



Wakefield Girls' High School  
**Wakefield**

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# Peer Mentoring Scheme



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A Peer Mentoring Scheme using Sixth Form students to support younger girls operates in school. Entering any new school as a Year 7 girl can be a daunting experience. However, Year 12 and 13 students, who are successful in applying for these roles, will take on a great deal of responsibility for ensuring that the transition to the Senior School is as smooth as possible.

WGHS receives girls from a large number of different primary schools and as a Peer Mentor the Year 12 and 13 students are there to listen, encourage, reassure and facilitate inclusion. The Peer Mentoring programme operates alongside our normal support system of Form Tutor and Head of Year but we are aware that there are times when a girl feels she could do with someone who understands her; who has 'been there, done that'. Peer mentoring is just another form of support but one that may be seen as more accessible to a Year 7 girl. In September 2012 the scheme was extended to offer support to any girl from years 7–11.

## Peer mentoring uses older girls to support younger girls:

- Through the transition to WGHS Senior School
- In getting organised with their time or studies
- In reaching their full potential
- In developing self confidence and self esteem
- By providing a non judgemental-ear
- By supporting girls as they meet new activities or experiences.

## Skills and aptitudes required by Mentors

- Friendliness
- Reliability
- Open mindedness
- Good listening skills
- Good communication skills
- Patience
- Ability to enthuse and motivate people
- Ability to be non judgemental
- Ability to honour confidences and know when to pass on concerns.

## Benefits for the Mentor

- The opportunity to develop new skills
- The chance to make a difference to someone
- Increased responsibility within school
- The opportunity to learn more about themselves
- The chance to put something back into the life of the school
- The opportunity to help younger girls.

## Training and support

The project has a comprehensive initial training programme, run by the Samaritans, which all Peer Mentors must successfully complete, before undertaking any mentoring. After initial training, workshop sessions will be held to cover any specific areas identified by the Peer Mentors.

"After an extremely useful and interesting days training with the Samaritans, hopefully now, in my role as a Year 7 Peer Mentor, I can help find solutions to any problems which they may face."

## Year 13 Student

**WGHS Senior School**  
(Girls 11-18 years)  
Wentworth Street  
Wakefield WF1 2QS  
Telephone: 01924 372 490  
Email: [office@wghsss.org.uk](mailto:office@wghsss.org.uk)  
Twitter: @WGHSYorkshire

[www.wgsf.org.uk](http://www.wgsf.org.uk)