



# Southend High School for Girls

Options Booklet and Application Form  
2010  
EXTERNAL

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Dear Year 11 Student,

This is an important time for you: your choice of A-levels will impact your immediate and long-term future. Your decision needs to be informed and carefully considered. Choose your A-level subjects with a view to what you want to study at university and your future career ambitions; it is also important to choose subjects that you are good at and that you enjoy.

The decision is yours, but you should take advice from our careers team who will be able to advise you throughout your time at SHSG about Further Education, Higher Education, employment, and taking a gap-year. The long summer holidays between your GCSEs and starting in Sixth Form are an ideal time to do some research of your own: aim to get a work-experience placement or do some voluntary work in the area you want to pursue for your eventual career.

The Sixth Form Prospectus contains details of the subjects offered at A-level. Read this carefully and go to the relevant examination-board websites which will give you more information about the courses you are considering. Use this alongside this options book to help you select your options for next year.

The options pack contains:

- An option form for internal students and an application form for external students,
- The option blocks (you can only choose one subject per block),
- Advice on choosing your A-level subjects,
- Careers advice
- The Sixth Form Prospectus

Please contact the school if you do not have any of these items.

What Happens Next?

Internal students: please return your options form to your form tutor by Monday 11th January 2010

External applicants: please complete the application pages and return them to school as soon as possible. On receipt of application references will be sent for. If you wish to look around the school and have a discussion about your subject choices please let us know on your application form. If you are offered a place we would expect you to honour the offer or let us know in advance of results day if you wish to decline the place.

Sixth Form Induction

This takes place on June 29th, 30th and July 1st, and all students (internal and external) who have been offered a place at SHSG are expected to attend. During these three days you will meet your new tutor and fellow students, go to taster lessons of the subjects you have chosen, and have a taste of Sixth Form life.

SHSG Sixth Form is a thriving student community which received an 'Outstanding' in the 2007 Ofsted. This is due to the high level of education you will receive here, and also because of the 'extras' we offer our students; we have regular enrichment activities such as guest speakers and activity days; all students in year 12 are required to do community service, either in the school or the wider community; you will all be eligible to stand for election as prefects and, subsequently the Head-Girl team. There is always something going on in Sixth Form.

Please do seek further advice if you need it: we are here to help and support you, but remember that the final decisions are all yours.

Good luck with your GCSE's

# Admissions Criteria



All students in year 11 at Southend Girls are entitled to join the sixth form and we also welcome applications from external candidates. As an academic Sixth Form the courses we offer are not suitable for everyone and we have criteria which guide applications as set out below;

- Students should achieve 57 points or more at GCSE. Where an A\* = 8, A = 7, B = 6, C = 5. This is based on the 9 best subjects.
- Students should have achieved at least a B grade in the subjects they wish to take. If the subject is new then they should have A\*, A or B in an equivalent subject.
- Students should have C or above in English and Mathematics.

If the point score falls below 57 points options and course choices will be discussed on results day with the student. If there are sound reasons why the results fall below 57 we may consider it acceptable that the student continues onto Advanced level on a probationary basis initially.

On entering the school students sign a contract with the school. We will give support throughout the two years of A level and put mentoring in place as necessary. However, should a student elect to miss classes or work at a standard which is below an acceptable level we will help her/him to find an alternative course elsewhere. The value added scores every 6 weeks will indicate the progress of students and are regarded as very important in personalising learning.

After AS level (year 1 of advanced level) progression onto A2 can only take place if the student is fully prepared and has a sound base. To that end continuation can not continue if a student has an E or a U grade and D grades will be discussed with the Head of Subject.

At the end of two years the vast majority of students (97%) go onto higher education whether that be university, art college or another tertiary institution. We support students through the application process and have an excellent careers department for students to use as they wish.

# THE SUBJECTS

From 2010 all subjects we offer will be delivered under the specifications which began in 2008, with the consequential reduction in coursework. Thus all students need to be aware that the **'learning'** and **analytical** elements of A levels will be much more important in the future than in the past..



At Southend High School for Girls we offer a range of subjects, all at Advanced Level.

Students normally take 4 AS levels plus General Studies in year 12 which the majority keep through to A2, plus General Studies. A few students drop to 3 subjects. However, we do not consider it appropriate for students to continue on less than 3 subjects in the second year of A level. These three subjects, however, can consist of 2 A2 levels and 2 AS subjects. To that end we offer a few subjects in year 13 at AS.

A number of our most able opt to take the Advanced Extension Award at the end of year 13 which, on occasion, has been part of the Cambridge offer. Likewise a number of students undertake the Extended project or take OU modules.

The running of courses is subject to the number of students taking that course. Normally a class will be between 9 and 24 students.

## SUBJECTS FOR YEAR 13 AT AS LEVEL

Classical Civilisation  
History of Art  
Science and Society  
Photography  
World Development

## SUBJECTS FOR YEAR 12; AS AND YEAR 13; A2

Art	Mathematics
Biology	Media studies
Business Studies/Economics	Music
Chemistry	Music Technology
English Language	Physics
English Literature	Product Design
French	Psychology
Further Mathematics	Religious Studies
Geography	Sociology
German	Spanish
Government and Politics	
History	
ICT	

# HOW TO CHOOSE YOUR A LEVEL OPTIONS



Selecting which subjects to take should be arrived at after discussion with teachers, parents and careers staff. Students should be cautious that they Do not take too many subjects of the same type eg too many practical subjects, or too many ‘essay’ subjects, or too many new subjects. A combination will give studying more variety and the point of having 4 subjects is to add breadth to A levels not to include another subject of the same variety.

For university entrance quality (higher grades) is more important than quantity.

Things to bear in mind when selecting;

- Your future career plans - Check with careers or on line, whether any specific course is essential for your chosen degree or career. If you have no career in mind keep your options open.
- Select subjects which you enjoy! You are the person who will be studying them for 2 years so don't make a selection because someone else wants you to study a particular subject.
- Take subjects which you are good at!!!
- Find out about the subjects in which you are interested. No subject is a soft option or easier/harder than any other. Find out about assessment and how you will be examined. If there is practical work find out the nature of this work—group or individual, and what % of the final examination it constitutes. Talking to present year 12/13 will help.
- Talk to your teachers. Clearly they will want to ‘sell’ their subject to you but the main thing is to get as much information as possible in order to make a sensible decision.

# A SAMPLE OF A LEVEL REQUIREMENTS FOR VARIOUS CAREERS AND COURSES



## **MEDICINE/DENTISTRY**

AS in Biology and Chemistry

A2 in at least one of Biology and Chemistry, preferably both

## **VETERINARY/MEDICINE**

A\*/A grades at GCSE in Sciences and Maths.

AS and A2 as above. It is best to have all three A2 subjects as Sciences /Maths. The fourth subject at AS can be another science or a subject which can show a different skill or method of learning.

**For prospective VETS and MEDICS there is also a pre entry test (BMAT) which some institutions require to be taken.**

## **PHYSIOTHERAPY**

2 Science subjects are needed through to A2. For some universities Geography would count—check prospectuses.

## **EDUCATION—PRIMARY**

AS and A2 in at least one National curriculum subject.

## **ECONOMICS**

Some institutions require Maths A level.

## **LAW**

At least one extended writing subject at A2 such as RS, History, Geography or English

## **ENGINEERING**

Physics and Mathematics are usually essential plus any other relevant subject eg Chemistry for chemical engineering.

## **FORENSICS**

Generally Chemistry and Biology at AS and A2 level

**Some courses require a portfolio of work to be shown such as art courses or stage make up courses.**

**Oxbridge may require examples of work and you may have to sit a test when you go for interview.**

# COMMENTS FROM **ALIS**<sup>1</sup> CONFIDENTIAL SURVEY BY YEAR 13 LEAVERS



“ I am Happy in the sixth form”

“ this place has been superb for me on occasions”

“There is definitely a good working atmosphere here”

“ I feel that I have been given a lot of support. I am pleased I stayed on”

“Excellent Teaching”

“Pastoral staff really care”

“The sixth form is friendly and the teachers are very supportive”

“Relations between staff and students are very good”

“ My tutor is always ready to help me”

“The work ethic and pastoral care are both very good”

“ The careers department is great!”

## **OFSTED Feb. 2007**

Sixth Form graded 1 (outstanding)

“The school has an outstanding Sixth Form.”

“ Standards are exceptionally high”

“A combination of teachers’ outstanding subject knowledge and use of resources, smaller teaching groups and high quality pastoral care contributes directly to the high standards achieved.”

“Students’ personal development and well being is outstanding”

“Students access an exceptional range of enrichment activities”

“ Sixth formers play a significant role within the school”

1. ALIS is the Advanced Level Information System run by Durham University which collates A level results from around the country and calculates targets grades for individual students. They also provide a service to look into teaching and learning and a final year survey of the school experience. All information gathered is confidential—we at school never see it until it is analysed and sent back.

# The Application Process

Internal students complete the internal student form and external students complete the external form!!

Internal students attend an interview with the Careers department to check that their plans for post 16 and the course they want to take are suitable.

If they wish external students can come into look at the school during the school day and have a chat to ensure that their choices and reasons for applying are sensible.

References are sent for from an external students 'home' school and we subsequently send an offer.

We invite all students to attend our induction days and expect them to come into school on GCSE results day to confirm their place in the sixth form.

Students should select 4 (or 5 for the very able) from different column below. Further Maths is taught in twilight sessions.



<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>
Biology Psychology Maths French Chemistry RS BS/ Economics ICT	Biology Physics English Lang. Maths Government and Politics Art Geography Product Design	Biology German Spanish English lit. English Lang. History Maths Chemistry Sociology	Biology Physics History Media Studies English Lit. Music Tech. BS/Economics Geography Theatre Studies	Physics English lit. History Psychology Music Chemistry Government and Politics

# INTERNAL STUDENT APPLICATION FORM ADVANCED LEVEL SUBJECT CHOICES



Name \_\_\_\_\_ Form \_\_\_\_\_

Form Tutor \_\_\_\_\_

Subject choice - select one from 4 columns (5 in exceptional circumstances). If you have clashing subjects write both down and we will try to accommodate your choices but beware that it may be impossible.

Option

A

B

C

D

E

If you want to take up Further Maths please tick in this box.

Are you thinking of leaving? If so Where are you thinking of going?

\_\_\_\_\_

Are you thinking of leaving or definitely leaving ? Please circle thinking or definitely.

Signed Student \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

Signed Parent \_\_\_\_\_

Return this form to your form teacher by.....Monday 11th January .

# EXTERNAL STUDENT APPLICATION FORM ADVANCED LEVEL SUBJECT CHOICES



Data Protection 1984—any personal data entered on this form may be held on computer files within the school. The data from unsuccessful candidates will be destroyed.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ D.O.B. \_\_\_\_\_

AGE IN SEPTEMBER OF AS YEAR (September of first year of study) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONES NUMBERS; HOME \_\_\_\_\_

MOBILE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

PRESENT SCHOOL \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS OF PRESENT SCHOOL \_\_\_\_\_

HEADTEACHER OF PRESENT SCHOOL \_\_\_\_\_

YEAR 11 TUTOR / HEAD OF YEAR \_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF PARENT/GUARDIAN \_\_\_\_\_

### Grades of qualification already achieved

SUBJECT    GRADE    TYPE OF EXAMINATION (GCSE/BTEC ETC)

### Courses and predicted grades of subjects being studied at the moment

COURSE	GRADE	COURSE	GRADE

Please answer the following questions. You may also include a letter to support your application or any information you think might be useful to us.

Why do you want to come to SHSG? You may add a letter if you wish.



What are your main hobbies and interests?

Are there any extracurricular activities you would like to become involved with at SHSG or any you might like to start?

Do you know anyone at SHSG? Who?

Which is your first preference of institution to study post 16?

What positions of responsibility have you held in or out of school?

Have you undertaken any community service? If so, what have you done?

Do you have any health problems or learning issues that we would need to take into account when teaching you? If so, what?

YOUR SUBJECT CHOICES SELECT 4

OPTION A

OPTION B

OPTION C

OPTION D

OPTION E

I declare that the information given on this form is correct and that should I be accepted at SHSG I will abide by the Code of Conduct of the school.

Signed (student) \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

I support my sons/daughters application for admission to SHSG

Signed (parent/guardian) \_\_\_\_\_