



Wakefield Girls' High School
Wakefield

WGHS Senior School
(Girls 11-18 years)
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Careers

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Ethos

Wakefield Girls' High School encourages every girl to plan for their future and gives all the girls support in their application, whether it is for University, Specialist Arts, Music or Drama College, Apprenticeship, School Leaver Programme, or directly into employment.

The vast majority of girls in Year 13 plan to go to University but relatively few will choose their final career before they graduate. We therefore acknowledge that effective guidance is necessary to make girls aware of the opportunities available on graduation, particularly in light of the rising costs of higher education.

General Support

To enable girls to follow their preferred career routes the school offers a wide range of examination subjects relevant to Universities and employers. The range of subjects and specifications is regularly reviewed.

Girls have a free choice of A-level subjects. All will study three subjects in Year 12 and 13 and undertake the AQA Extended Project Qualification (EPQ). Universities are now taking EPQ grades into account when making offers. A small number of students may follow four A-levels when Further Maths is taken into account.

In Years 12 and 13 girls are taught in small groups, typically of around 12 students. They will also have the benefits of the same personal form tutor for their two years in the 6th Form.

Year 12

The Parents Information Evening is held early in the first half term. This event is for both girls and their parents and focuses on the options open to girls for their next step. What universities are looking for, the application process and the wide range of opportunities that are available to girls who choose not to go to the university, are all covered in the presentations.

In the Summer of Year 12 girls are invited to undertake work placements and the importance of this is covered in PHSE lessons with the Head of Careers. Strategies for applying and support with CVs and covering letters are given to all girls.

The all new 'Project Acorn' is our bespoke mentoring service which is offered to all Year 12 girls. Girls will have access to our extensive alumnae network to gain advice on their career choices.

Year 12 also benefit from the following generic support:

- Regular guidance, information and support lessons in groups of around 15
- General and subject specific talks from visiting Universities
- A biennial Careers Convention – hosted alternately with QEGS
- Regular visits to Universities and local employers
- Well stocked Careers Library
- All girls take part in Student Leadership Accreditation programme, creating a portfolio to support all university, apprenticeship or employment applications
- A visit in the Spring to the UCAS Higher Education Conference
- The opportunity to listen to former students returning to school to discuss their careers.

Year 13

All girls have the support of their personal tutor and the Head of 6th Form and the Assistant Head of 6th Form in the preparation for their UCAS applications. This may involve support in writing their personal statements and guidance on the choice of university course. Every application is overseen by the Director of 6th Form.

Girls who choose to apply for employment, apprenticeships, or undertake a gap year are offered a similar level of support. Where appropriate, girls are given the chance to have a practice interview.

Oxbridge Support

- A visit to the Oxbridge Conference takes place in March of Year 12
- Subject specific Oxbridge lessons are delivered, sometimes in conjunction with QEGS
- In July of Year 12 Oxbridge residential visits take place
- Presentations from former pupils who are now studying at either Oxford or Cambridge
- Support and practice sessions are given for required Aptitude Tests and Admissions Tests

Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Support

- Introductory talks
- Support in obtaining work experience
- Ward Befriending opportunities at Pinderfields General Hospital
- EDGE activities including anatomy and physiology club
- Dedicated UKCAT and BMAT preparation lessons
- External speakers and activities including suturing practice
- Interview preparation including practice Multiple Mini Interviews

Creative Subjects Support

- Introductory talks
- Portfolio preparation and review
- Audition preparation and practice
- Interview preparation and practice
- Bespoke performance opportunities in theatre and music

