

# Step Seamlessly from Prep into SHS **Senior School**

Entry into Year 5 and Year 6



**SUTTON**  
HIGH SCHOOL

GDST  
GIRLS' DAY SCHOOL TRUST

# Life in Year 5 and Year 6

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We know that our difference is the confidence we instil in our girls, so they become fiercely independent. This stems from an all-girls and an all-through (Prep into Senior School) education. It is the key to our success.

Year 5 is a step up in terms of independence, responsibility and organisation - it is all about our girls stepping up to their full potential and becoming role models for the younger girls. Leadership opportunities abound for girls in Year 6, with all the girls allocated to a particular position of responsibility in the Prep School. Year 5 girls attend an outdoor education trip at Bowles, near Tunbridge Wells, as well as Year 6 participating in week's residential trip at Marchants Hill focusing on transition skills. Their confidence in themselves and their learning blossoms, and they are ready to step forward into the next phase of their school lives. When girls enter Year 6, they have 30% of their lessons in Senior School with Senior School teachers, in what is an immersive transition year, in readiness for the step from Prep into Senior School the following year.

Whenever your daughter joins our Prep School, she is made to feel welcome instantly. The move from a Junior School into Year 7 is a big one, and can be a challenging one. We ensure the move from our Prep School into our Senior School is positive and seamless both academically and pastorally.

I look forward to welcoming you to our school, so you can discover our difference.

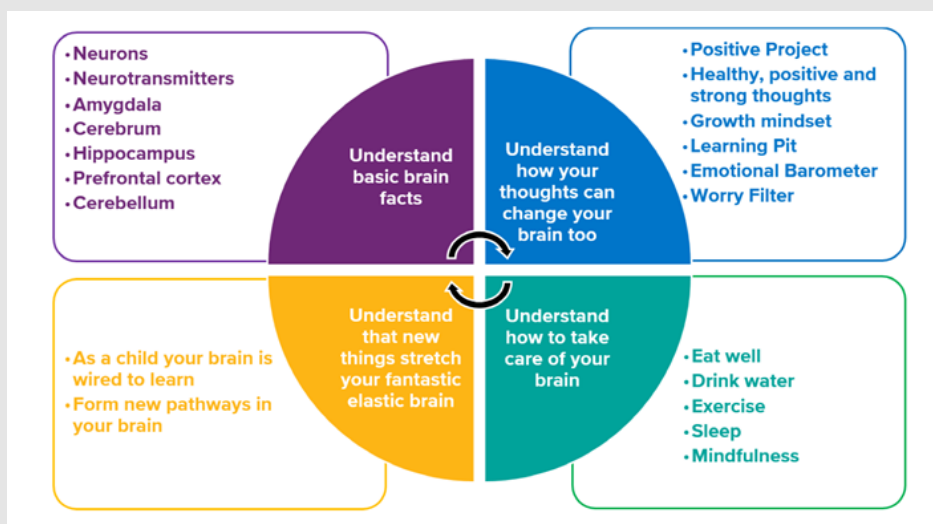
Best Wishes  
Anne Musgrove



# Step into our Pastoral Care

## Our girls do better because they feel better

For our Year 5 to Year 6 girls Personal Development continues to have a daily focus in Brains Matter. The aim of this is for each girl to identify how she is feeling, using the emotional barometer, and to learn the strategies required to cope with big feelings as well as small feelings. With the support of her Form teacher, along with the guidance of our Director of Pastoral Care or School Counsellor, she will do better because she feels better. She will learn the strategies to become fearless, to have the courage to try new things and to have no boundaries to her future opportunities.




# Step into our curriculum

## Confidence and challenge


Our aim is for the girls to experience an academically challenging curriculum but in an environment which is a 'greenhouse' rather than a 'hot house'. Individual iPads from Year 4, provided by the school, support independent and collaborative learning and the girls see these devices as part of their 'learning' toolkit.

In Year 3 to Year 6, your daughter will continue to experience the nurturing support of her Form Tutor but begin the transition into Year 7 by having an increasing number of specialist teachers in Senior School laboratories and specialist rooms. By Year 6, many of her lessons will be in Senior School: Art, Computing, Design and Technology, PE and Science. Our girls are extended through challenge opportunities. In a number of lessons a Learning Support teacher works within the classroom as well as providing prior learning opportunities and activities to develop girls' memory skills. The girls learn 'how to learn'.







In **English lessons**, the girls study high quality texts, which form the basis of their learning adventure each term. Example themes include: '*Boomerangs and Billabongs*' and '*Land of the Free*'. There is a focus on developing comprehension skills and the application of taught grammar skills in their creative writing. They learn how to debate, how to write explanation texts along with creative poetry and narratives. They become authors. The girls have the opportunity to enter both the GDST Writing and Poetry competitions and to enter pieces of work for the school magazine.




In **Mathematics** lessons, the girls apply the skills they have learnt to more advanced problem solving, to become confident mathematicians. They enter the *UK Mathematics Challenge* competition, and in Year 6 they experience the excitement of *Maths in Motion*.




Our **Scientists** of the future are given endless opportunities. They dissect a pig's heart, if they would like to, perform experiments in **Senior School** laboratories




**History and Geography** lessons inspire the girls, frequently accompanied by a school trip. They embrace technology and explore WebQuests and present their research findings.



The teaching of the **Arts** continues to be highly valued at Sutton High School, with stunning concerts in our state-of-the-art **Lees Hall**. Girls can have individual instrumental lessons, all learn how to read music and play the keyboard and there is weekly orchestra and choir. The can elect to participate in a Drama club and take the LAMDA examination. There are plays for Year 4 and Year 6 girls, a highlight of the Prep School year.



**PE** is taught by specialists and the superb facilities, including an indoor swimming pool and full-sized sports hall means a high level of skill can be achieved. There are numerous fixtures and Trust Rallies which develop sporting skills as well as attributes such as collaboration and team work.



Our specialist teaching in **Computing**, in the Senior School Computer Science Lab, allows girls to develop skills in coding, problem-solving and robotics.

# Progress tests and **Scholarships**

It is the progress your daughter makes which we value and celebrate, helping her to achieve the best version of herself. For example, in tests Year 3 to Year 6 girls will learn how to revise, how to prepare for tests, so they are not overwhelmed and cope with the situation. They are supported to look at their results, they will not receive a score on a paper initially, so they focus on areas to develop rather than comparing themselves with others. You will be provided with regular feedback in Parents' Evenings and School Reports, along with meetings as required.



## **11+** Examination

**Our girls are awarded a place into Senior School from Year 3, no need to take our 11+.**

We prepare our girls for the scholarship tests and at Year 6 and many are successful. This is achieved in an environment which is not a 'hot house'. Girls complete weekly verbal and non-verbal reasoning lessons from Year 3.

# Life is bigger than school but it **starts here**

## **Breathe the Wild Air** **Learning beyond the classroom**

Residential trips offer opportunities for the girls to step out of their comfort zone. They build confidence in their own abilities and soar to new heights. These opportunities, along with school plays, sports days, swimming galas and so on, are some of the defining moments in the girls' schooling and which they will recall for a lifetime.

### **Clubs**

There are over 50 before and after school clubs offered for Prep girls. These are a mixture of:



Teacher led clubs (free), for example, Science, Mindfulness, Card Games,



External provider led clubs, for example, e.g. Ballet, Chess, Gym, Swimming






Sports clubs (free), for example, Netball, Rounders, Hockey








### **Day Trips**

The Prep girls frequently have educational visits. For example, to further their scientific curiosity there have been visits to Greenwich Observatory, Royal Institute, Bay Pond, Nower Wood. Our Year 5 girls take to the stage at the Globe Theatre, become astronomers at Greenwich Observatory. Our Year 6 girls support our local community and sing at the Salvation Army, and Remembrance Day in Sutton town centre.

## Residential Trips

-  **Year 4** - with the nurturing environment of Sayers Croft, two nights away means the girls can have their own adventures to share with their families on return.
-  **Year 5** – Bowles, enhances a love of the outdoors. The girls develop resilience and learn independence, including how to pack for themselves and to carry their own suitcase!
-  **Year 6** – Marchants Hill, they learn more about themselves through a transition programme, challenge themselves (the zip wire or giant swing will do that to the best of us!) and they continued to learn the value of friends and team work.

## Prep School Challenge Opportunities

-  Visiting workshops such as authors and focus days
-  GDST Science conference at the Royal Institute
-  GDST Mathematics conference at Oxford University
-  GDST Poetry and Writing competition
-  Maths in Motion
-  Elite gymnastics training and competitions
-  Local Quiz for Junior Schools



# Get ready to be **heard**



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**Come and visit our school Open Morning and see it for yourselves, read our Head Girl and Deputy Head Girls' speeches from last year.**

# Ellie, Head Girl

One of the things I love about this school is that we are a family. With the senior school, with the GDST, but most importantly, each other. We all have a role to play that makes this school so great. Sutton High is not just a school. We are taught academics, but we are also taught about being kind and empathetic. In school, we are taught about our four Superpowers: empathy, resilience, curiosity and collaboration. We are taught to show these Super Powers towards learning and talking to our friends.

Sutton High lets you form your own identity. I have been at this school since Nursery and Sutton High School has taught me so much that I don't know who I would be without it. My favourite memory is going to Bowles, a residential trip, in Year 5 because we got to do new activities and have fun with our friends. I am always learning and gaining experience at Sutton High, whether it's in a lesson, in assembly or even just talking to my teachers. I have entered sports competitions and attended GDST conferences as well as making life-long friends. I love this school for so many reasons and I will stay on in the senior school so I can make so many more memories.

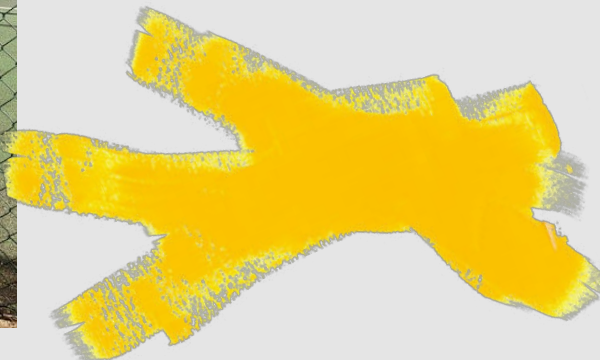


# Meela, Deputy Head Girl

So, you are reading our booklet, thinking the school looks impressive and soon you will see all the facilities the school has to offer. But what makes our school stand out from the rest? It is the opportunities, experiences and challenges the school offers, *and* the environment. Through all these, I have become the confident, resilient, responsible, and might I add, witty young girl that I am today. I know that these attributes will make me an empowered woman. Your daughter will have the opportunities to be involved all aspects of school and GDST life. We have many clubs from mindfulness, chess, sewing, taekwondo and many more. For the girls who enjoy sport there are development clubs and squads, competitions against other schools, biathlons and galas. I play tennis for the U10 Surrey Team, and the school have supported me to get to this level. We offer a wide range of music lessons and pride ourselves on our biannual music concerts, it is often an emotional time for parents.

Our school will encourage you to take on challenges, and not be afraid to get anything wrong. You have to get things wrong in order to learn. In the classroom you are always encouraged to move onto the next step.

Finally, all of this cannot happen without the teachers. They are caring, approachable and funny. We are one team at Sutton High School and as you walk around we hope that you feel the sense of belonging.





**WITH COURAGE**  
**WITH TRUTH**  
**WITH JOY**



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