastoral team really do understand the needs of girls and aim at every stage to promote positive values such as tolerance, respect, friendliness and care for others. We feel that is important to involve the girls in decision making at all levels and we encourage them to speak out if they feel there are improvements we could make in the day-to-day life of the school, through forums such as the Year Council, School

Council, Eco meetings, House Charities meetings and Sports Council.

We value our close relationships with parents and see parents as very much part of the equation in helping us to create the best learning environment. Good communication is crucial to the success of the partnership and you will be invited into school for all sorts of informal and formal events. The School has a thriving parents’ association (Friends of Sheffield High – FOSH) which helps in many ways, as well as organising regular social events.



Our international dimension

We feel that it is important to look outwards as well as inwards: the girls' future employment will require them to have a global outlook and a good understanding of the interdependence of people and economies around the world.

In 2009 Sheffield High School received the British Council's International School Award in recognition of its wide-ranging links with schools overseas and its varied programme of cultural visits and activities.

The girls benefit from curriculum links with schools in France, Germany, Spain, Egypt, China and the USA, and we have supported a school in Jhum Para, Bangladesh since 2005. We also offer the girls, at different stages throughout their time at Sheffield High School, the chance to visit France, Germany or Spain to practise language skills; New York to find artistic inspiration; Iceland to make geological discoveries; India for new spiritual and cultural experiences; or to take part in a sports tour to China, Barbados, New Zealand or South Africa.

"The cultural diversity in the School and within the wider community provides a good basis on which understanding and harmony between different traditions are successfully fostered."

Inspection Report





10 reasons to choose SHS for your daughter

1. Consistently the highest performing school in the area at GCSE and A level
2. Our value-added score (progress made between 11+ and GCSE) is in the top 5% of schools in the country
3. A seamless education from 4–18 with 3 distinct age groups on the same campus
4. Single-sex environment allows the girls to develop confidence without conforming to stereotypes
5. Very high standards of behaviour and a focus on consideration and respect for others
6. Excellent facilities
7. Over 50 lunchtime and after-school clubs, which encourage excellence in sport, music, drama and art
8. Before and after school care provided each day from 7.45am – 5.30pm
9. Transport from all over South Yorkshire, North Nottinghamshire and North Derbyshire
10. Quality marks achieved which recognize excellence in specific areas in recent years
 - ✓ Best UK Independent School for Sport
 - ✓ Artsmark Gold
 - ✓ Early Years Ofsted Outstanding
 - ✓ Go4it award recognizing a positive, “can do” ethos
 - ✓ International Schools Award
 - ✓ ICT Mark
 - ✓ Eco Schools Green Flag

“The School provides a high quality educational experience within a warm, stimulating and happy environment in which girls enjoy learning and are encouraged to fulfil their potential.”

Independent Schools Inspectorate

What next?

In this prospectus we have only been able to give you a flavour of our school. Before you make your decision you will want to visit us to be sure that this is the right place for your daughter. The easiest way to do this is at our Open Morning held on a Saturday in October, or alternatively you can ring for a personal appointment when a senior member of our staff will be delighted to show you around the Junior School, Senior School or Sixth Form.

If, as we hope, you decide to apply for a place for your daughter, you simply complete the Registration Form and send it to us with your registration fee. We will then arrange an assessment for her and guide you through the admissions process.

We have a number of scholarships available, awarded on academic merit, and means-tested bursaries with some free places, for applicants to the

Senior School and Sixth Form. Details of these are available in the information pack.

Do come and see us, and bring your daughter. We look forward to meeting you.

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Girls' Day School Trust