



EDUCATING GIRLS IN SHREWSBURY
FOR A WORLD WITHOUT LIMITS



SHREWSBURY
HIGH SCHOOL

GDST
GIRLS' DAY SCHOOL TRUST

APPLICANT INFORMATION BOOKLET

shrewsburyhigh.gdst.net



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Welcome from the Head

At Shrewsbury High School we place our pupils at the heart of everything we do and remain intentionally small so that we can truly say that we know every child. Individuals matter at SHS. Each pupil is supported and challenged to aim high within the safety of our collaborative and close knit community.

We offer girls' only education because, as part of the Girls' Day School Trust, we believe it offers the best environment for girls to excel. We understand that girls learn differently from boys and we are experts in understanding their pastoral needs.

We seek to foster intellectual risk taking, build resilience and reward endeavour so that our girls will develop into self-confident, forward thinking young women ready to make a difference to the world in which they live.

I look forward to welcoming you to Shrewsbury High School.

Mr Darren Payne



An introduction to Shrewsbury High School

Shrewsbury High School has been educating girls in the heart of Shrewsbury since 1885, our school is literally built into the historic Town Walls. We welcome students aged 4-18 and we were created to put girls first, always. As leaders in educating girls, we offer exceptional teaching, tailored to the way girls learn, we encourage them to experiment, have a go, be brave. This is aided by small class sizes, expert pastoral care, collaboration and teamwork. In our recent ISI Inspection Report (Nov 2022) we have been recognised as Excellent in all areas.

We are the only all-girls, all-through school in Shropshire. Our junior pupils have their own distinct school nestled in the heart of our Town Walls site, enabling a seamless transition from junior to senior school. Early pupils were among the first women to obtain university degrees and enter the professions. At Shrewsbury High we continue this pioneering tradition, attracting pupils of ability and talent who can make full use of what the school can offer. Approximately 20% of our girls receive assistance with fees through our bursary and scholarship scheme. Our wonderful location, in the heart of this creative and forward-thinking town gives our pupils unique opportunities to learn from, and contribute to, their local community. Being the town school offers our family of big sisters and little sisters a stimulating environment in which to grow and learn.

Shrewsbury High School is part of the Girls' Day School Trust (GDST), the UK's leading family of independent girls' schools. We are the only GDST school in the local area and as such we are able to bring all the advantages of this powerful network to our girls, including an alumnae network in excess of 70,000 members ready to support and mentor our students. Being part of the GDST family of schools gives our staff the chance to share resources and innovative teaching opportunities, as well as a professional development framework to help you fulfil your ambitions. A culture of collaboration in the pursuit of excellence predominates and not only does this benefit our school, but also our staff who have access to the central expertise of the Trust's Innovation and Learning team, which exists to support our teachers and schools in developing and delivering an outstanding education for all our pupils.

As a member of the GDST family there are opportunities we can give that no other local school can; girls joining Shrewsbury High School are joining a very modern network in a rapidly changing world.



Academic Achievement

The Senior School enjoys a strong academic reputation at GCSE and A-level. We follow the core subjects of the National Curriculum but include a much broader range of subjects including Latin, three modern foreign languages, Economics and Business Studies and Computer Science.

We offer lectures, talks and other academic enrichment opportunities for girls to explore new ideas. Their progress is closely monitored by form teachers, working closely alongside Heads of Stage.

To see our latest A level and GCSE results, please visit www.shrewsburyhigh.gdst.net

Our Oxbridge coordinator works closely alongside our Head of Careers and UCAS to ensure that first choice university ambitions are met by the majority of our students.

Our Sixth Form offers academic rigour and intellectual stimulus complemented by a range of enrichment opportunities.

There is a broad choice of A-level subjects at the core with independent learning, teamwork and leadership skills delivered through specialist enrichment seminars and personal tutoring. Our aim is to ensure every student achieves the best results possible and we provide layers of academic guidance and friendly care to fully support all of our pupils.

Co-Curricular

From Reception to Sixth Form we are passionate about offering our pupils a wide variety of exciting co-curricular clubs before, during, and at the end of every school day. Across Music, Drama, Art, Sport and beyond, pupils gain in confidence, learn to work together and flourish as individuals.

Co-curricular clubs include more than 80 clubs and societies ranging from Beginners Greek, Ceramic Soc, Lego Construction, Junior Rock Band and Archaeology. Many subjects offer open door sessions and we have a thriving Duke of Edinburgh Scheme. There is an expectation that staff are fully involved in the life of the school and contribute regularly to co-curricular activities.





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Information about the Girls' Day School Trust

The Girls' Day School Trust is the UK's leading network of independent girls' schools, with 23 schools and two academies throughout England and Wales. It educates 19,000 students and employ 3,500 staff. As a charity, it is committed to our students, not to generating profits for any shareholders. The GDST is determined to improve social mobility and help every pupil, whatever their background, to fulfil their potential and to realise their dreams. It provides 1,100 bursaries and scholarships in its schools and also works with 430 state schools and universities on projects which have helped to raise pupils' aspirations.

Some of the benefits of working for the GDST and Shrewsbury High School:

Our pupils are well behaved, well-motivated and high achieving. Parents are supportive and interested in their children's education.

Working for a network of 25 schools enables staff to have direct contact by email with all the staff of all 25 schools. This means that as a teacher or Head of Department, you can share ideas and resources easily and seek advice on research, new initiatives or policy.

The GDST hub has a central collaboration area for staff to share ideas through its department of innovation and learning.

The GDST organises an annual central training programme which teaching and support staff can access. In addition, training grants or loans can be applied for help towards the cost of additional qualifications.

The GDST salary scale for teaching staff goes beyond the maintained sector pay scale.

All staff are entitled to a free lunch, coffee and tea during term time.

The academic year for teaching staff is 173 days plus 6 staff training days. Holidays are usually as follows: Christmas (3 weeks), Easter (2 weeks), Summer (7 weeks), 1 week for each half term in February and May and two weeks for the October half term.. In addition to the 8 public holiday days, support staff are entitled to 30 days holiday.

Class sizes are generally smaller than those in maintained schools.

Shrewsbury High has an excellent local reputation with a high profile within the local community.

Full programme of outreach work developed with local maintained schools.

Very supportive colleagues and lots of opportunities to get involved in the co-curricular life of the school and the school's wide programme of residential visits.

All GDST teaching staff who have been in post for 12 years are entitled to four weeks of paid "long service leave".

All full time staff are provided with a school laptop but interest free computer loans are also available for personal use.

All full time GDST staff (teaching and support) are eligible for 50% discount on school fees if their child/children attend the school. This is available pro-rata for part-time staff. Staff can also access the salary sacrifice scheme for payment of school fees.

All staff are members of the Employee Assistance Programme (Health Assured) which provides access to free legal, financial, medical, counselling advice and support.

All staff are entitled to a discount off BUPA Private Medical Insurance.

A cycle to work scheme.



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Salary

GDST Salary Scale. Exact salary will depend on experience and will be discussed at interview.

The GDST has its own pay and grading structure, and system of career and pay progression. Pay bands are reviewed annually, in consultation with the GDST's recognised trade union, the National Education Union (NEU). All GDST teaching staff are automatically enrolled in the GDST's flexible pension plan.

Pre-Employment Checks

All appointments will be subject to two satisfactory references (which will be taken prior to interview), Disclosure check by the Disclosure and Barring Service and medical fitness for the role. Where applicable overseas police checks and prohibition from teaching and management checks will also be completed. We also carry out an internet search on social media sites for each shortlisted candidate. All checks must be completed before employment at the School can commence.

Safeguarding and Child Protection

Any applicant who is offered an interview will be asked to provide official documentation to verify their ID, address and right to work in the UK. It is also normal practice for the School to ask for original qualifications and professional membership documents to be presented at interview, as detailed on their application. Photocopies or certified copies will not be accepted.

Shrewsbury High School and the GDST are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, and applicants must be willing to undergo child protection screening appropriate to the post, including checks with past employers and the Disclosure and Barring Service.

To see a copy of the school's Safeguarding Policy, please visit www.shrewsburyhigh.gdst.net

