



South Hampstead
High School

INTO THE

SIXTH



This is the time. The time to question, to explore, to create, to have a say and to take the lead. The time to thrive and grow. This is the time to discover your own direction.



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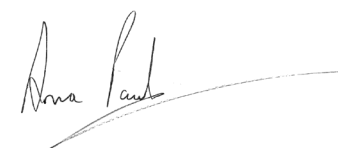
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Welcome to South Hampstead Sixth Form

South Hampstead alumnae often reflect on their Sixth Form years as the absolute highlight of their educational experience. The move into the warm, wood-panelled splendour of the Grade II-listed Oakwood building brings a shift in pace and atmosphere. As students settle in their new surroundings, greater intellectual freedom and personal responsibility invite them to stretch their wings, to grasp the initiative, to take on new roles and to develop a strong sense of self.

This is a place that celebrates learning for learning's sake and which sets great store by the power of ideas. Our Sixth Formers take on the role of *primae inter pares*, or first among equals – the most influential citizens of our vibrant school community – as they prepare for life beyond. Our A Level results speak for themselves, but South Hampstead Sixth Form is about so much more than academic headlines – it's a springboard to independence and a step towards exciting new directions.

At South Hampstead, girls are given every opportunity to grow, to give back and to shine. We aim to open hearts and minds, as well as doors to the world outside. An education here aims to equip our young women with the soft skills needed for a demanding yet inspiring world. We seek to imbue the next generation of creative problem-solvers with the courage and commitment to forge their own fulfilling futures. This is a schooling for life.



MRS PAUL
BA English (Dunelm)
Head

PRIMAE INTER PARES — FIRST AMONG EQUALS



“We aim to draw you out of your comfort zone and encourage a spirit of enquiry and debate.”

MR WHITE, DIRECTOR OF SIXTH FORM



An introduction to life in the Sixth Form

The Sixth Form at South Hampstead lights up a world of new opportunities, both intellectual and personal. It's why so many students describe the final two years at South Hampstead as their very best. Here, you'll receive outstanding teaching, achieve exceptional A Level results, and quickly feel at home in a place that's buzzing with activity and fun.

In lessons, we aim to draw you out of your comfort zone and encourage a spirit of enquiry and debate. Our enrichment programme provides a host of opportunities to spark the imagination, to engage with new people and places and to develop new skills – a speaker series that would do credit to a top university, a PE programme to rival the most dynamic gym, and a calendar peppered with international trips.

You'll have chances to produce plays, run societies, edit the school magazine and launch charitable initiatives, as well as step forward for the Head Girl team and captaincy roles. Our comprehensive Futures Programme, focusing on higher education and careers, helps to put all our leavers on their individual paths to success.

The hopes and ambitions of our young women are central to everything we do. Our Sixth Form is not just made for them; it's made by them, too. We look forward to making you a big part of it.

MR WHITE

BA History (Leeds)
Director of Sixth Form

Stretch your wings — Intellectual enrichment

Our enriched curriculum is designed to reach well beyond the confines of A Level demands and to keep even the most curious and creative minds well-nourished.

Educating our Sixth Formers is about so much more than A Level syllabuses. That's why we developed our intellectual enrichment programme – to offer opportunities for intellectual growth, physical and mental well-being, creativity and service to the wider community.

During *Free Thinking Fridays* in the Lower Sixth, you'll be treated to the weekly Great Ideas Lecture Series. It's a chance to hear from and quiz speakers on high-level thinking across a spectrum of subjects, such as the fundamentals of music, the principles of exoplanet detection, existentialism and the genius of Wittgenstein. Enlightening and interactive, the lectures lead to the Extended Project Qualification, or EPQ, which emphasises research skills and sophisticated writing and presentation, providing a solid foundation for study at university.

Later, in the Upper Sixth, you'll hear from an incredible series of distinguished guests across an array of disciplines (from academics and activists to entrepreneurs and explorers) as part of the *Free Thinking Fridays* Opening Minds Speaker Series – a rich and varied programme that encourages you to reflect upon and debate a rich diversity of issues and points of view.

Beyond the curriculum, there are plenty of other opportunities to pursue your areas of interest and to shine. South Hampstead girls have a strong track record in Oxbridge essay competitions, Girls' Day School Trust scholarships and other prestigious awards and prizes, such as Arkwright Engineering Scholarships. And our mathematicians and scientists frequently excel in national challenges and Olympiads.

*“There's a balance of freedom and responsibility.
The school really encourages personal enrichment.”*

SIXTH FORM STUDENT





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Blazing trails — Leadership opportunities

*“I value the encouragement
to pursue independence and
originality.”*

SIXTH FORM STUDENT



Once you have found your feet in the Lower Sixth, you'll have the chance to put yourself forward as a candidate for a range of Head Girl team roles and to take part in hustings, competing for the votes of pupils and staff. The nominated team take on roles such as speaking at events and leading assemblies, garnering pupil feedback, instigating eco-initiatives and organising fundraising and wellness weeks. House Captains play a major role in rallying their teams for a range of fun, competitive events.

Trailblazers are welcomed here: Sixth Formers have invited Laura Bates, founder of the Everyday Sexism Project, and tampon tax campaigner, Laura Coryton, here to speak. And whether it's by producing your own publication, organising charitable endeavours or starting one of our many student-led campaigns, South Hampstead girls love to take the initiative. Sixth Formers launch and lead lunchtime societies, from the student magazine to clubs such as Experimental Science or Robotics, run for younger pupils.

*“Being at South
Hampstead opens
up a huge range of
opportunities and
possibilities.”*

FORMER DEPUTY HEAD GIRL



The world needs more women leaders, and in the Sixth Form we do everything we can to give you a taste of leadership as you prepare for life after South Hampstead.

*“This is where you can come
into your own, to really grow
into yourself.”*

SIXTH FORM STUDENT

GROW



Freedom to shine — The co-curriculum



“One of my highlights of the Sixth Form has been the creative freedom – exploring new topics, producing and performing our own independent plays.”

SIXTH FORM STUDENT

“You’re able to reinvent yourself and try something new through all the clubs, societies and other opportunities.”

FORMER DEPUTY HEAD GIRL



We don’t do cookie-cutter students at South Hampstead Sixth Form. While universally outstanding exam results is one priority, universally different people is another.

Our co-curricular programme, *Mehr Licht* (our school motto, which means more light) gives everyone the opportunity to shine. Our society scene is always buzzing with new initiatives and events led by students. The Eco Committee, for example, has set ambitious targets for reducing waste within the school and Feminist Societies are thriving, with regular film screenings and

incredible guest speakers. Our students love to talk and discuss, and debate flourishes here. Whether it’s addressing current affairs, philosophy or LGBTQ+ issues, there’s no holding back; some Sixth Form discussion groups have been compared to mini think-tanks.

Travel, adventure and exposure to foreign cultures are vital components of Sixth Form life. Many girls complete their Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award here and good numbers participate in adventurous global expeditions. Study-related forays have included a History trip to Russia, Art trips to Japan and Florence, a Physics trip to the NASA headquarters in Orlando, a sports tour to Sri Lanka and an Economics trip to New York. This is alongside a regular calendar of UK trips to museums, theatres and academic conferences.

Performers and directors feel right at home here. Every year, the Sixth Form produces its own independent play and stages a series of satirical performances that radiate a characteristic South Hampstead irreverence and wit – students even perform at the Edinburgh Fringe. Our talented musicians, meanwhile, have the opportunity to lead their own choirs and many play instruments to an incredibly high standard; for those who just want to stretch their vocal chords, or bang their own drum, there are numerous musical groups to join too.

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Fired up — Sport



Sport forms an essential part of our Sixth Form's expansive and holistic education. With outstanding facilities on hand, you are able to keep fit, try new forms of physical activity and excel at your chosen sports.



All Sixth Formers take part in at least two lessons of PE each week with the choice of activity ranging from traditional team sports and dynamic dance sessions to high-intensity interval training combined with mindfulness. The ethos of inclusive excellence that permeates the whole school means there is a sporting activity for everyone, whether you are competing at squad level or want to try something new.

Senior sports teams regularly compete in fixtures locally while our international sports tours have taken players as far afield as the Caribbean and South Africa. Our elite sportswomen help to promote PE and sport throughout the school and provide positive role models for our younger pupils, instilling a commitment to sport for life and sport for all.



*“In lessons you are encouraged
to spark a debate.”*

SIXTH FORM STUDENT

SPARK



6 A warm community — Pastoral care

Sixth Form students can feel pressure on many sides, but at South Hampstead there's a friendly and supportive community to help you thrive and deal with challenges.



“Everyone was so welcoming. It was easy to adjust quickly to a new school.”

SIXTH FORM JOINER



“The teachers put in so much effort to ensure we are all happy in our personal and academic lives.”

FORMER HEAD GIRL

As Sixth Formers, you will have your very own home from home: Oakwood, the Victorian former residence of the Debenham family, is a place to work, play and let off steam. There are quiet corners to study and catch up with tutors as well as a buzzing common room complete with table football, comfy sofas, marshmallow-topped hot chocolate and oven-fresh cakes. The Sixth Form team nurtures a real sense of community: small form groups, regular social events and open dialogue with amazing tutors all signal a shift in the learning environment.

There's a genuine focus on encouraging each individual to flourish and express herself. You can study any combination of A Levels and wear

whatever you choose. You have the freedom to speak up, speak out, be yourself and maybe start a society to meet and inspire like minds, however weird or wonderful the area of interest.

Our Sixth Form student welfare committee is active in promoting health and happiness throughout the wider school community. Expert speakers are invited in to discuss issues such as mental health and drug and alcohol use, while workshops encourage healthy eating and sleeping, mindfulness and effective exam preparation. Our on-site nurse and professional counselling provision allows students to access support on any issue, completely free of stigma.

“There is a mutual respect between students and teachers. They all give so much and tirelessly answer all our questions (and we have a lot).”

SIXTH FORM STUDENT

RESPECT



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Reaching out — Charity & Community

For many students, the most rewarding part of Sixth Form life is discovering not what they can do for themselves but what they are able to do for others.



At South Hampstead we aim to open hearts as well as minds. Our core values – Aspiration, Creativity, Kindness, Commitment and Courage – underpin everything we do. Sports captains coach younger teams, students lead lunchtime sessions for Junior School pupils and peer mentors support girls as they progress through the school. During the pandemic our social action initiatives expanded to include new links with a local charity combatting food poverty and projects as far afield as Calcutta, Rwanda, and the favelas of Rio. By looking outwards, and giving back, many students discover a strong sense of moral purpose during their Sixth Form years.

The Head Girl team and Charity Captains fundraise thousands of pounds each year, working with pupil representatives across the school. Scientists volunteer with Maggie's cancer support charity; aspiring medics help out at the Royal Free Hospital; others join our long-running pensioners' link programme. And through our partnership with Resurgo's award-winning Spear programme, Sixth Formers also have the chance to support young people from disadvantaged backgrounds in finding long-term employment.

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Our torch carriers — Life beyond

It's always a little sad to see another year of young women leave our Sixth Form – there are always a good many who have been with the school since the age of four, as well as those who blaze a trail in just two short years. But mostly we can't wait to see what they go on to achieve in their years ahead.



“Pupils warmly embrace the school’s pervasive culture of joyful scholarship.”

ISI REPORT



South Hampstead's Futures Programmes, led by a team of dedicated experts, provides exceptional higher education and careers advice tailored to support every individual. You can also tap into the Girls' Day School Trust community of 70,000 alumnae – an invaluable network of former pupils who offer work experience, professional advice and mentoring, not just for your Sixth Form years but for life.

Each year, our leavers go on to pursue their dreams and make their mark on the world. The vast majority of students gain their first-choice university and continue their studies at Russell Group universities. Typically, around 20% head for Oxbridge and a strong record in securing students placing for medicine and veterinary sciences each year, while increasing numbers are moving stateside to attend Ivy League universities.

But it's how our young women continue in life beyond, as they stride out on their own individual paths, that's more impressive still. We are proud of all our pioneering alumnae – from award-winning authors to groundbreaking scientists, esteemed lawyers to dynamic entrepreneurs, famous musicians to acclaimed physicians – as they pursue happy, successful lives in a multitude of different directions.



*This is the time to
discover your own direction.
Join the Sixth Form at South
Hampstead and stride out on
your unique path to a happy,
successful and exciting future.*



South Hampstead
High School

G D S T

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