



PALMERS GREEN
HIGH SCHOOL

Live Q&A session during the Senior School Webinar

What support does the school give the girls in year 7 in their transition to secondary school?

We start the transition process in the Summer Term. Usually girls will come in for a full day to meet each other and make contacts that they can maintain over the summer holiday. We then invite Year 7 pupils back earlier than the rest of the school so they can refamiliarise themselves with the school building and their new friends. In Year 7 the girls are separated into two forms so there is an even better form tutor: pupil ratio for progress and support meetings. This year we did things a little differently! We held interactive zoom meetings and set a month of competitions and group activities in the Summer Term so that the new girls felt fully engaged with those who were coming through from the Lower School.

What were GCSE results last year? i.e. not this year with Coronavirus?

The full GCSE results can be found on our website at www.pghs.co.uk/seniors/gcse-results/

In 2019: The percentage of grades at A*/9/8 was 61% and the percentage of grades at A*/9 to A/7 was 81%.

In order to register for the 11+ exam, do we just need to complete the Registration form with the £75 fee?

Yes. The Office will acknowledge receipt and contact with you the information for the entrance exam in January.

What is your Admissions process for entry into the Senior School?

If you would like to register your daughter for a place in our Senior School, please download the registration form on the website and send it back to us with the registration fee. This is £75 for entry into the school in Year 7 through to Year 10 and can be paid by cheque, cash or bank transfer. Alternatively, you can complete the registration form on-line. The 11+ Entrance and Scholarship exam will take place on Saturday 16th January and your registration form needs to be with us by 31st December 2020. A flow chart of the key dates can be found on our Virtual Open Day page which you can print off to remind you.

What languages do you teach?

We currently offer French and Spanish. Mme Parry-Garnaud, our Head of MFL, will tell you a little more soon.

Do you provide scholarships at Senior School entry? If yes, what is the maximum % available on offer? Many thanks

Full information about scholarships, subject awards and bursaries can be found on our website at www.pghs.co.uk/admissions/scholarships-bursaries/ The percentage will vary depending on the number of awards issued in a year and could vary between 5-100%.

Do you offer computing/coding clubs?

We offer an ICT Surgery for Senior pupils which is run either at lunchtime or after school and is free of charge.

What is the process once they have sat the test, when do we find out the results, and how soon do they have to accept an offer, how do you determine any scholarships?

Further information about the admissions process can be found at www.pghs.co.uk/admissions

Girls who have performed well in the entrance exam will be invited to attend an interview which are planned to take place in late January and early February. Letters will be posted and emailed to all parents after all interviews have taken place with information regarding the outcome of your daughter's application to the school. The acceptance for a place is Wednesday 3rd March. A flow chart of the key dates can be found on our Virtual Open Day page which you can print off to remind you. Scholarships and subject awards are determined by performance in the 11+ exam, with the exception of music awards, where pupils are invited in to perform on two instruments (including voice).

The £75 admin fee advises year 7-10 what about year 11?

It is extremely rare for a pupil to join us in Year 11 as she will be over half-way through her GCSE programme and we would need to look very carefully at whether her previous teaching matches what has been covered in School. If you are looking for your daughter to join in Year 11, I would suggest contacting the School Office to arrange a personal discussion.

Thank you sorry I assumed there was another fee to pay for the girls from year 7-10 £75 and again I assumed another fee would be due later on in year 10-11

I'm sorry I misunderstood you. No, we only have one registration fee for entry to the school.

What sport clubs do you have?

We currently have clubs in Netball, Football, Squash, Tennis and Athletics. Mrs Turanli, our Head of PE, will tell you more soon!

With English, I wondered how you deal with things like dyslexia - our daughter is very bright and engaged but is dyslexic and struggles with spelling etc (but not reading)?

We have an excellent Individual Needs Department - you will hear from Mr Morris a little later today. We have a number of pupils throughout the school with individual needs such as dyslexia. If you would like to email the School Office, they can arrange a phone call with Mr Morris to talk through your individual situation.

What trips you cover in Geography please?

There are many trips that are run and will vary from year to year. Fieldwork studies take place for GCSE pupils, which have taken place in contrasting locations such as Walton-on-the-Naze, the Olympic Park, and Flatford Mill with the Field Studies Council. We are currently in the process of introducing fieldwork into KS3 with river studies. Other trips have included tectonics workshops and a residential trip to Naples, Italy.

Do you have exact numbers of where students go for 6th form?

It varies year on year which sixth forms our pupils go onto. It really depends on which subjects they want to study as different sixth forms offer different subject choices at A level. Our Head of Careers, Mrs Doe, has close links with all sixth forms and works with each individual pupil to help them match their requirements and prepare them for their sixth form interviews. PGHS pupils are very well prepared and this year all of our pupils were offered their first choice. You can find a list of popular sixth form destinations on our website at www.pghs.co.uk/seniors/sixth-form-destinations/

How has the school managed remote learning?

Remote teaching and learning matched in-school provision as closely as possible. Pupils need access to a computer at home. Using Microsoft Teams, pupils follow a full and complete timetable (including homework!) The day begins with registration with their form tutor and then they attend live lessons in all subjects. They submit assignments and work is marked and returned as normal. Additional pastoral meetings also take place weekly to ensure our continued excellent pastoral care.

Do you continuously assess the streaming so that girls are moved up /down accordingly?

Yes, of course. We are fully aware that pupils progress at different rates and we continuously assess progress to ensure that provision best matches each individual and enables them to reach their full potential.

What other extra-curricular clubs do you run apart from sports?

We run a wide and varied extra-curricular programme in addition to sport which includes Art, Music, Creative Writing and Debating clubs, to name but a few. A full list of Senior extra- curricular clubs can be found on our website at www.pghs.co.uk/seniors/senior-extra-curricular/

What are the provisions for school lunches? Do you cater for special dietary needs?

In 'normal' times we have a tuck shop and lunch catering service for Senior pupils run by Harrison Catering. They publish menus in advance so you can see what is on offer. Pupils can alternate between packed lunches and school dinners on a daily basis. Allergies are taken into consideration on an individual basis and there are always vegetarian options available.

Are the lunchtime surgeries free or charged additionally?

With the exception of LAMDA and individual instrumental lessons, which are run by external peripatetic staff, all clubs and surgeries are free.

Do you have lockers for your bag and other things?

Pupils either have their own desk or a locker for their personal things. They also have dedicated peg areas. Mobile phones are handed in first thing in the morning and locked away safely for the day. They are returned at dismissal at the end of the school day.

Does the school use online apps for lessons and homework, do the girls need to bring devices to school?

Some homework is delivered through Microsoft Teams but girls do not need to bring devices into school. Mobile phones can be brought in but are stored safely throughout the day as pupils do not need access to them during the day.

What GCSE subject options are there?

In addition to the core subjects of English Language and English Literature, Maths and Science plus at least one language (French or Spanish), the options at GCSE are: Art & Design, Drama, French or Spanish, Geography, History, ICT and Music. PE, Careers Education and Life Skills are also part of the curriculum but are not a GCSE subject. We are hoping to introduce GCSE PE from next September.

Do you offer single science or double science at GCSE?

We offer both. All students begin with triple science but this can be changed to double science if they are finding it too challenging.

How many Year 7 students are there at the moment in total?

There are currently 29 Year 7 pupils in total split into two forms for all lessons, apart from PE.