



STRATFORD GIRLS'
GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Shaping Futures



PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

SUPPORTING YOU BEYOND YOUR A-LEVELS

Personal Development at SGGS

At Stratford Girls' Grammar School, we offer our Sixth Form students the opportunity to participate in a variety of different enrichment options. These provide valuable learning experiences outside of your academic studies, broadening your skillsets and interests. As well as promoting independence, our Stretch & Challenge and Curriculum Enrichment programmes benefit our students in many different ways, depending on the activities chosen. Students may develop interpersonal skills through working as part of a team as a participant of Bar Mock Trial, develop creativity and confidence trying out a new activity or enhance their leadership and communication skills through leading a super-curricular initiative.

Enrichment also gives our students a fun break from the demands of their subjects; providing a challenge whilst also being a productive use of their time. Furthermore, Enrichment enables our students to gain valuable skills and experience that act as a platform to elevate them into the competitive world of universities and employment.

Stretch and Challenge	YEAR 12	YEAR 13
Further Maths	✓	✓
Mathematical Studies	✓	✓
Extended Learning Project	✓	
Curriculum Enrichment	YEAR 12	YEAR 13
Choose from a range of options to complement your studies and/or build on your skills	✓	
Netball Academy	✓	✓
Work Experience	✓	✓
Religion, Philosophy and Ethics (RPE)		✓
Community Service		✓
Visiting Speaker Programme	✓	✓
Futures-Enabling Pathways	YEAR 12	YEAR 13
Aspiring Minds	✓	
MedMinds	✓	✓
PracticalMinds	✓	✓
Mock Interviews	✓	✓



STRETCH AND CHALLENGE

How does it work?

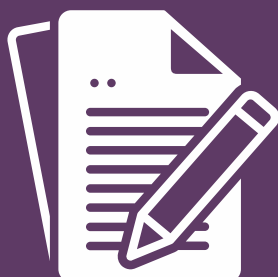
We want you to excel during your time with us but most of all we want you to be able to fulfil your aspirations. We are ambitious for all of our students. Success is about more than just A-levels.

Our Stretch and Challenge programme has been specifically designed to allow you to demonstrate expertise and to develop the skillset needed for higher level study and/or the world of work. The three options within the programme are highly desired by universities and employers. Each is unique but provides progression for students based on their individual needs.

One double period per week is timetabled specifically for Stretch and Challenge. The idea is that students will take their chosen A-levels, plus a choice from one of the following options:

- EPQ
- A-level Further Maths (this is also timetabled outside of the Stretch and Challenge allocation)
- L3 Mathematical Studies

EXTENDED PROJECT QUALIFICATION (EPQ)



"I enjoyed it. I also felt that it dramatically improved my personal statement and perhaps gave me a slight edge over students who hadn't completed an EPQ"

"It helps prepare for the next stage of learning as well as improving vital skills required for University."

What is EPQ?

The Extended Project Qualification is a personal research project and is very popular amongst our students. You decide on your own question, spend six months researching and then either write a 5,000-word report or create an artefact with a report. You are guided all the way by a supervisor and bi-weekly 'lectures' to ensure you understand the methodology of producing and writing an academic essay. You will also have the opportunity to talk to Year 13's who did their own EPQ in the year prior, who will be willing to offer advice or can directly relate to your process.

Why Should I consider doing EPQ?

The EPQ allows each student to embark on a self-directed and self-motivated project. Students must choose a topic, then plan, research and develop their ideas and decide on their finished product. By the end of this project, all students are set with knowledge and skills in academic discourse and referencing, successfully preparing students for writing academically at University level.

The EPQ is a highly valued qualification, recognised and supported by the leading Universities. It helps develop time management, independent learning and research skills - all of which will be crucial at University. The EPQ is graded A*-E. Many universities lower their offers if you get an A grade for their EPQ.

STRETCH AND CHALLENGE

FURTHER MATHS

What is Further Maths?

Further Maths is a full A-level with 10 lessons per fortnight. It sits outside the block structure so that students of Maths in all blocks are able to take the course. The course builds on the work covered in A-level Maths and introduces a new area called Discrete Maths; finding efficient solutions to real life problems.

Why should I consider choosing Further Maths?

The course is designed to stretch and challenge able mathematicians. The course prepares students for university courses in mathematics and related quantitative and scientific subjects, so if you are considering Maths, Physics or Engineering at university then this course is definitely for you. In order to be successful, you need to enjoy Maths, have a desire to delve deeper into the subject and enjoy looking at links between topics. You will also need resilience and perseverance to tackle some of the new skills.

"It has helped me to develop my skills both in writing logical arguments and in problem-solving. These skills have prepared me for the Mathematics degree I hope to begin next year."

"Much of the content was completely new and different to anything I'd seen before. It was therefore engaging and so interesting."



STRETCH AND CHALLENGE

MATHEMATICAL STUDIES



"The most enjoyable part of Mathematical Studies has been learning about useful practical maths skills which we didn't get the opportunity to cover at GCSE. We have covered important topics like Interest Rates, NIC and Income Tax which I knew very little about before undertaking this course. The course is an excellent way for me to demonstrate that I have both an interest and good ability at mathematical skills for my UCAS application."

What is Mathematical Studies?

The primary focus of our Mathematical Studies course is on using and applying mathematics and statistics to address authentic problems and real-life scenarios, drawn from study, work and life, with a strong emphasis on problem-solving. Core Maths is a qualification equal in size to an AS Level (and therefore has the same number of UCAS tariff points) and is graded A-E.

Why should I consider choosing Mathematical Studies?

Mathematical Studies is for students who do not wish to study AS or A-level but who want to develop their mathematical, statistical and numerical skills to complement their other A-levels/higher education courses. Mathematical Studies helps students develop their quantitative and problem-solving skills. This is valuable preparation for the skills they will need for many degree courses, particularly subjects such as psychology, business-related courses, sports and social sciences, and natural science courses. Universities favour this if students are not taking A-level Maths.

STRETCH AND CHALLENGE



CURRICULUM ENRICHMENT

How does it work?

One double period per week is timetabled specifically for Enrichment. Students choose from a range of different options which last either for the whole year (Year 12), across both Years 12 and 13, or as part of a termly rotation in Year 13.

The aim of Core Enrichment is to give you freedom of choice across a range of potential options and should complement your interests, skills or intended career path. You will be guided through this process to ensure you make a choice that is specific to you. In recent years students have been enabled to pursue their ongoing interests out of school, for example to develop their music accomplishment or to pursue a higher level of rowing or sailing. We work with you dependent on your needs.

In addition to these formal sessions, students will also have the opportunity to take advantage of personalised enrichment options held over lunchtimes or after-school. These may be one-off talks from outside speakers or year-long clubs like Amnesty International. As many of these activities involve the wider school, these present additional leadership opportunities for sixth form students.

Current options for Core Enrichment are provided on the following pages.

NETBALL ACADEMY



"Managing the Netball Academy has been one of my favourite parts of Year 12! There's such a mixture of things to do from playing to training in the gym and even having the opportunity to coach primary school children."

"The Netball Academy has been such fun this year. Even though I don't actually play competitively, the training and team practices have been a great way to develop my skills and organisation as a Team Manager"

What is Netball Academy?

The U18 Netball Academy gives students an opportunity to play netball at an elite level. As well as focussing on the performance side of netball with regular training and fixtures, it also focuses on everything that goes with being an elite athlete. In particular, it gives students an insight into University Sport in preparation for when they leave SGGS.

Why Should I consider Netball Academy?

If you enjoy playing netball for fun or aspire to progress further in the game, then the Netball Academy is for you. Through the Academy, you will train, play regular matches, compete in tournaments, coach in local primary schools and attend a six-week strength and conditioning programme at a local gym.

Choosing to be a part of the Academy will open up a huge range of opportunities throughout the year through which you will be able to develop more than just your netball skills.

CURRICULUM ENRICHMENT

BAR MOCK TRIAL

What is Bar Mock Trial?

The National Bar Mock Trial Competition gives young people an exciting and innovative insight into the workings of the legal system.

Now in its 31st successful year, it involves over 2,000 students, 300 barristers and advocates and 90 judges from across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Teams of students use carefully constructed witness statements to prepare the prosecution and defence of two specially written criminal cases.

Students take on the roles of barristers, witnesses, court staff and jurors and compete against other schools in a live format, with one team prosecuting and the other defending. Their performances are judged by Circuit Judges, Recorders (Sheriffs in Scotland) and senior barristers or advocates and take place in Crown Courts across the UK (High Courts in Scotland).

At regional heats teams take part in three trials both prosecuting and defending one case and prosecuting or defending the other. The regional winning team then goes on to compete in the national final.

Why Should I consider choosing Mock Bar Trial?

Participating in a Bar Mock Trial offers several benefits; it allows participants to hone their research and analysis skills and helps refine advocacy skills, including courtroom presentation, argumentation, and persuasion. Moreover, engaging in a simulated courtroom environment during a mock trial contributes to the development of confidence, especially for those who may be apprehensive about public speaking.

"Bar Mock Trial has been an incredible opportunity that has given me further insight into the justice system. It has confirmed my ambition to be a criminal Barrister and we can't wait for the trial"



CURRICULUM ENRICHMENT

WORK EXPERIENCE



"Completing work experience for my curriculum enrichment was a fantastic experience. As a language student, I decided to teach Spanish at a local primary school. Not only did this allow me to look beyond the curriculum of my current A-level study, but I was also able to explore a potential future career path. With UCAS deadlines drawing closer and a personal statement to write, I'm very glad that I decided to undertake work experience, as I know it will provide invaluable evidence to universities of my interest and commitment to my subjects."

What is Work Experience?

All students in Year 12 have the opportunity to undertake a regular Work Experience or Volunteering placement, in addition to a week-long placement at the end of the year.

You could choose to do a weekly placement on Wednesday afternoons, or you may prefer to arrange it at another time in the week when you are free. Examples of popular placements include local care homes, hospices, primary schools and law firms, among many others.

Why Should I consider choosing Work Experience?

Work experience is fantastic for enhancing your applications to universities, apprenticeships or employment. For medicine, dentistry and veterinary applicants it is essential.

Work experience also helps you determine which career areas are of interest to you – as well as identifying jobs that are definitely not for you (equally as important!)

A regular weekly work experience placement is a great way to build up a relationship with an employer and experience a workplace over a longer period of time than a single week in the Summer. You could also use this option to build up a portfolio of experiences (e.g. six weeks or a term with one employer followed by a term in another placement).

CURRICULUM ENRICHMENT

What is LAMDA?

LAMDA (The London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art) is one of the oldest and most respected drama schools not only training actors but offering practical examinations in communication and performance for over 100 years. SGGS students have the choice of Acting, Verse and Prose, Reading for Performance or Public Speaking;

Why Should I consider choosing LAMDA?

LAMDA grades accrue UCAS points which is fantastic for anyone hoping to go to University.

Lessons aim to:

- Improve standards of communication through the spoken word.
- Gain an appreciation of literature, poetry and drama
- Acknowledge levels of achievement.
- Support the creative, intellectual and social development of the individual as a whole.
- Develop a strong speaking voice and good memory skills by learning and performing scenes from plays and your own speeches.
- Build self-confidence and self-esteem.

Last year our Year 12, Grade 6 students all received a Merit or above, with 50% of our students receiving a Distinction.

LAMDA is a safe, friendly and approachable space that enables you to become the confident person you've always dreamed of. It is an invaluable life skill.'

'If you are considering doing LAMDA, you should! It enables you to develop your public speaking skills which will help you with all of your subjects and any future jobs! Personally, doing LAMDA has massively boosted my confidence, and it's something I look forward to doing every week!'



ART AND MINDFULNESS



"Art and Mindfulness was a great way for me to relax and take a break from school work as well as engaging with my creative side. The atmosphere was always warm and friendly in the sessions and it was really enjoyable – I definitely recommend this Enrichment option."

"I really enjoyed getting to test out new art techniques."

What is Art and Mindfulness?

Art is a natural way to practise mindfulness. Each week you will be introduced to a new technique from book binding, printing, sewing, black out poetry, pumpkin carving, doodling, working with clay. Through engaging with a creative task, we can be pulled into the moment and switch off from the outside world. Do you want to make Art for the sake of pleasure? You don't need any previous training to join up, just a sense of curiosity and a willingness to make art, for no other reason.

Why Should I consider choosing Art and Mindfulness?

In our fast-paced world many of us find it hard to find time for ourselves and just 'be'. Therefore at SGGS, we have designed the course with no pressure to perform. The idea is to allow you to 'make' for the sake of your own well-being; to get caught up in the moment and to come into an environment with like-minded individuals for a chance to make, relax, learn, breathe, chatter and create.

SUPER-CURRICULAR CLUB

What is Super-Curricular Club?

Super-Curricular Club gives you the time and space to explore interests related to your A-level subjects and your plans for the future. With opportunities to access podcasts, articles, TED Talks, online courses and more, you can dive deeper into relevant topics and begin to create your own portfolio of super curricular activities and wider reading. An invaluable opportunity to explore your options, confirm your post-18 choices and provide evidence to support your personal statement and UCAS application.

Why Should I consider Super-Curricular Club?

Competitive universities are increasingly looking for evidence that applicants have engaged in super curricular activities to deepen and enrich their subject knowledge, as evidenced in personal statements and during interviews. They are looking for students who go beyond the basic demands of subject specifications and who can show passion and enthusiasm. These students read and learn through their own initiative, follow up ideas and leads suggested by school learning, and develop new areas of interest outside the specification with genuine enthusiasm. If you need support to get you on the right track, this is a great choice for you!



"Super-Curricular Club has enabled me to establish what works for me- working at my own pace to explore new things about Psychology and extend my knowledge. I feel well prepared for University!"

"The time in Super-Curricular club was an opportunity to learn and gain what was an interesting insight into what vocations I was considering and helped me realise a specific passion and interest for a future career- while also improving my coding skills which will be good for my computer science A-level."

CURRICULUM ENRICHMENT

NEW FOR 2024 **Design and Technology (D.T)**

What is Design and Technology Outreach?

Do you have a passion for Design, Technology or engineering? Do you want to continue to develop and nurture your practical abilities, support the wider school community with design & make projects? Would you like expert support and guidance to establish or develop your ambitions in a career in design and engineering industries? Design and Technology outreach can support this!

Design & Technology Outreach is a brand new, more formal opportunity to become part of an incredibly popular subject across the school – taking the lead to support, manage and collaborate in the Design & Technology department to develop a hub of all things practical and creative across the school.

Why Should I consider being apart of the D.T Outreach?

Engaging in Design & Technology at SGGS is a fantastic way to both develop your interpersonal skills, engage creatively and practically with students across the school, as well as part of the wider community whilst also continuing to develop or establish your passions for design, creativity or engineering.

Joining the programme won't be part of your formal Sixth Form timetable – you will be joining a group of likeminded students, committed to supporting your peers, other subject areas and teachers as part of the wider school community.

What can you do as part of the D.T Outreach?

- Become an ambassador for the DT Department.
- Gain experience to support and guide younger students their DT lessons.
- Utilise the DT facilities for your own personal projects to develop your skills/experience.
- Be a 'port of call' for other departments who need technical, CAD/CAM assistance or practical support. (such as laser cutting, prop & set making, visual aids, teaching aids)
- Support with schemes such as Duke of Edinburgh skills.
- Engage with Primary school outreach.
- Support with UCAS applications for Design, Engineering, Architecture courses.

Religion, Philosophy and Ethics (RPE) for Futures

What is RPE for Futures?

Designed to enhance your understanding of religion, philosophy & ethics across the curriculum and in the world of work, this programme will make you look at the subjects you are studying through a different lens.

There will be a blend of taught and self-study lessons that will expose you to a range of careers, including Economics/ Business, Maths and Medicine. The course aims to be engaging, relevant, useful and tailored to you. Bring an open and enquiring mind.

Why Should I consider choosing RPE for Futures?

You will be encouraged to explore the wide ranging RPE issues inherent in all areas of study and think more deeply about religious literacy in the workplace and wider society. You will get to choose an area that is of particular interest to you to investigate, utilising methods used in university such as research posters. Examples include:

- compiling guidance for vets relating to religious attitudes towards animals
- investigating ethical issues involved in big data and Artificial Intelligence.
- investigating the cost of religious illiteracy to businesses
- investigating the representation of religion in contemporary theatre

"I was glad to have the opportunity to continue studying RPE, despite not taking it at A-Level. I have found it really interesting to research the religious and philosophical side of a subject I would not have previously linked to RPE. We have really enjoyed the choice given, and many of us chose to research the subject we want to study at university, which has given valuable insight when it comes to applications."



CURRICULUM ENRICHMENT

Careers & Post 18 Applications



Stratford Girls' Grammar School supports its Sixth Form students with achieving their future aspirations, whatever they may be. Our record of helping students obtain places at Oxford University and Cambridge University is strong, as well as supporting students with applying for Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Science or high quality degree level apprenticeships.

Support for UCAS and Careers

Regular PSHE sessions

covering UCAS and careers including external University and Apprenticeship speakers;

In School events

including the 'Post 18 options evening' and the Bi-Annual 'Careers Fair'

Tailored futures enabling programmes

(see below) to support those applying for specific post 18 pathways

Work Experience opportunities

as part of weekly curriculum enrichment or as part of Enrichment week in summer term of Year 12

Speaker Programme

where students get the opportunity to hear from external speakers and alumnae about their post 18 experiences and pathways.

Unifrog

the careers software programme which the school has invested in

One to one guidance and advice delivered by the Sixth Form team and our Careers Coordinator.

Futures Enabling Programmes

1

AspiringMinds

supporting students with the Oxbridge application process

2

MedMinds

supporting students wishing to apply for Medicine, Dentistry or Veterinary Science

3

PracticalMinds

supporting students interested in pursuing a degree apprenticeship

TOP DESTINATIONS 2023



University of Manchester

University of Cambridge

University of Exeter

University of Oxford

University of Warwick

University of Bath

University of York

University of Sheffield

YOUR NOTES...