


THE SUNDAY TIMES

SCHOOLS GUIDE
2025

TOP 5
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL FOR
ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE
NORTH WEST



Manchester
High School
for Girls

Sixth Form Prospectus

Empowering Girls since 1874

Our Values

Manchester High School for Girls nurtures...



Our Vision

Our vision is excellence: to deliver a pioneering, innovative and dynamic learning experience within a compassionate and caring environment for a needs blind, diverse community where the wellbeing and happiness of every individual and the fulfilment of their potential are our priority. As the School of choice for girls in the North-West, our pupils - like those who have attended the School before them - will go on to be global citizens and courageous motivators of change.

As a Year 11 student, you will have lots of questions about the next stage of your education. It is a hugely important stage where the choices you make can have a direct impact on your future university course and career opportunities.

Remember that MHSG is incredibly proud to have been educating young women since 1874 and the Sixth Form has a unique combination of strengths. These include:

- Committed, caring and successful teachers who are experts in the way high-ability students learn and who provide individual attention so that you can achieve your academic potential
- An established reputation for academic excellence that places us among the leading independent girls' schools in the country
- An impressive record of our students gaining places at prestigious universities; a direct result of our structured 'Futures' programme and our Higher Education advice (including individual UCAS guidance and interview practice)
- A wide range of subjects available at A-level and an academic enrichment programme that includes the opportunity to complete other courses alongside your A-levels, such as the Extended Project Qualification, as well as university aptitude test preparation
- Small teaching groups, usually fewer than 16 students

- Small, friendly tutorial groups that are at the heart of our carefully structured system of academic monitoring and pastoral care
- An exceptional range of extra-curricular activities aimed at developing self-esteem and self-confidence as well as interpersonal, leadership and team working skills. The MHSG Sixth Form is not just about achieving outstanding academic results.

We want you to be happy, to have fun and to enjoy the experience of being part of our wider school community as well as members of our Sixth Form. There is a huge array of leadership opportunities available to our Sixth Form students and we will encourage you to participate in activities within school and alongside other schools, such as The Manchester Grammar School. We encourage you to benefit from all of the opportunities available to you in this remarkable school.

I look forward to welcoming you into our Sixth Form.

Mrs Helen F Jeys - Head Mistress



Mrs Helen F Jeys – Head Mistress

Welcome

Manchester High School for Girls is a vibrant, dynamic and forward-thinking school and our Sixth Form is no exception. Sixth Formers aim high both academically and in terms of their own personal development.

My objective as Director of Sixth Form is to make sure that every pupil fulfils their potential. This means not only encouraging students to aim high academically, but also ensuring they leave MHSG as compassionate, confident and multifaceted young people who are ready for the challenges of higher learning.

Our sixth formers benefit from fantastic A-level teaching, as well as a brilliant range of extra-curricular, enrichment and leadership opportunities.

All this is supplemented by our successful higher education preparation programme. This focuses on supporting every sixth former's ambitions beyond their time at MHSG, whether that be at a top-ranking university, apprenticeship, medical school or art college.

Mr Robert Crumpton
Director of Sixth Form

“Leaders have high aspirations and have firmly established core values that underpin the school. This results in a caring, inclusive and diverse community”

ISI Inspection Report 2024



Sixth Form Pastoral Team

How are students supported during their time in Sixth Form?

Form tutors, Heads of Year and the Director of Sixth Form provide outstanding pastoral support for students in our care.

Each student is allocated to a tutor group at the start of Junior Sixth and remains with this group throughout Sixth Form. Form tutors quickly get to know students and actively support their academic progress and wellbeing.

The Director of Sixth Form, Mr Crumpton, together with two Heads of Year are responsible for monitoring all Sixth Form students, both academically and pastorally.

The Sixth Form Secretary, Mrs Finneran, is on hand every day to assist students with queries and manages all administrative tasks. Mrs Finneran also sends off all the UCAS forms so is a very important person indeed!

All staff have a duty of care for our students and students know they can talk to any member of staff should they need to.

Students can also speak to our school nurses, who may refer them to the school counsellor.

The Sixth Form Team comprises of:



Mr Robert Crumpton
Director of Sixth Form



Mrs Sarah Norton
Head of Year



Mrs Lisa Tucker
Head of Year

How are students supported in making the transition to life in the Sixth Form?

- An induction day with follow-up activities helps students to settle in, whether they have joined us from other schools or have progressed from Year 11 at MHSG
- Our small tutor groups encourage new friendships to form quickly
- There are many opportunities to mix with students from other tutor groups, including helping with charity events, leading assemblies and organising house competitions.

Life Skills

How are Sixth Form students taught life skills and the importance of maintaining balance in their lives?

- Well Being lessons are timetabled for all students at the same time each week
- The programme of topics covered in Well Being includes positive physical and mental health, self-esteem, presentation skills for working life, citizenship, leadership, self-reflection, life skills, finance and more
- There are also 'theme weeks' with a pastoral focus. Themes have included balance, community, celebrating success and resilience.

The Good Schools Guide Review of Manchester High School for Girls

THE
GOOD
SCHOOLS
GUIDE

“

Manchester High is undoubtedly an academic school for girls with ability and can-do attitude, but it's so much more than that. This is an inclusive unpretentious (despite its illustrious alumnae) warm and generous spirited school where girls are encouraged to be themselves, are listened to and obviously love the great education they receive.

When asked why they have chosen MHSG for their daughter one parent said, 'It was the spirit of the place, the emphasis on the all-rounded person that impressed us.'

“The sixth form is clearly the jewel in the crown here.”



Enrichment & Support

What do Sixth Formers study in addition to their A-levels?

Students will have access to a range of enrichment courses to develop their intellectual curiosity and subject knowledge, including the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) and a Future in Biosciences course. All members of the Junior Sixth will also develop their study and research skills in targeted sessions.

How do subject teachers support students in their learning?

- Our teachers are experts in their subjects and very experienced in utilising a range of teaching strategies for stimulating and encouraging able students
- Students are encouraged to analyse, evaluate, question, take intellectual risks, develop their own ideas and pursue personal academic interests
- Many of our teachers are also A-level examination board markers meaning we are able to give our students the most accurate and up to date information on how to achieve examination success.

What additional support is available for students who might be struggling with their work?

- Individual support is given by all subject teachers who are always happy to help students
- Subject clinics are available on a regular basis for anyone who requires additional help.

How well does the Sixth Form experience at MHSG prepare students for the next phase of their lives?

Our curriculum and extra-curricular activities, house system and Well Being programme provide extensive opportunities to develop every facet of students' academic and personal potential. The majority of our students continue to university when they leave us; others choose art or drama school, music conservatoire or even take a degree level apprenticeship or a gap year. Whatever their plans and aspirations, we help students develop the skills and knowledge they need to succeed.

School Sixth Form or College?

- Being part of a school with pupils aged between 4 and 18 provides a range of leadership opportunities within the community
- Colleges only have Sixth Form age students which creates a different ethos and atmosphere
- Our Sixth Form Centre, used exclusively by Sixth Form students, provides fantastic facilities for study and relaxation.

Independent or state sector?

Universities do not discriminate against candidates from independent schools. They want the best students for their courses. 49% of all independent school A-level entries are awarded either an A* or A compared to the national average of 22%. The proportion of independent school A-level entries awarded an A* grade is double the national average. Statistically, students are more likely to achieve top grades at an independent school.



Leadership Opportunities

Our extra-curricular activities provide opportunities to develop leadership skills, work effectively as part of a team and importantly, have fun! In addition, there are opportunities to take on leadership roles, for example in our Head Girl Team and House System.

The Head Girl Team

Each year, students and staff elect a Head Girl and a team of five deputies. The team has a wide range of duties, including organising charity work, speaking at major school events, delivering assemblies and having weekly meetings with the Head Mistress.



Ivy Prefects

A team of Ivy Prefects take leading roles in specific areas of school life such as fundraising and marketing.

The following list highlights the variety of leadership roles available to Sixth Formers:

- | | |
|--|---|
| Assembly leaders | Mentors |
| House Captains and Deputy House Captains | Form prefects |
| Head Girl Team | Preparatory Department reading assistants |
| Lower School subject clinic helpers | Primary School Partnership Scheme |
| Library supervisors | Preparatory Department Science Club |
| Literacy leaders | School Ambassadors |
| Diversity and Inclusion Captains | Swimming Assistants |

Sixth Form students are required to be on-site for the whole day, with some exceptions:

- With parental permission, all Sixth Formers are allowed off-site in their non-contact periods and at lunchtime
- Senior Sixth students are permitted to allocate one afternoon in the week when they can leave early if they have no lessons



Extra-curricular Activities

We believe that the confidence and enjoyment gained from extra-curricular activities and achievements, along with being part of a highly motivated community, underpin academic fulfilment. All our students are expected to participate with a wide range of opportunities ranging from sport and music to science and the creative arts.

Involvement in extra-curricular activities is important in developing the confidence and interpersonal skills necessary for personal and professional fulfilment. Students are encouraged to participate in at least one extra-curricular activity every week. Extra-curricular engagement teaches students to manage their time effectively, so that they do not fall behind in their academic work.

Students may join the Duke of Edinburgh Award programme or take part in Young Enterprise or the Community Sports Leaders' Award. There is also the opportunity to participate in the Mock Trial Competition and in the Model United Nations conferences. Sixth Formers can enjoy theatre visits to London, Stratford and beyond, as well as occasionally collaborating with The Manchester Grammar School on theatre productions. They may also become members of one of the many choirs and instrumental groups. These too provide opportunities to work with students from local schools.

Sixth Formers can take part in international sporting and cultural visits, philosophy and debating societies, art exhibitions, concerts and school productions. They also enjoy visits from speakers as diverse as charity representatives, MPs, journalists and motivational speakers.

“Manchester High has given me the opportunity to take my passion for music further than I ever imagined. I joined the Sixth Form from another school and have made so many friends here. It’s been an amazing journey and I’m excited to be heading to King’s College to study Music!”

Sophia, Class of 2025

Our Extra-curricular activities include

African Caribbean Society	First Aid Courses	Neurodiversity Club
Amnesty International	Geography Society	Onward Team
Biology Film Club	Hockey	Orchestra
Badminton	Industrial Cadets	Oxbridge Group
Book Club	Islamic Society	PhilSoc
Chamber Choir	Jewish Society	Primary School Outreach
Chess Club	Law Society	Politics Club
Choir	Life Drawing	School Productions
Christian Union	Mandarin	Science Club
Climbing Club	MedSoc	Senior Orchestra
Debating Society	Model United Nations	Swimming
Diversity and Inclusion group	Music Band	Water Polo
Duke of Edinburgh	Netball	Young Enterprise

Maysa

Class of 2025



“The School has played a huge role in shaping my character. I’ve been encouraged to excel academically, but just as importantly, I’ve received incredible support from my teachers and through the many extra-curricular opportunities on offer.”

The Futures Programme

What support is given to students during the higher education (HE) process?

- Extensive individual support for each student from a dedicated and experienced HE advisor who helps with the choice of course and personal statement
- Practice interviews
- Outside speakers, including university admissions tutors
- Information and guidance regarding Degree Apprenticeships.

The majority of our students gain places on highly competitive university courses. We have a track record of supporting successful applications for Medicine and Oxbridge. Each year we have at least one student who wishes to pursue their education abroad and we have successfully supported applications to universities around the world. Apprenticeships in a range of areas such as Accountancy and Finance are also gaining in popularity.

Junior Sixth HE Programme

- HE introductory assembly
- Access to the Unifrog progression and research platform
- HE information evening for students and parents
- UCAS exhibition
- HE Days (an intensive programme of external and internal speakers, UCAS registration, course research and personal statement planning)
- University open days.

Senior Sixth HE Programme

- One-to-one UCAS/HE application support
- University mock interview evening
- Admissions test support
- UCAS applications support & management
- Post application support and guidance
- A-level results day support.

How are students supported on results days if they change their mind about their HE application or do not achieve their offer grades?

- We open at 8am on A-level results day in August to celebrate with and support our students and their families
- Staff are available to offer advice on marking reviews and university admissions, both on results day itself and the following days
- Individual help is given to students who decide to defer applications to take a gap year or those who have simply changed their mind.

What sort of careers advice is available?

- HE advisors and careers teachers offer advice to all our Sixth Formers as part of our 'Futures' programme
- We draw on our alumnae community to provide information, advice and support through our 'Insight Into' talks and 'Project Pankhurst' mentoring scheme
- As part of the Well Being programme we deliver sessions on CV writing and interview techniques
- We are keen to ensure all Sixth Former experience a work placement and, at the start of Junior Sixth, we offer guidance on how to secure a role.

Oxbridge Programme

Students aiming for Oxford, Cambridge and other top universities can attend the Aspire Club in Junior Sixth, developing critical thinking and communication skills. Extensive support is given on applications, admissions tests and interviews.

Careers Programme

MHSG is in contact with over 3,000 members of the School's alumnae community. Former pupils have gone on to be specialists and leaders in their chosen fields. Our alumnae boasts many 'firsts' including the first female executive director on the board of Marks and Spencer, the first woman to be chief cashier of the Bank of England and the first female helicopter pilot in the British Army. Members of the alumnae community regularly return to pass on their expertise to the next generation of bold young women. Careers talks and presentations draw on the experience of the alumnae community as they return to give students and their parents the inside track on how they forged a successful career in a particular area. Talks have included a diverse range of topics such as politics, cyber security, science and BBC apprenticeships.

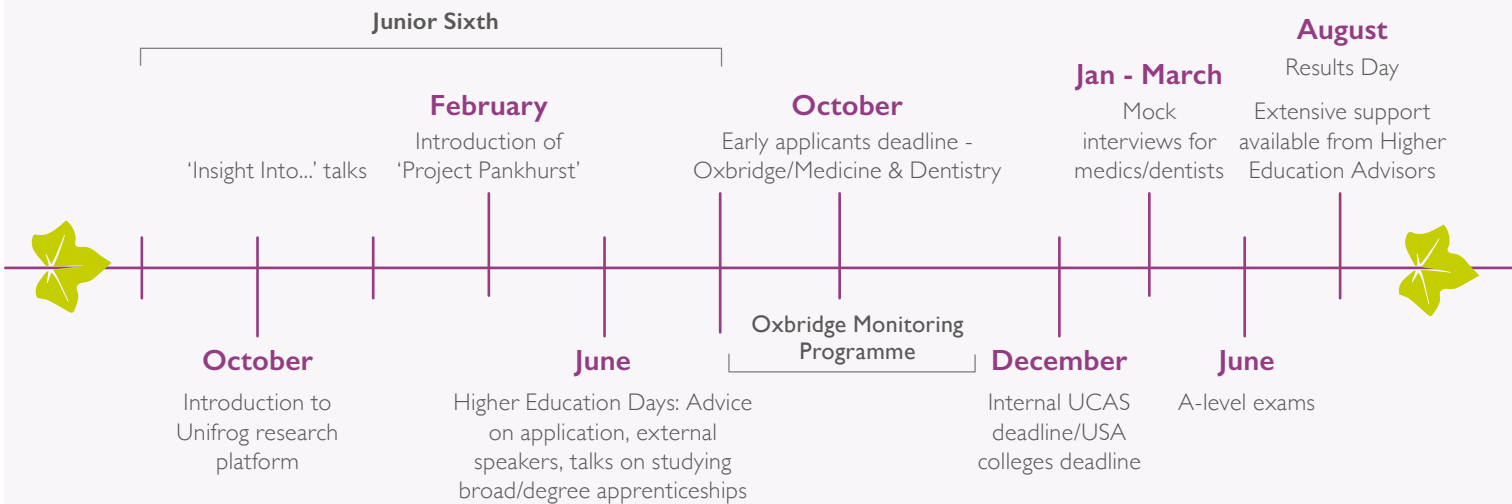


'Project Pankhurst' Mentoring Scheme

Our Sixth Form mentoring scheme is designed to help students prepare for the world beyond academia. The initiative enables students to make a connection with an MHSG alumna who will support them as they make decisions about their professional development. The programme is called 'Project Pankhurst' because the scheme enables our network of highly accomplished alumnae to uphold the Pankhurst legacy of women supporting each other. Participation in 'Project Pankhurst' is not compulsory and all students receive ongoing higher education and careers advice from the Sixth Form Team. That said, it is certainly very popular and students are encouraged to apply for a mentor.



Higher Education & Careers Timeline



Results and Destinations

The median A-level grade was an A.

A total of

86% of our students'

A-level grades were the 'gold standard' of A*-B, and

23% were the highest grade possible, A*.

100%

of all grades in Classical Civilisation, Computer Science, Drama, English Language, Fine Art, Geography, German, Graphics, Latin, Further Maths, Music, Psychology and Religious Studies were A*-B.

22 students achieved A*-A grades in all their A-level subjects.



Key Information

What are the entrance requirements?

- At least five GCSEs at grade 7 or above, including good passes in English and Mathematics
- At least a grade 7 at GCSE in the subjects you wish to study at A-level
- If you studied Double Award Science at GCSE, you will need a grade 7 or above in Mathematics to study Biology, Chemistry or Physics in our Sixth Form.

We expect you to be an enthusiastic learner; to be able to work independently and be willing to contribute to the life of the School. Meeting our entrance requirements demonstrates that you have a strong foundation on which to build for future success and you will thrive on the academic challenge our Sixth Form offers.

How many A-level subjects do students take in the Sixth Form?

- Students study three A-levels from the start of Sixth Form, with some taking four subjects in exceptional circumstances.
- Students take internal exams in all subjects towards the end of Junior Sixth.

How many students are there in teaching groups?

- Class size varies depending on the subject, typically ranging from 6 to 16 students.

How good are the external examination results?

- A total of 86% of our students' A-level grades were the 'gold standard' of A*-B, and 29% were the highest grade possible, A*.
- Further analysis, which measures how well students do with respect to their ability, shows that the "value-added" performance of our students is excellent.
- Well over 50% of our students are going on to study STEM related courses at university, with an equally impressive number going on to study languages and a variety of Humanities courses in 2025.

How to apply

We welcome applications for admission into the Sixth Form via our online application portal. Each student joining our Sixth Form will be interviewed by the Director of Sixth Form and the Head Mistress.

Dress Code

We do not ask Sixth Formers to wear a uniform, but we do expect them to look smart and to adhere to our dress code:

- A suit consisting of a jacket and skirt, trousers or dress
- Suit trousers which are three quarters, full-length or ankle-length
- Skirts or dresses of a suitable length and no shorter than just above the knee
- A blouse or top of any colour
- Students may wear traditional dress instead of a suit
- Smart shoes or boots
- Discreet make-up
- Piercings only in the ear.

Responsibilities and Privileges

As the oldest members of the School, Sixth Formers are natural role models for the younger pupils and are expected to set a good example in terms of behaviour, appearance and attitude. Sixth Formers enjoy helping at events such as Celebration and Awards, Open Days and Sports Day. On these occasions Sixth Formers are ambassadors for the School and act accordingly. Along with their responsibilities, Sixth Formers have a number of privileges. They have their own purpose built Sixth Form Centre, complete with kitchen, café area, ICT suite, lecture theatre, lockers, comfortable seating for relaxing, desks for working and, of course, WiFi! Sixth Formers may also leave site during their study periods.

Student Voice

Student voice is very important at MHSG. We regularly ask our Sixth Formers for feedback on curriculum matters, extracurricular provision, Well Being lessons, and, where appropriate, adjust our provision accordingly.

The School Council also offers Sixth Formers a forum in which to discuss issues with students from all year groups across the School and enact changes, when relevant.

A-Level Subjects

Art and Design (Fine Art)

Art and Design (Graphic Communication)

Biology

Chemistry

Classical Civilisation

Computer Science

Drama and Theatre

Economics

English Language

English Literature

French

Geography

German

History

Latin

Mathematics and Further Mathematics

Music

Physical Education

Physics

Politics

Psychology

Religious Studies

Spanish



“Leaders have high aspirations and have firmly established core values that underpin the school. This results in a caring, inclusive and diverse community.

Staff are ambitious for the pupils and thread the values of learning, innovation, compassion, wellbeing and individuality through every aspect of school life. This results in empowered and dynamic pupils who flourish”

ISI Inspection Report 2024



Manchester High School for Girls

Grangethorpe Road, Manchester, M14 6HS.

T 0161 224 0447

E registrar@mhsg.manchester.sch.uk

www.manchesterhigh.co.uk

Follow us on
social media:



@manhighgirls

