

Sheffield High School for Girls



Welcome to Sheffield High School



What follows will, I hope, encourage you to come and see the school for yourself. You will find lively girls achieving their potential, working hard in a friendly, stimulating environment.

You will find teachers enjoying their work, taking a personal interest in each girl they teach, eager for them to do their best. You will see at first hand the fine facilities and opportunities for learning and discover, I believe, that Sheffield High School's long-established reputation as an excellent school is well-deserved.

I am always happy to show parents around and I hope that you will visit us soon.

Margaret Houston

Margaret Houston, Headmistress

Sheffield High School is one of the 25 schools of the Girls' Day School Trust. Since its foundation in 1872 the Trust has provided a high quality of education for girls. Early pupils were amongst the first women to go to university and enter the professions. The Trust continues this tradition of excellence in the context of the much wider opportunities that exist today.

The aim of the Trust is to provide an all-round education for girls of intellectual promise. Every effort is made to ensure that there is equality of opportunity to enter and do well in Trust schools.

Trust schools offer continuity of education from the earliest years right through to the Sixth Form, but girls are welcome to enter at any of the stages set out in this prospectus or where vacancies arise.

To make an application, complete the form at the back of this prospectus and return to the school.

Details of the financial assistance available are enclosed with this prospectus.



Our aims for your daughter are:

- ✓ To enable her to achieve her full potential academically and personally in a happy and challenging environment.
- ✓ To encourage her to value learning for its own sake and as a means to a fulfilling career.
- ✓ To encourage her to take part in the rich programme of activities in school so as to develop her interests and talents.
- ✓ To develop independent habits of learning, the ability to work as a member of a team and the necessary technological skills to achieve success in the modern world.
- ✓ To provide a civilised environment in which intellectual curiosity can go hand in hand with self-esteem, consideration for others and moral integrity.

The School Campus

The school occupies a leafy site in Broomhill between the University and the Botanical Gardens.

The **Junior Department** is housed in Melbourne House which offers spacious and pleasant facilities.

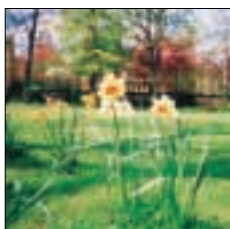
The **Senior Department** occupies the original Victorian school, with large classrooms and impressive accommodation. In addition, we have Moor Lodge containing Art and up-to-date Information Technology facilities, a new Music house, a new sports' hall, seven well-equipped laboratories, a gymnasium, a new library and learning resource centre and a new dining hall.

The **Sixth Form** has its own centre which provides the students with attractive teaching, study, ICT and common room areas.

All these buildings are within a few minutes of each other on a large, secluded and peaceful campus. Public transport is easily accessible and there are also parentally-organised coaches. Girls travel to school from all parts of Sheffield, Chesterfield, Doncaster, Rotherham, Barnsley and Worksop as well as Derbyshire and North Nottinghamshire.



“ Everyone here is friends with someone. You're never left out. ”



The Junior Department

(Age 4–11)



In the early years, every effort is made to settle girls into a happy and secure routine where friendships can be formed and the groundwork laid for success. The form teacher takes a personal interest in each girl and supports her pastorally and classroom assistants give additional individual attention.

The subjects taught include all the National Curriculum subjects as well as ICT, French, Music and Drama. The work is stimulating and enjoyable and, as the girls mature, there is increased emphasis on specialist teaching. We assume that all the girls will go on to the Senior Department and prepare them for this. Sixth Form students involve themselves in the Infant Department and older Juniors use the senior facilities, for example the sports hall and ICT and Art rooms.

There is a teacher responsible for girls with special educational needs and girls are screened for these. Staff from the Dyslexia Institute teach in the school by special arrangement.



Encouraging close links with parents:

- ✓ We value close links with parents and you are encouraged to contact us when you need. There are two Parents' Evenings for each age group and you will receive a yearly report.





“Melbourne House expects us to be respectful to others and to try hard at our subjects. We are taught to use a creative mind, to work in teams, share ideas and learn new things.”

We realise how important it is to have a varied and interesting school life so we have a House system which encourages girls of different ages to work together and there are many clubs for them to join: choir, orchestra, the bands, sports teams, drama and others. There are visiting instrumental teachers and trips and expeditions support the work of the classroom.

Our morning Assemblies provide a communal start to the day, the girls themselves preparing many of them.

All the Junior girls have lunch in the new dining hall and there is a vegetarian choice every day as well as other hot and cold food. There is a breakfast club before school and after school care.

The school as a whole, Junior and Senior, is strongly supported by the Parents' Association, Friends of Sheffield High School, who arrange social and fund-raising events to which all are invited.



The Senior Department



“ The feeling of vibrancy and enjoyment I sensed when meeting the girls was almost palpable. ”

We welcome girls into the school at the age of 11 but some join us in other years where vacancies occur.

Although not obliged to do so, Trust Schools adhere to the core requirements of the National Curriculum as a minimum but other subjects are offered too: four modern languages (French, German, Russian, Spanish), Latin and, occasionally, Greek, Business Studies, Sports Studies and the sciences which are taught separately throughout the senior school.

Homework is an essential part of the curriculum and it is regularly set and marked. Examinations for all years take place twice a year. There is at least one Parents' Evening for every year and we send reports home twice a year.

Art is very popular in school and work exhibited in school, as well as more widely, bears witness to the talents of the girls. Visiting artists further encourage the creativity in school, as do the visits to museums and galleries at home and abroad.





Pastoral Care

We are aware that if girls are to achieve their best they need to be confident and happy in school. We therefore have a strong pastoral care system based on the form tutors led by Year Heads and the Senior Mistress who monitor each girl's progress carefully. Parents are encouraged to contact these staff and one of them will get in touch if we have a particular concern.

If a girl is found to have a special need, the Senior Mistress will ensure that the help that we can provide will be given and staff approach these issues with sensitivity and understanding.

Most days begin with an Assembly which, although broadly Christian in approach, acknowledges and respects other beliefs. We emphasise moral and spiritual values in Assembly and girls are admitted to the school irrespective of background or belief. We hope that all parents will want their daughters to take part but they are free to withdraw them on religious grounds. Parents who wish to do so should make their request in writing to the Headmistress.



Providing your daughter with a well-rounded education:

- ✓ Most girls take 9 subjects at GCSE and there is a wide programme of field trips, foreign visits, expeditions and lectures to enrich their studies.
- ✓ All forms have a programme of Personal and Social Education which helps them to understand themselves, social issues and the wider world of work and their future.



Not Just Lessons!



A host of extra-curricular activities:

- ✓ Dozens of creative, musical and sporting societies and clubs.
- ✓ Science, environmental, language and Christian groups.
- ✓ Facilities to correspond electronically with pen friends abroad.
- ✓ Activity days and themed weeks take place throughout the academic year.
- ✓ Every year girls take part in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme.
- ✓ Local, regional and national finalists in the annual Young Enterprise competition.
- ✓ Opportunities to undertake charitable and community work.





Overseas trips to broaden horizons:

- ✓ Skiing trips, musical tours and educational cruises.
- ✓ Regular language exchanges to France and Germany.
- ✓ School groups have recently visited Queensland, Australia, national parks in the United States, and Singapore.
- ✓ Opportunities to gain work experience in Europe.



“ **Experiencing school from an outsider’s perspective for the first time, I was presented with those qualities which you always maintained the school promoted: independence, intellectual, physical and artistic excellence.** ”



The Sixth Form

Most girls stay on after Year 11 and join our large, vigorous Sixth Form. Every year we also welcome new students who choose to join us for our high standards and excellent results.

There is a wide variety of subjects available. Lessons take place in informal groups where students establish close working relationships with teachers who can provide individual help. There is a General Studies programme, community service and Young Enterprise scheme, all of which enrich the students' experience and enlarge their range of skills.

The Head of Sixth Form and her team organise a structured programme of advice and guidance. We realise that students need a great deal of support in making the transition from GCSE to higher study and the team monitors each individual's academic progress and personal development.



Preparing your daughter for her future:

- ✓ Ensuring she has acquired all the skills of an independent learner.
- ✓ Enabling her to leave the school conscious of her own worth and eager for the next stage of a successful career.



Sixth Form students play an important part in the life of the school. They contribute to House, club, sporting and musical activities, to name but a few. At the same time they derive from this participation the benefits of learning how to lead, organise, motivate others, and communicate – in short, managerial skills.

We give close, personal attention to students when they make their applications for Higher Education and interview sessions and visits are organised to assist them. Applications are sent off early in the Upper Sixth year and most students receive a range of good offers and go on to the courses of their choice. Some choose to take a GAP year and benefit from experiences ranging from the charitable to the exotic.

More information about the Sixth Form is given in the separate Sixth Form Prospectus.



“ Working within a structured and disciplined environment whilst having privileges and freedom to make our own choices is an excellent stepping stone towards university. ”



Sport at Sheffield High School

The school excels in sport. Many girls enjoy competing at a high level whilst others can participate in House and club sport, as well as curriculum physical education.

The main sports are hockey and netball in the winter and tennis, rounders and athletics in the summer. In addition we have trampolining, basketball, volleyball, badminton, gymnastics, aerobics and dance.

We recently sent touring teams to South Africa and another tour is planned for Australia.



A tradition of sporting excellence:

- ✓ 6 specialist PE teachers.
- ✓ 51 weekly clubs.
- ✓ 56 teams playing 398 matches in 1998/99.
- ✓ Winners of 32 local and regional championships.
- ✓ National champions in rounders.
- ✓ 5 international players.



The Arts at Sheffield High School



Music flourishes throughout the school. We value the music that is taught in the curriculum and, in addition, there are numerous musical activities which enrich our lives: three choirs, wind bands, swing bands, two orchestras, a string training group and flute group.

We have 14 visiting instrumental teachers and lessons can be arranged and examinations taken in school.

Like Music, **Drama** is a popular curriculum subject and there are drama clubs for younger girls. Each year plays are produced in the Junior and Senior Departments and our major school productions attract much acclaim.

Many girls have speech and drama lessons from our visiting teacher and take the LAMDA examinations. Our creative writers are frequently published and the magazine committee produces a school magazine annually. We enter girls in nationally organised public speaking and debating competitions.



A flourishing culture of music and drama:

- ✓ Frequent concerts and our choirs and other musical ensembles perform in school, in the city and abroad.
- ✓ Recent drama successes have included: "Twelfth Night", "The Wizard of Oz", "Animal Farm" and, in the Junior School, "The Bumblesnouts Save The World" and "Children of Lir".



Information and Communication Technology and Learning Resources

We feel that it is vital for all our girls to have opportunities to develop the necessary skills in Information and Communication Technology. The whole school is networked with a powerful state-of-the-art system based on Windows NT and we have fully equipped classrooms in the Senior Department as well as ICT studies for Year 11 and for the Sixth Form in their centre.

The learning resource centre is supplied with hardware and software and the science laboratories have the latest sophisticated equipment to assist the girls' understanding and learning. Other departments have ICT facilities, as has the staff-room, for the Trust is committed to the training and development of staff, as well as pupils. Thus ICT is taught not only as a discrete subject to all senior girls but is widely used by departments.

The Junior Department has its own ICT facilities for integrated use within the curriculum and the older girls are able to use the Senior Department facilities.



“ With the development of ICT skills and those of leadership, responsibility, teamwork and independence, I feel ready for the modern world. ”



Developing independent learning:

- ✓ Your daughter will have access to a new library and learning resource centre which has recently been provided in the Senior Department.
- ✓ All girls have access to books, journals, newspapers, multi-media CD-ROMs and the internet.
- ✓ There is a separate library in the Junior Department and a careers library in the Sixth Form Centre.

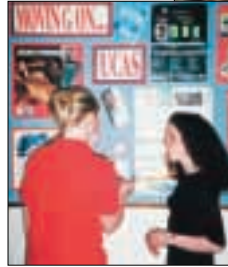
Careers at Sheffield High School

Here at Sheffield we consider careers education to be vital in developing girls who are confident, spunky, who have good team and leadership skills and can communicate well with others.

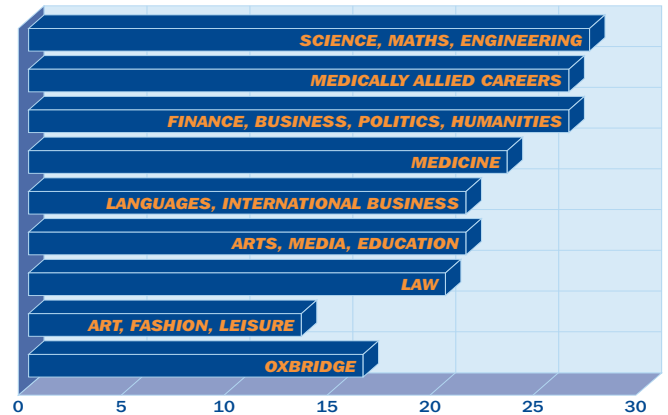
Careers education is linked with PSE in the Junior Department and in the first years of the Senior Department we concentrate on study skills, personal awareness and how industry works.

Later the department assists girls in their subject choices and all girls are enrolled with the Independent Schools Careers Organisation which provides valuable information and guidance. All girls in Year 11 complete a work experience placement after their GCSE examinations.

Finally, all Trust girls belong to the Minerva Network. This network can provide careers support for life and the opportunity to network with other successful Trust women in all areas of professional life.



Career Paths of Leavers, 1997–1999



“ The whole careers programme encouraged me to be more confident and focused – I’m looking forward to the challenges ahead. ”

How to Apply

- Entry to Melbourne House is by assessment at 4+.
- Entry to the Senior Department is by testing in English and Mathematics and meeting the Headmistress.
- Girls can be tested for all years where occasional vacancies arise.
- Students wishing to join the Sixth Form must have a good GCSE certificate with 7 passes at A–C and A or B in their intended A level subjects.
- Academic scholarships and bursaries are available in the Senior Department and details of these can be obtained from the School.

Now that you have read our prospectus, do come and see for yourselves!



This prospectus is for information only and does not form part of any contract between the parents and the Trust. This is because the prospectus has necessarily been prepared well in advance of entry of a pupil to the school and inevitably there may be subsequent alterations. Copyright © 1999 Sheffield High School.

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“Educating girls to become dynamic young women.”

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