



Sydenham
High School

GDST
GIRLS' DAY SCHOOL TRUST

Senior School General Information

2019/2020

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Governance, Trustees and Senior Leadership Team

Sydenham High School Governing Body (SGB)

- **Miss Becki Holbrooke**
BSc MSc. MSc Education (Child Development and Education) (Oxford), MSc Psychology (OBU) - Chair
- **Mrs Angela Hall**
BA Hons (London) English - Deputy Chair
- **Mrs Deirdre Coolahan**
BCL (Oxford)
- **Dr Sanjay Prasad**
MD FRCP FESC FACC
- **Mrs Punita Hossain**
B.Eng(Hons) (Bristol) FBCS CITP FRSA
- **Mrs Andrea Egan**
BA (Exeter) Accounting, MSc (Belfast) Finance, Fellow of the Institute of Actuaries
- **Mr Cyprian Njamma**
MPhys (Oxford) Physics, MSc (London) Actuarial Finance, Fellow of the Institute of Actuaries, Investment Director
- **Miss Ruta Benetyte**
PGDip (London) - ARB Architect, Vita Architecture (RIBA) Director
- **Miss Sarah-Jane Pendleton**
BA (St Mary's)

The Chair of Governors can be contacted via the following email address: heads.pa@syd.gdst.net

Trustees

The Trustees of the school are the Trustees of the GDST, details of whom can be found on the GDST website (www.gdst.net). The Chairman of the Trustees, Juliet Humphries can be contacted via Alison Smith at the GDST office (a.smith@wes.gdst.net).

Senior Leadership Team (SLT)

- **Headmistress: Mrs K Woodcock**
BA (Bristol); PGCE
- **Deputy Head (Pastoral): Mr K Guest**
MA (St Mary's Twickenham); BA (Surrey); PGCE
- **Deputy Head (Academic): Mr C Batty**
BSc (Bangor, Wales); PGCE
- **Head of Prep School: Ms V Goodson**
MA (Durham), BA (Durham)
- **Deputy Head of Prep School: Mrs G Panton**
BA (St Andrews), PGCE
- **Director of Sixth Form: Mr R Stevens**
MA (London), BA (Sheffield), PGCE
- **Director of Teaching & Learning: Dr E Waites**
PhD (Birmingham), Maitrise (Poitiers), BSc (Liverpool), PGCE
- **Director of Finance & Operations: Mr J Nelson**
BA (Napier)
- **Director of Marketing & Communications: Miss L Hooper**
BA (Manchester); PGDip School Business Management

GCSE Results 2019

Subject	9-8%	9-7%	9-4%
Art	60	70	100
Biology	79	89	100
Chemistry	84	95	100
Computer Science	50	75	100
Design & Technology	13	88	100
Drama	35	80	100
French	50	75	100
Geography	37	63	100
German	33	44	100
History	34	71	100
Italian	67	83	100
Latin Language	50	79	100
Mathematics	25	58	100
Music	17	33	100
Physical Education	22	22	89
Physics	74	95	100
Religious Studies	64	82	100
Spanish	58	74	100

A*/A% A*-B% A*-C%

English Language*	56	93	98
English Literature*	88	98	100

Performance table by year

Year	A* %	A*/A %	A* to B %	A* to C %
2019	40.5	70.0	87.5	99.1
2018	40.0	67.5	86.0	97.4
2017	34.9	61.2	83.0	94.7

IGCSE English for 2019 retained the A-G grading system

A Level Results 2019

Subject

Subject	A*-A%	A*-B%	A*-C%
Art		100	100
Biology	43	86	100
Chemistry	100	100	100
Design & Technology	43	86	86
Drama		83	100
English Literature	67	100	100
French	33	100	100
Geography	100	100	100
Government & Politics	100	100	100
History	50	100	100
Italian	100	100	100
Mathematics	71	71	86
Philosophy	100	100	100
Physics	50	75	75
Psychology	33	100	100
Religious Studies	67	100	100
Sociology	67	100	100
Spanish	33	100	100

Performance table by year

Year	A* %	A*/A %	A* to B %	A* to C %
2019	24.0	57.0	91.0	95.0
2018	3.0	29.0	67.0	88.0
2017	7.5	26.4	58.5	86.8

Leavers' Destinations 2019

University of Bath	Biology Natural Sciences	University of Sheffield	Philosophy & Politics
University of Brighton	Mechanical Engineering	University of Southampton	Medicine Law
University of Exeter	Drama	University of Sussex	Sociology
Lancaster University	Linguistics with Chinese	University of York	Chemistry Politics Psychology Sociology Theatre writing, directing & performance
Leeds Beckett University	Interior architecture & design		
University of Leeds	Biology		
Loughborough University	Product Design Engineering	Apprenticeship	Ernst & Young: Accounting
Liverpool Institute of Performing Arts (LIPA)	Acting		
University of Manchester	Earth & Planetary Sciences History and Sociology		
Royal Academy of Dramatic Art (RADA)	Technical Theatre & Stage Management		
University of Reading	Law		

Curriculum

Sydenham High School is a selective school and our aim is that every girl reaches her full academic potential. Girls at Sydenham High excel across the full range of subjects and we strive to ensure that every girl in our school is challenged at every level and we pride ourselves on delivering a first-class education and academic excellence.

Years 7, 8 & 9

In years 7-9 pupils study the following subjects:

- Mathematics
- English
- Science (Biology, Chemistry and Physics from Year 8)
- French
- Spanish, German or Italian (year 8 and 9)
- Latin
- History
- Geography
- Design and Technology
- Religious Studies
- Art
- Music
- Drama
- Computing
- PSHE
- Physical Education

In year 7, all pupils take part in an enrichment programme called Aspire. In year 7 & 8 pupils participate in the Accelerated Reading Programme.

Curriculum

Years 10 & 11

In years 10 and 11 girls study for nine or ten GCSEs/ IGCSEs.

It is compulsory to take:

- Mathematics
- English Language
- English Literature
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Physics
- Modern language (French, Italian, Spanish or German)

In addition to the compulsory subjects listed above, girls may choose four subjects from the list below:

- Art
- Classical Greek
- Computer Science
- Design and Technology
- Drama
- Economics
- Geography
- History
- Latin
- a second Modern Language
- Music
- Physical Education
- Religious Studies

As well as their examination subjects, girls have lessons in Physical Education and PSHE, which includes Careers.

The Sixth Form

We pride ourselves on our academic success within the Sixth Form. Our girls aim high and achieve excellent results. The wide range of subject choices, taught by dedicated subject specialists, ensures that we support your interests and your potential career path.

Alongside the three or four A Levels chosen, most sixth formers also complete the Extended Project Qualification and take part in our Active Citizen Programme which includes: our Professional Skills Programme, Volunteering and Enrichment (Stretch).

Subjects offered currently include:

- Art
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Classical Civilisation
- Computer Science
- Design Technology
- Drama and Theatre Studies
- Economics
- English Literature
- French
- Geography
- German
- Government and Politics
- History of Art
- History
- Italian
- Latin
- Mathematics
- Further Mathematics
- Music
- Philosophy
- Physical Education
- Physics
- Psychology
- Religious Studies
- Sociology
- Spanish

Pastoral Care

Pastoral care is an essential part of a successful education. We want every girl to feel happy, secure and confident so that she benefits fully from the first-class education offered here.

While the Form Tutor is usually the first point of contact for any questions or concerns pupils or their parents may have, we have a number of other staff with specific pastoral responsibilities. Five Heads of Section: Head of Year 7, Head of Year 8, Head of Year 9, Head of Upper School (years 10 and 11) and the Director of Sixth Form lead each section of the school. In addition, we offer a counselling service to those girls who may need additional support. We have a full time nurse and the Deputy Head (Pastoral) has overall responsibility for the welfare of all the girls in the school, as well as being the designated Senior Lead for Safeguarding and Child Protection. The wellbeing of all our pupils is a priority and we believe firmly in helping our girls stay healthy and well, both in mind and body, and we encourage strong and supportive links between girls, staff and parents.

The Arts

The arts at Sydenham High are incredibly strong and provide invaluable opportunities for girls to get involved in some exciting and memorable clubs, activities and events.

Every year the school holds a summer exhibition and a main production, as well as pop up exhibitions, concerts and performances which celebrate the talents and contributions of the girls to this area.

Music

Music at Sydenham High is vibrant and exciting. We aim to provide a platform for all our musicians to shine and develop their musical talents and potential. We offer a rich co-curricular programme which provides excellent opportunities for our budding musicians to perfect the art of ensemble and to perform at our many concerts and events, be that as a soloist or as a member of one of our many groups or ensembles.

As well as the dedicated Music Centre, the school has its own purpose-built Recital Hall. Concerts, both in school and in the local community, are a regular feature of the school calendar. A wide range of ensembles for musicians of all abilities rehearse every week either in a lunch time or after school. These include Orchestra, Concert Band, String ensembles, Jazz Band, Year 7 Choir, Whole School Choir and our Chamber Choir.

There are opportunities for girls to take individual lessons in all orchestral instruments as well as singing. Over 200 instrumental lessons take place in the school every week, supported by 15 experienced peripatetic staff with instrumental specialisms. The music department regularly offers music tours and outings to enrich the musical experience here.

The Performing Arts

Drama

Our philosophy is that Drama is an art form as well as a creative and cultural activity. That's why our productions are challenging, both in their content and theatrical form, and also in the exceptionally high performance standards. Our examination work has been commented upon by examiners as 'highly professional' both in terms of performance and staging. We offer a variety of co-curricular clubs and activities which include: Year 7 Drama club; Musical Theatre club; Technical Theatre club; Masterclasses with professional actors; LAMDA (the gold award is highly-respected and gains points that count towards university entrance); and Stagecoach after-school club.

Our Westwood Theatre and the Longton Hall are ideal venues for all sizes of productions and help ensure our pupils not only gain confidence in their own ability to perform, but work with energy and enthusiasm together to produce quality work that they can take pride in sharing with others.

Dance

Dance is extremely popular here and we hold our annual Dance Show which has now been running for over 10 years. This is one of the highlights of the year and showcases solo, group and class performances. In addition to our Annual Dance Show, we also have a street dance group as well as a Contemporary Dance Company that regularly rehearses and participates in local and national events and competitions.

Sport

The PE Department aims are twofold; providing and encouraging both participation and excellence in sport and physical activity. The department promotes a 'sport for all' policy and encourages everybody to join in, recreationally or competitively, fostering a long-term positive attitude towards health, fitness and physical recreation.

The main sports played or enjoyed competitively at Sydenham High School include:

- Rowing
- Netball
- Hockey
- Athletics
- Rounders
- Cricket
- Football
- Tennis
- Running
- Cross-country
- Swimming

We also offer trampolining, fencing, gymnastics and dance.

Facilities

Our excellent facilities plus additional off site grounds enable a wide range of sports and activities to be offered. We have a large astroturf and a well-equipped sports hall, as well as a fitness suite and ergos for rowing. We also own an eight-acre sports ground in Lower Sydenham and local facilities such as Crystal Palace National Sports Centre and Beckenham Spa are utilised for water-based activities as well as fitness and athletics. Rowing has gone from strength to strength and we now have our own eight-seater boat. We offer rowing from year 8 and we are fortunate to row and train with Dulwich College on the Thames at Putney.

Clubs and Activities

Enrichment at Sydenham High is paramount and we aim to ensure that our pupils are offered a breadth of experience in co-curricular activities through our Body Mind & Soul programme. With a whole range of clubs and activities on offer, there really is something for everyone.

In years 7 to 9, girls are expected to attend at least two activities per week. In year 10 and above, it remains important to maintain a healthy balance between academic study and co-curricular participation; therefore, girls are encouraged to continue with at least one activity a week.

Clubs and societies include:

Literacy Society, Drama Club, Digital Leaders, Concert Band, Jazz Collective, Medsoc, Rugby, Robotics and Electronics, Badminton, Debating, Street Dance, Fencing, Orchestra, Art Club.

A full clubs and activities timetable can be obtained from the website.

Open Events & Taster Days

Getting a real sense of what is so unique about our school is important. That's why we offer Open Events and Taster Days throughout the school year and look forward to welcoming you soon.

A Taster Morning is a wonderful way for your daughter to experience life at Sydenham High first hand. Girls take part in different lessons and activities in both smaller groups and full classes. Places for our Taster Days are limited and registration, via our website, is essential.

Senior School (11+)

Whole School Open Morning	Saturday 14 September	9.00-1pm
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Open Morning	Thursday 26 September	9.30-11am
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Year 7 Taster Day	Tuesday 8 October	
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Year 7 Taster Day	Wednesday 16 October	
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Open Morning	Tuesday 12 November	9.30-11am
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Open Morning	Wednesday 18 March	9.30-11am
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Open Morning	Thursday 7 May	9.30-11am
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Sixth Form (16+)

Open Evening	Tuesday 1 October	7.00pm-9.00pm
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Admissions

11+ (year 7) Entry

The main point of admission to Sydenham High Senior School is at 11+.

The selection process

Applicants are invited to an entrance examination which assesses ability in both Mathematics and English. Sample papers can be downloaded from our website. We also interview every applicant, which is our chance to get to know a little more about your daughter. We will ask your daughter to bring something she is proud of and would like to talk about. Interviews last around 15 minutes. In addition, we request a reference from all candidates' current schools.

Registration

Registration is completed online in the admissions section of our website. The non-returnable fee of £100 (£125 for overseas students) is charged to cover the application and assessment process. If you wish your daughter to be considered for 2020 entry to the school, please submit an application by Friday 29 November 2019. Scholarship and bursary application deadline is Monday 25 November 2019.

Entrance examination

For 2020 entry, the Entrance Examinations and Interview will take place on Tuesday 7 January 2020. Girls from our Prep School follow the same entry procedure as external applicants.

Results

The results of the selection process, including any offers of scholarships and bursaries, will be posted home on Friday 1 February 2020. All applicants who receive an offer of a place will be invited to a taster day. The deadline for response to scholarship, bursary and fee paying place offers is Friday 6 March 2020.

Entry to other year groups

Occasionally, there are places available in other year groups or mid-term. Please contact Admissions on 020 8557 7004 or email us at admissions@syd.gdst.net to discuss. The registration fee for an occasional place is £100.

16+ (Sixth Form) Entry

Alongside pupils progressing from our year 11, we welcome new students to our Sixth Form and have a long and successful tradition of girls joining us in year 12.

Sixth Form candidates should expect to achieve a minimum of seven GCSE passes at grades 9 to 5 (A*-C) including a minimum of a grade 5 (C) in both English Language and Mathematics. A minimum of a grade 6 (B) is required for any subject to be studied at A Level. Some subjects, specifically Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Mathematics, will require a grade 7 (A) at GCSE. We will also consider equivalent international qualifications.

Admission is on the basis of an interview with the Headmistress or the Director of Sixth Form and a good reference (with predicted GCSE grades) from the candidate's current school. Occasionally, we may ask a girl to sit a short test in a particular subject or subjects.

Bursaries and Scholarships

Bursaries and Scholarships are available to students joining a GDST senior school in year 7 or year 12. We regret that applications for bursaries and scholarships for students entering other year groups or applying late cannot be considered.

Bursaries

Sydenham High School offers a number of bursary awards which are designed to enable girls whose parents might not be able to afford the full fees to attend the school. The award of a bursary is based on financial circumstances and the candidate's performance in the entrance assessments. If you are interested in being considered for a bursary, please indicate this on your application form and Admissions will email you the details for the online application system when they become available from mid-September 2019. For year 7 entry, please apply by Monday 25 November 2019.

Sixth Form candidates (both new and progressing students) are also able to apply for bursaries. For Sixth Form entry, please apply by Friday 8 November 2019 if you wish to be considered for a bursary.

Year 7 Scholarships

For girls joining in year 7, we offer both academic scholarships and scholarships in Art, Drama, Music and Sport.

Academic Scholarships

There is no need to make a separate application for an academic scholarship as all girls are considered based on their performance in the Entrance Examination.

Subject Scholarships

You initially apply for your daughter to be entered for a subject scholarship and if your application is shortlisted, your daughter will be invited for an assessment. If your main application to the school is made online, then any subject scholarship applications should be returned separately to the school to arrive no later than the application deadline of Monday 25 November 2019. If you are applying on a paper form, please return any subject scholarship applications with this paper form by the same date.

Please note the following year 7 scholarship assessment dates:

Sport Friday 6 December 2019

Art Tuesday 10 December 2019

Music Wednesday 11 December 2019

Drama Thursday 12 December 2019

Bursaries and Scholarships

Sixth Form Scholarships

For girls joining in year 12, we offer academic scholarships and a rowing scholarship. Candidates wishing to be considered for these should apply by Friday 8 November 2019.

The scholarship examination is not subject-specific and requires no special preparation.

Students who are new to the school must also register before they can complete a scholarship application form. The scholarship examination is held each year in November and is not subject-specific and requires no special preparation. All applicants for Sixth Form scholarships will also be interviewed by the Director of Sixth Form. For 2020 entry, the scholarship examination and interview will be held on Friday 22 November 2019.

Fees 2019/20

Senior School 2019/20

£5,775 per term or £17,325 annually

Prep School 2019/20

£4,541 per term or £13,623 annually

Fees are paid directly to the GDST and include public examination fees and most text books. Fees can be paid termly in advance or by monthly direct debit. School lunch is charged separately and is compulsory for pupils up to and including year 11. The cost is approximately £237 per term.

Uniform

Years 7-11

Girls are expected to identify themselves with Sydenham High School by wearing their uniform neatly and without adaptations. All compulsory uniform items must be bought online from www.schoolblazer.com. Everything should be named, and a free name-taping service is available through Schoolblazer. Full uniform regulations are available on our website.

Sixth Form

Students in years 12 and 13 are allowed to wear their own clothes. Whilst we want students to feel comfortable and be able to express their individuality in Sixth Form, school is a place of work so we do expect the clothes worn by our students to be smart.

Journey to school

Our pupils travel to school from a relatively wide geographical area and we recognise that easy transportation will be an important factor in your choice of school.

That's why we run several mini-bus routes to make it even easier for girls to reach us and to offer flexibility for parents. Transport arrives at school by 8.25am and departs at 4pm.

Bus services run by the School

From Dulwich / Herne Hill
From Camberwell / Peckham / East Dulwich / Herne Hill
From Bromley / West Wickham / Beckenham
From Clapham / Balham / Streatham
From East & West Dulwich
From Herne Hill

Places on the school minibus are given for the academic year. Any intention to cancel or withdraw from the service must be communicated in writing to the Transport team (transport@syd.gdst.net) with half a term's notice.

Trains

Sydenham station is a 10 minute walk from the school. There are direct trains to major interchanges including London Bridge, Norwood Junction and East Croydon. The London Overground line from Highbury and Islington to West Croydon also stops at Sydenham, meaning that girls can also travel from Canada Water and Docklands, as well as stations north of the river. The school is also within walking distance of Crystal Palace bus station.

Buses

The 450 and 122 stop on Westwood Hill just outside the school, and the 227 on Westwood Hill/Crystal Palace Park Road.

Contact details

Prep School

15 Westwood Hill
London SE26 6BL

020 8557 7070
prep@syd.gdst.net

Admissions:
020 8557 7004
admissions@syd.gdst.net

Senior School & Sixth Form

19 Westwood Hill
London SE26 6BL

020 8557 7000
senior@syd.gdst.net

Admissions:
020 8557 7004
admissions@syd.gdst.net

Website:

www.sydenhamhighschool.gdst.net

We keep our website up to date with all our current news.
All our major policies are published on the website, as is the
calendar for each term.



020 8557 7000 | senior@syd.gdst.net | sydenhamhighschool.gdst.net
Prep School: 15 Westwood Hill | Senior School: 19 Westwood Hill, London SE26 6BL