



# Handsworth Wood Girls' School

**Sixth Form Overview Guide**

**September 2012**



# Introduction

Handsworth Wood Girls' School Sixth Form is focussed on academic success and personal development for all our students. We want them all to achieve a good range of qualifications so that at 18 or 19 years of age, they can move on to study at university, access level 3 courses at FE college or gain employment with good career opportunities.

## Sixth Form Ethos

The school's motto is "Aspiring for Excellence." Success can only be achieved through a commitment to studies, working in partnership with each student, her family and the school. Academic progress is carefully monitored with regular reports home. Students are supported and encouraged to use their time in school profitably and wisely, and we have work spaces and laptops available for them. The excellent teacher-student relationship is a strong aspect of HWGS Sixth Form and the students are encouraged to use the support provided to them by their teachers.

The life experiences of the students are broadened through the many enrichment activities, the access to work experience or work placements, and the significant leadership roles available; this aids their progress to further study or employment. All Sixth Formers are expected to make the most of these opportunities.

## Support in the Sixth Form

Every Sixth Former is allocated a form tutor, who is their first point of contact for academic and pastoral issues. The form tutor meets their tutees twice a day, in morning registration and in the afternoon tutorial. In addition the Head of Sixth Form, Mrs. McCalla, and the Assistant Head of Sixth Form Mrs. Gohir, operate an 'open door' policy for all Sixth Form students. The Sixth Form also has its' own administrative support officer who assists the Head of Sixth Form.

Work Experience and Work Placement is an important aspect of the Sixth Form for many students and the CEIAG Co-ordinator is responsible for assisting the students in this.

The Assistant Head of Sixth Form has a specific responsibility for guiding the students through the UCAS application procedure. She co-ordinates internal staff and external agencies, and supports students with their applications and personal statements.

## The Admissions Calendar for a September 2012 Start

<p><b>Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> November</b></p> <p><b>4.30 p.m. – 7.00 p.m.</b></p>	<p><b>Sixth Form Open Evening.</b> This is a great opportunity to find out about HWGS Sixth Form. There will be presentations of key information and you will be able to speak to members of staff and existing Sixth Form students.</p>
<p><b>Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December</b></p>	<p><b>Deadline for completion of internal action plans.</b> All internal Year 11 students complete an action planning process as part of their careers guidance. Students may choose to apply to HWGS Sixth Form as part of this process.</p>
<p><b>December / January</b></p>	<p><b>Action Plan based Discussions:</b> Every internal Year 11 student is given an information, advice and guidance discussion with a member of the Senior Leadership Team. For students applying to HWGS Sixth Form we will discuss career aspirations, the chosen pathway, combination of subjects and personal statement.</p>
<p><b>Wednesday February 8<sup>th</sup></b></p>	<p><b>Offer letters to current HWGS students.</b></p>
<p><b>Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> January</b></p>	<p><b>Deadline for external applications to HWGS Sixth Form.</b> Application forms may be obtained from the HWGS School Office, telephone number <b>0121 5548211</b> or from the school website <a href="http://www.hwgs.org.uk/">http://www.hwgs.org.uk/</a> . Application forms will be available for use from Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> November.</p>
<p><b>January / February</b></p>	<p><b>Discussions about pathway / option choices for non HWGS students.</b> Any student who has applied to join the HWGS Sixth Form will have an information, advice and guidance discussion with a member of the Senior Leadership Team where we will discuss career aspirations, the chosen pathway, combination of subjects and personal statement.</p>
<p><b>Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> February</b></p>	<p><b>Deadline for offers of provisional places to have been sent to external students.</b></p>
<p><b>Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> July</b></p>	<p><b>Sixth Form Induction Day</b> – All prospective Sixth Formers are expected to attend.</p>
<p><b>Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> August</b></p>	<p><b>Internal HWGS students Results and Sixth Form Enrolment Day</b> 10.00 a.m. – 12.00 a.m.</p>
<p><b>Friday 24<sup>th</sup> August</b></p>	<p><b>External students Sixth Form Enrolment Day</b> 10.00 a.m. – 12.00 a.m.</p>

## Sixth Form Curriculum

The majority of girls embark on a Level 3 pathway in Year 12 which will last for two years. A small minority of students who are not yet ready for a Level 3 pathway follow the Level 2 pathway for one year before moving on to a Level 3 pathway. The pathways available are shown below:

<b>Pathway 1</b>  <b>Level 3</b>  <b>AS / A2</b> <b>Route</b>	Year 12:	Three or four (exceptionally five) AS-Levels Enrichment course
	Year 13:	Three to four (exceptionally five) A-Levels Zero to Two AS-Levels Enrichment course
<b>Pathway 2</b>  <b>Level 3</b>  <b>Vocational Route 1</b>	Year 12	Vocational course – Eg. CACHE / H&SC with work placement 1 -2 AS-Levels / GCSEs / BTECs Enrichment course
	Year 13	Vocational course – Year 2 with work placement 1 -2 AS-Levels / BTECs Enrichment course
<b>Pathway 3</b>  <b>Level 3</b>  <b>Vocational Route 2</b>	Year 12	Level 3 BTECs (number depends on size) Enrichment course
	Year 13	Level 3 BTECs – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Year (number depends on size) Enrichment course
<b>Pathway 4</b>  <b>Level 3</b>  <b>MEDICAL Route</b>	Year 12:	Four AS-Levels (including Chemistry) plus Chemistry Masterclasses following Pre-U Chemistry syllabus. Enrichment Course – Global Perspectives
	Year 13:	Four A-Levels (including Chemistry) plus Chemistry Masterclasses following Pre-U Chemistry syllabus. Enrichment course – Independent Research Project
<b>Pathway 5</b>  <b>Level 2</b>  <b>Level 2 Route</b>	Year 12	GCSE / Level 2 BTEC / Enrichment course. L2 CACHE or L2/3 BTEC WorkSkills
	Successful completion of this pathway provides progression to one of the Level 3 pathways above or employment.	

## Courses Available at HWGS Sixth Form

<p><b>A-levels</b></p> <p>Accounting</p> <p>Art</p> <p>Biology</p> <p>Business Studies</p> <p>Chemistry</p> <p>Economics**</p> <p>Engineering*</p> <p>English Lit</p> <p>French*</p> <p>Geography*</p> <p>Gov. &amp; Politics</p> <p>History</p> <p>IT</p> <p>Law</p> <p>Mathematics</p> <p>Media Studies</p> <p>Music Technology *</p> <p>Photography**</p>	<p>Physics</p> <p>Psychology</p> <p>Religious Studies</p> <p>Sociology</p> <p>Theatre Studies</p> <p>Urdu</p> <p><b>Level 3 BTECs</b></p> <p>Art</p> <p>Child Development</p> <p>Dance</p> <p>Health &amp; Social Care</p> <p>Performing Arts</p> <p>Science</p> <p>Sport</p> <p><b>Cambridge Pre-U Certificate</b></p> <p>Chemistry</p>	<p><b>GCSEs (One year course for each)</b></p> <p>Additional Science</p> <p>Art</p> <p>English Language</p> <p>Mathematics</p> <p>Urdu</p> <p><b>Level 2 BTECs (One year course for each)</b></p> <p>Art</p> <p>Child Development</p> <p>Health and Social Care</p> <p>Science</p> <p>Work Skills</p>
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\*Course co-taught with a partner. Lessons may take place at another site.

\*\*Course offered at a partner school and lessons will take place at that site.

## Entry Requirements

Pathway	Entry Requirement
<b>ALL</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Minimum 92 % Attendance in Year 11</li> <li>● A record of positive behaviour and strong work ethic</li> </ul>
<b>Level 3</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>General:</b> 5 A*-C including Grade C in English and Maths</li> <li>● <b>Subject Specific:</b> A-Levels – Grade B’s or BTECs – Grade C’s / Merits – see Sixth Form Guide for specific details</li> </ul>
<b>Level 2</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 5 A*-G including grade E in English and Maths</li> </ul>
<b>Medical</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 5 A/A* including two Sciences, English and Maths (Not BTECs)</li> </ul>

## Informed Choices

The Russell Group of 20 leading UK Universities, in collaboration with the Institute of Career Guidance released its' first ever guide to post-16 choices in February 2011. The Guide 'Informed Choices' includes advice on the best subject combinations for a wide range of university courses as well as advice on the best choices if you don't know what you want to study after school and need to keep your options open. The guide can be found at:

<http://www.russellgroup.ac.uk/informed-choices.aspx>

A key idea in the guide is that there are a limited number of A Levels which provides access to the majority of University Courses and that choosing at least two of these 'facilitating subjects' enhances the chances of being offered a place at one of the courses at these universities. The facilitating A Level subjects are:

Sciences:	Biology, Chemistry, Physics
Mathematics:	Further Mathematics, Mathematics
Humanities:	Geography, History
Languages:	Eg. French, German, Urdu
English:	English Language, English Literature

## Further Information

This Sixth Form Overview provides a very brief introduction to Handsworth Wood Girls' School Sixth Form. For more information including guidance on choosing courses, individual course information and entry requirements see the full electronic version of the Sixth Form Guide on the HWGS website: [www.hwgs.org.uk](http://www.hwgs.org.uk)