

PGHS Senior School Webinar October 2021 - Q&A

Please find below the Q&A which took place during our live on-screen Zoom.

Q1. Do girls in the Lower School automatically get a place in the Senior School? What proportion of old and new girls are in Y7?

- A. All prospective Y7 pupils, including those in the PGHS Lower School, sit the 11+ tests. Our year group sizes are larger in the Senior School as they are taught in half-class groups. Usually, we have an approximate 50/50 split between internal and external candidates coming into Year 7.

Q2. Thank you. Is there a preference for the girls who are already at the School?

- A. Historically, the increase in year group size from year 6 to Year 7 means that this has not been necessary. However, if this were the case then priority would be given to those already at the School.

Q3. I'd like to know a bit more about your Y7 entrance exam. Do you accept all girls who take part on the exam?

- A. We are academically selective, we look for girls who have the potential to learn and who will thrive at the School. We have individual discussions with parents. The size of the cohort each year varies.

Q4. Do you offer places for musically gifted children via musical aptitude test?

- A. We offer music awards. Pupils first need to pass the 11+ entrance exams and are then invited for an audition with the Head of Music. You will be asked to indicate that you would like your daughter to apply for this on the 11+ exam registration form.

Q5. Please could you let us know how many applicants you had for how many places last year?

- A. This varies year-on-year but is usually between 60-70.

Q6. What are the average class sizes in secondary year groups?

- A. Year groups are on average 28 pupils; however, from year 7, all subjects (except offsite PE) are taught in half-classes, so are approximately 14. In Year 10 and Year 11, class sizes can be even smaller than this depending on the GCSE options that are taken.

Q7. Do you support multilingual pupils taking a GCSE in their own language?

- A. We are a very multi-cultural School, with many girls speaking different languages. We are happy to be the centre to enable and to support the pupils taking these exams – and as such, allow them to use the School Hall for the examinations, so it's taken in a familiar environment. We can't help with the language learning specifically as our linguists are experts in French and Spanish.

Q8. Which subjects do you set in and at what age?

- A. Maths is set in Year 8. The girls are continually assessed and they can transfer between the sets at any time. For GCSE's there are two sets.
- A. In Science in Year 9, classes are divided into two sets. In Year 10, they are put into classes depending if they choose Combined Science or Separate Science option.

Q9. I thought it was only one form entry, how many forms are there in year 7?

- A. It is a one form entry but in Year 7, whilst the girls are settling into the Senior School, we split the girls into two forms groups to give them more attention and a higher staff to pupil ratio. In Year 8 they re-group into one form class.

Q10. Do you think you'll have an Open Day so we can actually see the school?

- A. To keep everyone safe, we are currently offering private individual tours of the School. We welcome you to come and look at our classrooms and fabulous facilities. Please book a tour by contacting office@pghs.co.uk
- A. Hopefully we will be able to have some 'Working Open Mornings' in the New Year. Please keep an eye on our website for more details www.pghs.co.uk