STRATFORD GIRLS' GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Shaping Futures



PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

SUPPORTING YOU BEYOND YOUR A-LEVELS

Personal Development at SGGS

At Stratford Girls' Grammar School, we believe Sixth Form should prepare students not just for exams, but for life beyond school. Our Life and Futures Programme brings together Personal Development, Enrichment, PSHE and Personalised Careers Guidance to help students grow into confident, capable and ambitious young adults.

Whilst PSHE is delivered through the curriculum, this booklet showcases the range of enrichment opportunities available to students to personalise their Sixth Form journey, develop new skills and pursue their interests beyond the classroom.

These experiences provide valuable stretch and challenge, helping students build the confidence, character and skills needed to thrive at university, in their future careers and beyond. At SGGS, we want every student to leave us not only with excellent qualifications, but also with the experiences and self-belief to shape a successful future.

Stretch and Challenge	YEAR 12	YEAR 13
Further Maths	✓	✓
Mathematical Studies	✓	
Extended Project Qualification	✓	
Curriculum Enrichment	**YEAR 12**	**YEAR 13**
Articulation	✓	
"Kissing it Better" Hospital Charity Work	✓	✓
Law Society & Bar Mock Trial	✓	✓
Business Enterprise	✓	✓
LAMDA	✓	✓
Model UN	✓	✓
Netball Academy	✓	✓
Design & Technology	✓	
Primary Outreach	✓	
Super-Curricular (MOOCs)	✓	✓
Visiting Speaker Programme	✓	✓
Work Experience	✓	✓
Futures-Enabling Pathways	**YEAR 12**	**YEAR 13**
Aspiring Minds	✓	
MedMinds	✓	✓
PracticalMinds	✓	✓
Mock Interviews		✓



STRETCH AND CHALLENGE

How does it work?

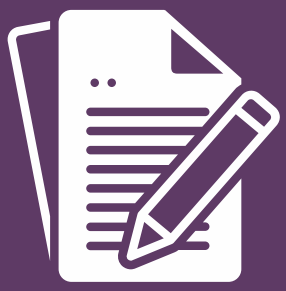
We want you to excel during your time with us and, ultimately, to achieve the goals and aspirations that matter most to you. We are ambitious for all of our students. Success is about more than just A-levels.

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:

- A choice of two EPQ routes;
- 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 (EPQ) is one of the most popular opportunities available to our Sixth Form students. It gives you the chance to explore a topic that genuinely interests you, developing valuable research and critical thinking skills that universities highly value. You will spend around six months investigating your own question before producing either a 5,000-word report or an artefact supported by a written report. If sustainability and making a real-world impact are passions of yours, you may instead choose to complete our Bloxham Sustainability Challenge, an EPQ-equivalent pathway that combines research, innovation and problem-solving to address global sustainability issues. You can find out more about this opportunity in the Curriculum Enrichment section of this booklet.

Whichever route you choose, you will be supported throughout by a dedicated supervisor, bi-weekly lectures and guidance from Year 13 students who have recently completed the programmes and can share their experiences and advice.

Why Should I consider doing EPQ?

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.

FURTHER MATHS

What is Further Maths?

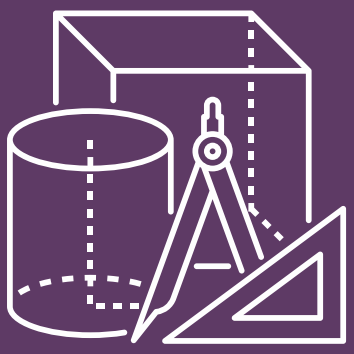
Further Maths is a full A-level with 10 lessons per fortnight. It sits outside the block structure so that students of Maths in all blocks are able to take the course. The course builds on the work covered in A-level Maths and introduces a new area called Discrete Maths; finding efficient solutions to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

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CURRICULUM ENRICHMENT

How does it work?

Wednesday afternoons are timetabled specifically for Enrichment. Students choose from a range of different options which last either for the whole year (Year 12) or across both Years 12 and 13.

The aim of 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 alongside you, providing support and guidance that reflects your aspirations and 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 Enrichment are provided on the following pages.

NETBALL ACADEMY



'The Netball Academy has been a key part of sixth form as it provides a nice break from my A-levels, whilst still being competitive for our matches. I have made some really good friendships and lots of amazing memories like School Nationals that I will always be grateful for.'

'Netball has been a core part of my sixth-form life. It has given me opportunities to grow new friendships whilst playing at a competitive level. Nationals, coaching, and team building are just a few of the amazing memories netball has given me!'

What is Netball Academy?

The U18 Netball Academy gives students an opportunity to play netball at an elite level. In addition to focusing on the performance side of netball, our Netball Academy nurtures leadership, confidence, and teamwork skills through the opportunities it provides. These vary from coaching in local primary schools, to participating in strength and conditioning sessions at the local Leisure Centre.

Why Should I consider Netball Academy?

Whether you enjoy recreational netball or have ambitions to advance your skills in the sport, the Netball Academy is the ideal choice. Being a part of the Academy involves regular training and match play, the opportunity to coach in local primary schools, and the chance to participate in a comprehensive Strength and Conditioning program at the local Leisure Centre.

Opting for the U18 Netball Academy will unlock a diverse array of year-round opportunities that will enhance not only your netball skills but also your promote personal development.

PRIMARY OUTREACH



"The students have been incredible! Their weekly visits have been such a highlight: they are polite, enthusiastic, and have built strong, trusting relationships with our children. We have also loved visiting your school for enrichment activities, including a morning in the library and the recent drama performance. The children were captivated, and staff praised how brilliantly these events were run."

— Shottery St Andrew's CofE Primary School

What is Primary Outreach?

Primary Outreach gives you the opportunity to work directly with local primary schools to design and run projects that meet the unique needs of each school. In Term 1, you will focus on developing primary students' reading fluency and confidence. In Terms 2 and 3, the focus shifts to oracy and small group work, helping pupils to build their confidence in speaking and listening. This programme allows you to apply your creativity, problem-solving, and leadership skills in a practical and meaningful setting.

Why should I consider joining Primary Outreach?

Primary Outreach is ideal if you enjoy working with younger learners, want to develop strong communication skills, and are eager to take on a leadership role. It's a fantastic way to gain experience in project management, teamwork, and innovation. You'll also be helping to support schools and pupils directly, giving you insight into education and the opportunity to make a lasting impact.

You'll need initiative, creativity, and the confidence to lead activities, but the rewards are immense: seeing pupils engage with your ideas and knowing you've contributed to their learning.

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"



WORK EXPERIENCE AND CHARITY WORK



"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 Year 12 students have the opportunity to undertake a regular work experience or volunteering placement, alongside a dedicated week-long placement at the end of the academic year. Placements can take place on Wednesday afternoons or at another suitable time that fits around individual study commitments.

Students are encouraged to choose opportunities that align with their interests and future aspirations. Popular placements include care homes, hospices, law firms and a wide range of other professional settings. We also work in partnership with the charity Kissing it Better, enabling students to volunteer in local hospitals and gain valuable experience supporting patients, developing empathy, communication skills and a deeper understanding of healthcare environments.

Why Should I consider choosing Work Experience?

Work experience is an excellent way to strengthen applications for university, apprenticeships and employment. For students applying to competitive courses such as Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Science, it is an essential part of the application process. It also helps you explore possible career pathways, develop professional skills and make informed decisions about your future.

A regular weekly placement allows you to build relationships with employers, gain greater responsibility and develop a deeper understanding of the workplace. You may choose to stay with one employer or build a portfolio of experiences across different settings.

BUSINESS ENTERPRISE



'Taking part in GAIN's Investment Challenge has been one of the most valuable and enjoyable experiences! It gave me a genuine insight into investment management, strengthened my analytical and presentation skills, and taught me how to evaluate a company from both financial and non-financial perspectives. The NFUM Mentors were always approachable, knowledgeable, and willing to guide us throughout the challenge. Their encouragement helped build my confidence and develop my understanding of the industry. I would highly recommend this opportunity to anyone considering a career in finance, as it provides real world experience and is an excellent super curricular activity!'

What is Business Enterprise?

The Business Enterprise Group is your chance to step beyond the classroom and experience what it's really like to create, launch and grow a business. Work as part of a team to develop your own business concept, taking it from the first spark of an idea through to branding, marketing, finance and sales. You'll tackle real challenges, pitch ideas, solve problems and develop the skills that employers and universities value most

.

By joining the Business Enterprise Group, you'll gain hands-on experience of how businesses really work, from developing an initial idea through to marketing, finance and sales. You'll have the opportunity to take part in national enterprise and investment challenges such as the GAIN UK Schools Investment Challenge and the Rother Markets Project, working collaboratively with industry professionals to solve real-world business problems while developing valuable skills in teamwork, leadership, communication and decision-making.

Why Should I consider choosing Business Enterprise?

Whether you're considering a future in business, finance, economics or simply want to challenge yourself, the group provides an excellent way to build your confidence, enhance your CV and UCAS application, and develop the entrepreneurial mindset that universities and employers increasingly value.

LAMDA

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.

'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!'

'LAMDA is another activity that has helped me build my communication skills that I find especially useful in my current interviews for apprenticeships. Also thank you for offering all of these activities! They have made my Sixth Form development super useful and enjoyable.'



ARTICULATION



"Art Is a great way for me to relax and take a break from school work as well as engaging with my creative side.

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

What is ARTiculation?

Develop your confidence as a speaker, researcher and critical thinker through the National Gallery's prestigious ARTiculation Prize. Students investigate a work of art, architecture or an artefact of their choice, developing the skills to communicate complex ideas with clarity, confidence and passion. The programme culminates in an internal presentation competition, with opportunities to progress to regional and national stages.

Why Should I consider choosing ARTiculation?

Beyond the competition itself, ARTiculation helps students develop a wide range of transferable skills valued by universities and employers. Through independent research, critical analysis, public speaking, peer critique and professional presentation, students learn how to structure arguments, defend their viewpoints and communicate with confidence. The programme encourages intellectual curiosity, resilience and creative thinking, while helping students build a portfolio of experiences that can be drawn upon in applications, interviews and future leadership opportunities.

SUSTAINABILITY PROJECT

In Partnership with Bloxham School and Dalcour Maclaren



What is the Sustainability Project?

Students are allocated a real-world Challenge Task provided by the award-winning, environmentally responsible national business enterprise Dalcour Maclaren (DM). Following this launch, students work in teams to brainstorm the Challenge Task, using ArcGIS, wider research and data collection techniques (with bespoke ArcGIS training by the ESRI UK education team).

Alongside development of their project, students will be exposed to enrichment, including expert lectures from Harper Adams University, ESRI UK and Degree Apprentices from the DM Academy.

The DM Team judge the final presentations and finalists are given the opportunity to present the solution to their Challenge Task at the World GIS Conference.

Why Should I consider the Sustainability Project?

This is an incredible opportunity where students get to work directly with a business and get a real life experience of being an environmental consultant. This was accredited as an EPQ in 2025 so also appears as a Stretch & Challenge choice.

CURRICULUM ENRICHMENT

Model United Nations

What is Model United Nations?

SGGS have partnered with Oxford Global to provide an exciting Model United Nations (MUN) programme where students roleplay delegates to the United Nations, simulate UN committees, and learn about diplomacy, international relations, current world issues.

Why Should I consider being involved in MUN?

Engaging in MUN is a fantastic way to both develop valuable skills, as well as gaining an in-depth insight into the work of the United Nations. During this programme you will:

- Develop public speaking, writing, and research skills;
- Learn about the UN as an institution, its role in world affairs, and the diplomacy involved in UN decisions, students will also learn the importance of seeing matters from someone else's perspective;
- Participate in a trip to Oxford to take part in the MUN role-play.

Many students have described their participation in MUN as a life-changing experience, one that influenced their world view, impacted the choice of a future career and/or enabled them to build an international network of friends and contacts that continue to be part of their life.

'MUN has given me so many opportunities, all that have increased my confidence and public speaking skills. Being able to actively engage with current affairs while learning more about the UN is fascinating. Students not only debate but run the club too, with a gavel! Students work together, make new friends and have lots of fun. We get to look at the world with a different perspective together- this is very enlightening'.

'MUN is an amazing experience to strengthen your adaptability, communication and teamwork whilst meeting different people from around the world. '

United Nations | Peace, dignity and equality on a healthy planet



DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

What is Design and Technology Outreach?

Do you enjoy designing, creating, solving problems or making things happen? You don't need to study A-level Product Design to develop your interest in design, technology or engineering. Design & Technology Outreach is an opportunity to develop your creativity, practical skills and leadership through exciting design and make projects across the school.

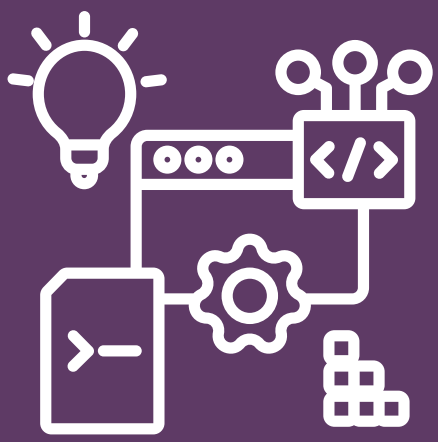
Why Should I consider D.T Outreach?

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.

In joining the DT programme you'll be at the centre of exciting projects across the school, helping to design, create and solve real-world problems. You'll have the opportunity to support younger students, work on outreach initiatives, use specialist DT facilities for your own projects and build an impressive portfolio of practical and leadership experiences that will stand out on university, apprenticeship and job applications.

'DT outreach allows me to pursue competitions and activity's that relate to engineering. It gives me the space to develop practical skills as well as soft skills such as working in a team and communication.'

'I have really enjoyed taking part in DT outreach as it has been a fun and relaxing way to learn new skills outside the classroom. It has helped me develop my design skills, improve my ability to turn ideas into practical outcomes and become more confident in my work. I have also benefited from the support and guidance of the teacher, who has made the sessions enjoyable and engaging. Overall, it has been a rewarding experience that has allowed me to develop both my creative and practical abilities.'



Careers & Post 18 Applications

Careers at Stratford Girls' Grammar School

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 Biennial '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 2026

- University of Bath
- University of Exeter
- University of Bristol
- University of Liverpool
- University of Warwick
- University of Sheffield
- University of Leeds
- University of Birmingham