



ADMISSIONS

For entry September 2024

Contents

1	Introduction
2-3	Open Events
4-11	Prep School Admissions
12-15	Senior School Admissions
16-19	Sixth Form Admissions
20-33	Scholarships & Bursaries
	Academic
	Art
	Drama
	Music
	Sport
34	SEND Support
35	Transport
36	Fees & Uniform
37	Contact us



Dear Families,

I am delighted that you are considering Sydenham High School for your child's education. Life at Sydenham High is centred on each individual. We focus on our girls' personal development, flourishing academic curiosity, growing confidence and discovery of their futures.

There is so much energy, enthusiasm for learning, and talent on display throughout the year. Whether in the classroom or beyond, as part of our enrichment and co-curricular programme or our partnerships and community outreach, our girls engage with opportunities fearlessly and ambitiously.

Our curriculum is forward thinking and creative, empowering children to learn without limits. Our Body, Mind & Soul Programme builds strength of character and

resilience, encouraging our girls to forge their own pathways with courage and aspiration, as well as to uphold values such as generosity and compassion.

This Admissions Handbook is designed to give you key information about applying to Sydenham High School and our Admissions team is also on hand to answer any specific queries. We look forward to seeing you at one of our upcoming open events or tours. Do come and meet our wonderful staff and pupils to see for yourselves.

Ms Antonia Geldeard
Head

Open Events

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

A taster session is a wonderful way for your daughter to experience school life. Girls take part in different lessons and activities.

There is one Whole School Open Morning in September each year, several open mornings at Prep and Senior School each term, one Sixth Form Open Evening in the autumn and taster sessions for 4+, 7+, 11+ and 16+ across the year.

Places are bookable online:
<http://bit.ly/DiscoverSyd>



Prep

Whole School Open Morning	Saturday 16 September	9.00-1.00pm
4+ Taster Session	Wednesday 4 October Wednesday 1 November	9.00-10.00am or 2.00-3.00pm 9.00-10.00am
7+ Taster Session	Thursday 12 & Tuesday 31 October	1.45-3pm
Open Mornings	Tuesday 26 September Tuesday 10 October Wednesday 8 November (4+) Tuesday 12 March	9.30-11am 9.30-11am 9.30-10.30am 9.30-11am

Senior

Whole School Open Morning	Saturday 16 September	9.00-1.00pm
Year 7 Taster (for Year 6 pupils)	Thursday 2 & Monday 6 November	9.00-12.30pm
Open Mornings	Thursday 28 September Thursday 9 November	9.30-11.00am 9.30-11.30am
Head's Coffee Mornings	Thursdays, fortnightly (Summer)	8.45-10.00am
Year 7 Taster (for Year 5 pupils)	May - dates TBC after exam schedule published	

Sixth

Year 10 Sixth Form Experience	Wednesday 21 June	8.30-3.30pm
Open Evening	Thursday 5 October	6.30-8.30pm

Tours available throughout the year



Prep School Admissions

Our Prep School

Our Prep School is committed to delivering first-class experiences for every pupil which instill a belief that our girls can reach for the stars.

Our Prep School mascot is Fina, the giraffe. Fina perfectly encapsulates the 'Sydenham Spirit' and, as such, each Prep School pupil is invited to become a Giraffe Girl. Together, we stand tall, stick our necks out for other people and aim high.

Whilst children have a natural propensity for curiosity, there can be no doubt on the impact that we, as parents and educators, have on fostering a lifelong love of learning. Creating an environment where joyful learning flourishes helps children acquire knowledge and skills, but more importantly, gain confidence and pride in their own intellectual abilities as the young minds of the future. Girls at Sydenham High Prep School are encouraged to forge their own path, prepare for a future unknown; quietly confident in the knowledge that they have all that they could ever need, within themselves.

Our approach to learning at Sydenham High Prep School inspires and ensures that along this path, the girls develop the habits, skillset, mindset and the wellness to be successful wherever life may take them.

Our school thrives on supportive and warm relationships. We often link themed weeks in school to our Giraffe Girl characters in order to promote the different qualities that we see and value in our Prep School community. Pupils may align themselves with particular characters but they are reminded that each and every quality is valued and form the foundation for a rounded member of society.

You can read more about the curriculum from Reception to Year 6, the co-curricular enrichment as well as the pastoral support, on our website.





4+ Entry: Reception

Registration

Registration is completed online in the admissions section of our website. The non-returnable fee of £100 (£125 for overseas pupils) is charged to cover the application and assessment process. If you wish your daughter to be considered for 2024 entry to the school, please submit an application by Friday 17 November 2023.

The selection process

For 2024 entry, the Entrance Assessment dates are Thursday 30 November 2023 and Thursday 4 January 2024.

Your daughter will be asked to take part in a playgroup session with the class teachers lasting approximately one hour. We will assess

numeracy skills, early phonics awareness, handwriting, conversation skills and interaction with other pupils. We also request a report from your daughter's nursery. Parents will meet with a member of the Prep School Leadership Team.

We select girls we believe have the aptitude and potential to benefit from a Sydenham High School education.

Outcome

Offers will be sent via email on Friday 5 January 2024.

The deadline for response to all 4+ offers is Friday 26 January 2024. Places are secured by paying the deposit of £1250 and completing the requisite paperwork. Early completion is advised.



Key Dates

Application deadline

Friday 17 November 2023

Assessment (1)

Thursday 30 November 2023

Assessment (2)

Thursday 4 January 2024

Outcome sent

Friday 5 January 2024

Acceptance deadline

Friday 26 January 2024



7+ Entry: Year 3

Registration

Registration is completed online in the admissions section of our website. The non-returnable fee of £100 (£125 for overseas pupils) is charged to cover the application and assessment process. If you wish your daughter to be considered for 2024 entry to the school, please submit an application by Friday 24 November 2023.

The selection process

For 2024 entry, the Entrance Examination dates are Monday 4 & Tuesday 5 December 2023 including applicant interviews.

Applicants are required to sit three forty-minute assessment papers: maths, reading and writing, followed by a team-building and collaboration exercise.

Please note: we do not assess verbal or non-verbal reasoning. We will also interview each applicant and we request a reference from all applicants' current schools. Offers will be made to applicants whose performance in the assessments indicates an ability to cope proficiently with the level, challenge and pace of our Prep School curriculum.

Outcome

Offers will be sent the week commencing Monday 11 December 2023.

The deadline for response to all 7+ offers for September 2024 is Friday 9 February 2024. Please note that places are secured by paying the deposit of £1250 and completing the requisite paperwork. Early completion is advised.



Key Dates

Application deadline

Friday 24 November 2023

Assessment

Monday 4 December &
Tuesday 5 December 2023

Outcome sent

Week commencing Monday 11
December 2023

Acceptance deadline

Friday 9 February 2024



Senior School Admissions

Joining Senior School (11+)

Our Senior School is particularly distinctive and the pupils and the staff are immensely proud of their school. Many remark on the warm, friendly, and ambitious feel to the Senior School and the genuine sense of community and belonging.

It is a school where academic excellence is complemented by pastoral excellence and where enriching and exceptional co-curricular activities add an additional and exciting layer to the day-to-day education the pupils receive.

The main point of admission to Sydenham High Senior School is at 11+ (Year 7).

The selection process

Applicants are invited to sit entrance examinations which assess ability in Mathematics, English and Verbal Reasoning. 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 speak about something she is proud of. 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 pupils) is charged to cover the application and assessment process. If you wish your daughter to be considered for 2024 entry to the school, please submit an application by **Monday 13 November 2023**. This includes applications for scholarship and bursary applications.

Entrance examination

For 2024 entry, the Entrance Examinations are due to take place on **Thursday 4 January 2024** with the interviews on **Saturday 13 January 2024**. Girls from our Prep School follow the same entry procedure as external applicants.

Outcome

The offers, including any offers of scholarships and bursaries, will be sent home the week commencing **Monday 5 February 2024**. All applicants who receive an offer of a place will be invited to an offer holders' day shortly afterwards. The deadline for response to scholarship, bursary and fee paying place offers is **Monday 4 March 2024**.

More information about our scholarships and bursaries can be found further on in this guide.

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.

Key Dates

Application deadline:
Monday 13 November 2023
Entrance Examination:
Thursday 4 January 2024
Interviews:
Saturday 13 January 2024
Offers:
w/c Monday 5 February 2024
Acceptance deadline:
Monday 4 March 2024





Sixth

Form

Admissions

Joining Sixth Form (16+)

This is the start of the next phase of your educational journey. In fact, it is the most important yet, and an essential bridge to university life and beyond.

The Sixth Form experience is rightly described as the best that education has to offer. You will experience a greater freedom and enjoy studying subjects that genuinely interest you, in smaller classes, while forming more mature relationships with your teachers who will support you every step of the way. 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.

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.

Our Sixth Form offering is separated into three strands: Personal Development, Academic Expertise and Future Pathways. You can find out more about our 26 [A Level subjects](#), [Extended Project Qualification](#) as well as our [academic electives](#) and [co-curricular offering](#) on our website.

Bursaries and scholarships

You may apply for scholarships as well as bursaries when you apply online for Year 12. Full information about our scholarships and bursaries can be found further on in this guide.

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.

The selection process

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 Head or the Head 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.

Key Dates

Application deadline:
Friday 3 November 2023
Scholarship & Bursary Examination:
Friday 10 November 2023
Offers:
Friday 1 December 2023
Acceptance deadline:
Friday 5 January 2024





Bursaries & Scholarships



How to apply

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

Sydenham High School has a limited number of bursaries and scholarships available. There are always a high number of applicants wishing to be considered for these and there are specific procedures for families wishing to apply.

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.

Bursaries are means-tested and families will need to submit financial information in order to be considered for a bursary. Eligibility will be decided according to the information submitted. 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 instructions for the online application system when they become available from mid-September.

Your main application to the school is made online, and this includes a section to apply for a bursary (means-tested) or scholarship.

The GDST manages all applications for bursaries and will be in touch with families who have applied to ensure that they receive the required paperwork.

Year 7 Scholarships

For girls joining in Year 7, we offer academic scholarships and subject scholarships in Art, Drama, Music and Sport. These are for pupils who display a noteworthy commitment to, and marked talent or natural potential in, the subject.

Academic Scholarships

No separate application is required for an academic scholarship as all girls are considered based on their performance in the Entrance Examination.

Subject Scholarships

You must apply for each subject scholarship you wish to enter your daughter for and she will be invited for assessment. Decisions are made based on the performance at assessment, the interview and the pupil's application, including references.

Sixth Form Scholarships

For girls joining in Year 12, we offer a range of scholarships. External applicants must apply online for a place and a scholarship. The scholarship examination is not subject-specific and requires no special preparation. All applicants for Sixth Form scholarships will also be interviewed by the Head of Sixth Form and Head of the relevant department.

Key dates

Bursary & scholarship application deadlines:

Year 7
Monday 13 November 2023

Year 12
Friday 3 November 2023

Year 12 scholarship and bursary assessment date:
Friday 10 November 2023

Interviews with the Heads of Department & Head of Sixth Form will also be arranged on the assessment day where possible.

Year 7 scholarship assessments:

Sport
Friday 1 December 2023

Art
Wednesday 6 December 2023

Music
Thursday 7 December 2023

Drama
Friday 8 December 2023



Academic

SCHOLARSHIP

Scholar Expectations

Academic Scholarships recognise and reward academic excellence. In turn, a Sydenham High Academic Scholar will gain a wealth of exciting opportunities designed to expand minds, deepen thinking and cultivate intellectual curiosity.

An Academic Scholarship value is usually up to 20% of the annual school fee and is expected to be held continuously from Year 7 to Year 13. Pupils must have successfully passed the entrance assessment for Year 7 and the scholarships assessment for Year 12 respectively in order to be awarded an Academic Scholarship.

Opportunities for Academic Scholars:

From the beginning of Year 7, A Sydenham High Academic Scholar will accelerate their cognitive skills by embarking on the Socrates Programme, which provides the following:

- Bespoke mentoring to both support and stretch the individual;
- Inspiring lectures delivered by leading experts, including climate change scientists, UN delegates and designers;
- Hands-on creative experiences, including 'behind-the-scenes' museum visits;
- Academic workshops, which develop skills such as research and referencing.
- This culminates in the completion of an annual individual project (Year 7 to 9) that reflects the personal interest of the pupil and demonstrates the development of an initial idea and self-reflection. In addition to a written element, final pieces have recently included: short films, plays, models, displays and robots.

Additional opportunities:

- Invitations to lectures and activities in specialist areas, e.g. Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), plus Humanities, Performance and Creative subjects, when spaces are limited
- Academic extension trips
- GDST events and workshops

Application Process

Year 7

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.

Year 12

The application form must be completed online by Friday 3 November 2023.

There will be a Scholarship Examination on Friday 10 November 2023. The scholarship examination is not subject-specific and requires no special preparation.

Outcome

Year 7

Applicants will be informed of any Academic Scholarship offers when they receive their offer letters in February.

Year 12

Applicants will be informed of the decision when they receive their offer letters in December.



Art
SCHOLARSHIP

Scholar Expectations

Art is very popular at Sydenham High School. We are keen to see the varied talent and passion from our prospective Art Scholars. An Art Scholarship value is usually up to 20% of the annual school fee and is expected to be held continuously from Year 7 to Year 13. Pupils must successfully pass the entrance assessment for Year 7 and the scholarships assessment for Year 12 respectively in order to be awarded an Art Scholarship.

Opportunities for Art Scholars

Years 7-9

- Scholar sketchbooks for working in and documenting exhibitions to form a record of their development
- Bespoke design opportunities for in house products such as cards and event programmes
- Scholar exhibition opportunities – individual display on a half termly basis
- Involvement in Art Society
- Involvement in whole school and GDST Art events (e.g. selected for the 'Quick Draw')
- KS4 Art mentor allocated
- Automatically considered for the GDST Biennale
- Curate pop-up exhibitions in school

Years 10 & 11

- Scholar portfolio for working in and documenting exhibitions to form a record of their development
- Access to Art workshops with professional artists
- Additional gallery trips
- Scholar exhibition
- Involvement in Art Society
- Priority access to Art department space and resources
- Scholar Meetings every half term
- Automatically considered for the GDST Biennale
- Mentor a KS3 art scholar and have a KS5 mentor
- Curate public exhibition in Bromley High Street

Years 12 & 13

- Priority use of dedicated KS5 Art Studio
- Opportunity to run Art Society
- Curating the scholars exhibition and participation in the Summer Exhibition
- Automatically considered for the GDST Biennale
- Role as KS3 Art mentor
- Judge school Art competitions and run Art events
- Bespoke guidance on future pathways and support with portfolios
- Access to life drawing classes at local gallery

Application Process

Year 7

The application form must be completed online by Monday 13 November 2023.

Candidates must submit a present a maximum of 10 x A2 or A3 portfolio pages which should showcase their work, clearly labelled and brought to the main school reception on **13 November 2023**. Collection from Reception should be made the following week. Details of this will be emailed.

These portfolio pages might have one single, significant piece of work or a range of smaller sketches and experiments and should include a contextual awareness (exhibitions attended, work influenced by artists, knowledge of artists etc), observational drawing, painting and experiments with experimental processes (digital processes included). Please avoid cartoon illustrations. Marks will not be given for quantity. The work can have been made in any material; ideally it should contain a range of media and subject matter. We are looking for both skill and creativity. A photograph of fragile or three-dimensional pieces will suffice. The portfolio components can have been made at home and/or at school but must provide evidence of direct observational drawing skills. No sketchbooks should be submitted.

Candidates will also sit a practical assessment and be interviewed by the Head of Art on Wednesday 6 December. Details will be confirmed by email.

Year 12

The application form must be completed online by Friday 3 November 2023. Candidates must bring a portfolio, including current GCSE sketchbook, to their interview with the Head of Art.

Outcome

Year 7

Applicants will be informed of the decision when they receive their offer letters in February. The Head of Art's decision is final. Brief written feedback for all shortlisted candidates will be included in the letter.

Year 12

Applicants will be informed of the decision when they receive their offer letters in December.



Drama

SCHOLARSHIP

Scholar Expectations

Through engagement in Drama, pupils develop imagination and creativity. They explore the world of theatre and draw on their own experiences, as well as the work and ideas of other practitioners.

A Drama Scholarship value is usually up to 20% of the annual school fee and is expected to be held continuously from Year 7 to Year 13. Pupils must successfully pass the entrance assessment for Year 7 and the scholarships assessment for Year 12 respectively in order to be awarded a Drama Scholarship.

Opportunities for Drama Scholars

Years 7-9

- Opportunities to participate in co-curricular productions, Drama and Technical Theatre clubs
- Invited to participate in workshops with older scholars
- Exclusive KS3 Scholar Theatre Trip

Years 10 & 11

- Opportunities for roles in co-curricular drama
- Invited on KS5 Theatre trips
- Invited to participate in KS5 Practitioner workshops
- Opportunities to cascade information to KS3 scholars in practitioner workshops

Years 12 & 13

- Opportunities for roles in plays
- Directing opportunities with younger year groups
- Running a Drama Club for Year 9
- Participating in practitioner workshop with companies such as Frantic Assembly
- Leading practitioner workshop with KS3 pupils

Application Process

Year 7

The application form must be completed online by Monday 13 November 2023. The following should be emailed to admissions@syd.gdst.net:

- Details of your daughter's latest exam grade certificates
- At least one reference that comment on achievements, potential and commitment, alongside any other relevant information

The format of the audition will be designed to allow each pupil an equal opportunity regardless of experience. Candidates will be invited to an audition and interview on Friday 8 December 2023.

The auditions will be held in a small workshop group, offering each pupil the opportunity to perform individually and with others. The workshop will last approximately one hour.

Applicants will be required to prepare a poem or monologue of no more than one minute in length for the audition.

Details will be confirmed by email.

Year 12

The application form must be completed online by Friday 3 November 2023.

Candidates must prepare a performance of a monologue, and share a written theatre review, as well as be interviewed by the Director of Drama.

Outcome

Year 7

Applicants will be informed of the decision when they receive their entrance examination results in February.

The Director of Drama's decision is final. Brief written feedback for all shortlisted candidates will be included in the letter informing you of the outcome.

Year 12

Applicants will be informed of the decision when they receive their offer letters in December.



Music

SCHOLARSHIP

Scholar Expectations

We hear music every day of our lives and the instinct to respond to music is almost universal. The opportunity to study music in greater detail opens an appreciation that catapults a level of accessibility and understanding on to a different plane. Music allows the expression of personality and emotions through the performance of music and the composition of music.

A Music Scholarship value is usually up to 20% of the annual school fee and is expected to be held continuously from Year 7 to Year 13. Pupils must successfully pass the entrance assessment for Year 7 and the scholarships assessment for Year 12 respectively in order to be awarded a Music Scholarship.

Opportunities for Music Scholars

Years 7-9

- Participation in termly Music Scholar Showcase
- Additional Trips to concerts and events
- Inclusion in GDST-wide events such as GDST Sing!
- Chamber ensemble rehearsals and performances with other scholars covering advanced repertoire
- Personalised support with practice and priority access to practice rooms when needed
- Audition training for ensembles, courses and further education as required

Years 10 & 11

- Participation in termly Music Scholar Showcase
- Trip to Brightsparks concert; linked to GCSE and A Level
- Musical Theatre Trip linked to GCSE syllabus
- Invitation to masterclasses and GDST wide music initiatives including the 'concerto' competition
- Chamber ensemble rehearsals and performances with other scholars covering advanced repertoire
- Audition training for ensembles and courses as required
- Priority access to practice rooms when needed

Years 12 & 13

- Participation in termly Music Scholar Showcase
- Mentoring opportunities with younger pupils who are aspiring scholars
- Audition training for ensembles, courses and further education as required
- Leadership of ensembles
- Chamber ensemble rehearsals and performances with other scholars covering advanced repertoire
- Priority access to practice rooms when needed

Application Process

Year 7

The application form must be completed online by Monday 13 November 2023, including details of your daughter's latest exam grade certificates (copies may be requested) and at least one reference from a named instrumental teacher and school music teacher/Head of Music that comment on achievements, potential and commitment, alongside any other relevant information. Reference should be emailed to admissions@syd.gdst.net by the application deadline.

Applicants will have reached at least Grade 4 standard on at least one instrument. The ability to offer more than one instrument, or one instrument plus voice, will be considered an advantage.

The format of the audition will be designed to allow each pupil an equal opportunity regardless of experience. Candidates will be invited to an audition and interview on Thursday 7 December 2023.

A copy of the music your daughter will be playing at the audition must be brought into school, marked for the attention of the Registrar, by Monday 4 December. Only copies on A4 paper, without staples or tape, will be accepted and they will not be returned. An accompanist will be provided, if required. Music for accompaniment should also be submitted on 4 December.

Details will be confirmed by email.

Year 12

The application form must be completed online by Friday 3 November 2023. Candidates must prepare a Solo performance – accompaniment available if required, plus portfolio of enrichment, collaborative and performance experience.

Outcome

Year 7

Applicants will be informed of the decision when they receive their offer letters in February. The Director of Music's decision is final. Brief written feedback for shortlisted candidates is available on request.

Year 12

Applicants will be informed of the decision when they receive their offer letters in December.



Sport

SCHOLARSHIP



Scholar Expectations

The PE 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. Our High Performance Programme is designed to give support to our more elite athletes in order to help them balance the competing demands on their time.

A Sport or Rowing Scholarship value is usually up to 20% of the annual school fee and is expected to be held continuously from Year 7 to Year 13 (Years 12 & 13 for Rowing). Pupils must have successfully passed the entrance assessment for Year 7 and the scholarships assessment for Year 12 respectively in order to be awarded a Sport or Rowing Scholarship.

Opportunities for Sport Scholars:

Years 7-9

- Attendance at the GDST scholars day
- Part of the departmental High Performance Programme giving access to talks by elite professional athletes, advice on training programmes, support with demands of juggling school work with elite training
- Allocated a sports mentor in the upper years
- Access to additional trips, training events and talks

Years 10 & 11

- A sports department mentor will be allocated
- Part of the High Performance Programme to help athletes to realise their potential by achieving a good sport/study/life balance and by tracking and monitoring their progress
- Attendance at the GDST scholars day
- Participation in GDST Select trials
- Opportunity to coach younger years and gain coaching qualifications

Years 12 & 13

- The option of using curriculum PE time for their training where necessary and available
- Part of the High Performance Programme, selected to attend a variety of different half-termly seminars and workshops covering a range of sports performance topics, such as time management, fitness training, motivational strategies, sports psychology and emotional/social well being
- Attendance at the GDST scholars day
- Participation in GDST Select trials
- Support with next steps interviews and trials

Application Process

Year 7

The application form must be completed online by Monday 13 November 2023, including, including details of any certificates or awards won for sporting endeavours and at least one reference that comment on achievements, potential and commitment, alongside any other relevant information. These can be from your daughter's school PE Department or any external coaches. Reference should be emailed to admissions@syd.gdst.net by the application deadline.

Successful applicants will likely be involved in a sports club outside of school, in at least one sporting discipline, and have qualities of leadership with the potential to develop and utilise these skills.

The assessment will take place on Friday 1 December 2023. Candidates are not required to prepare anything for the assessment but should wear their PE kit.

Applicants will be expected to:

- Demonstrate a good level of fitness across a range of small fitness tests.
- Demonstrate their skills in a range of activities, games and/or performances.
- Undergo a short interview about their sporting life so far and display basic knowledge of the major sports, rules etc.

Year 12

The application form must be completed online by Friday 3 November 2023. Candidates must provide video footage representing current performance level, current achievements in their sport e.g. academy selection, and references from coaches, and will be interviewed by the Director of Sport. Rowers will complete ergo session and share details of racing experience during an interview with the Head of Rowing.

Outcome

Year 7

Applicants will be informed of the decision when they receive their entrance examination results in February.

The Director of Sport and Head of Rowing's decisions are final. Written feedback is available on request.

Year 12

Applicants will be informed of the decision when they receive their offer letters in December.

SEND Support

Sydenham High School is committed to delivering a whole school approach to SEND, with teachers at the heart of the SEND support system, supported by the Head of Learning Support.

The school's highly experienced pastoral team take into account the views of pupils and their families, enabling pupils to effectively participate in decisions about their learning and access the curriculum with a high level of independence.

We work hard to identify the learning needs of pupils and offers high quality provision to meet these needs, focussing particularly on inclusive practices within the mainstream classroom and working to remove barriers to learning.

Pupils are encouraged to use technology to support their access to the curriculum and are well supported in preparing for adulthood.

All teachers are expected to be familiar with the needs of the pupils in their classes and to make reasonable adjustments in line with what is possible and practical. In exceptional cases, pupils may take a reduced number of subjects and may then be supported by the Head of Learning Support through individual or small group lessons.

All pupils have access to departmental support sessions and pupils with additional learning needs are actively encouraged to attend these sessions with subject specialists.

If parents are working with external agencies such as specialist tutors, educational psychologists, occupational therapists, speech & language therapists or mental health professionals, the school will work with these external partners to ensure smooth facilitation of provision where possible.

When applying for a place, parents must inform the school of their daughter's special educational needs and/or disabilities.

If requesting examination access arrangements for entrance examinations or other assessments, parents must provide all information pertaining to their daughter's normal way of working in their current setting. This includes a supporting letter from the current setting, from the SENCO or a Senior Teacher, confirming the pupil's normal way of working in tests and assessments. Educational Psychology assessment reports must have been written within 26 months of the date of the entrance test.

Access Arrangements will only be considered where current evidence of need and normal way of working are provided in tandem.

In the Senior School, examination access arrangements are provided in line with current regulations and guidance set out by the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) and this is subject to change each year.

The school is able to support assessments for examination access arrangements internally for pupils already on roll and there is a clear process for this.

Any candidates applying to the school with an Education, Health & Care Plan in place must expect to go through the usual consultation process for a place at the school, which is led by the relevant Local Authority. Candidates must also meet the required academic entry criteria of the school as determined by the entrance assessment.

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 minibus 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

Covering: Dulwich, Herne Hill, Camberwell, Peckham, East Dulwich, Bromley, West Wickham, Beckenham, Clapham, Balham, Streatham

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. The 176 and 197 stop locally on Kirkdale and the 363 on Sydenham Hill.

Fees & Uniform



Senior School 2023/24

£6,619.00 per term or £19,857 annually

Prep School 2023/24

£5,204.00 per term or £15,612 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 £283.21 per term.

Uniform for Years 0-11

Pupils 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 standards of dress

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.

Contact us

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 and information including our major policies.



"Sydenham is like
a second home.
We felt part of
the community
well before we
joined."

– Parent