



# Devonport High School For Girls

*A Specialist Language College*

## Prospectus



**'Best State Funded Secondary School in the Greater Plymouth Area'**

*Real Schools Guide*



# Mission statement

At Devonport High School for Girls our mission is to offer a challenging and enriching educational experience, which enables our students to develop their curiosity, confidence and aspirations, so that they leave us equipped to enjoy life in a global society.

## Ethos

We encourage our students to:

- have high aspirations
- appreciate that taking risks and making mistakes develops resilience
- become confident, independent learners with inquiring minds
- understand that the process of overcoming challenges fuels creativity
- recognise that learning is an active, collaborative and lifelong process
- develop both self-discipline and self-awareness
- respect and value each other's differences, beliefs, opinions and ideas
- play an active and caring role within the school and local communities
- seek and embrace opportunities
- maintain a healthy lifestyle
- develop into highly motivated global citizens
- be happy in themselves and enjoy an optimistic outlook

The school mission statement and ethos have been developed in consultation with representatives from Governors, Parents, Carers, Students, Support staff and Teachers.

*"The members of your senior leadership team provide you with exceptional strong support in your constant drive for excellence"*

*Ofsted 2019*





# *Head Teacher's Welcome*

Thank you for taking the time to read the Devonport High School for Girls' prospectus. I am very proud to be the Head Teacher here at such an exceptional school. Here at DHSG, we value each and every young person as an individual and support them on their journey into adulthood.

At Devonport High School for Girls, our mission is to offer a challenging and enriching educational experience, which enables our students to develop their curiosity, confidence and aspirations, so that they leave us equipped to enjoy life in a global society. I firmly believe the key to our success is our ability to inspire young minds by providing an exciting, challenging and supportive educational environment, which offers innovative teaching methods and encourages creativity. We provide a wide range of exciting extra-curricular and enriching learning opportunities, which means that we can develop the skills, talents and potential of the whole person.

Our teachers, support staff and governors are all committed to the DHSG mission and strive to ensure that it becomes a reality for our students. DHSG is a Specialist Languages College which was founded in 1908. We are proud of our history, but our main focus is looking to the future. In our aim of providing the best educational opportunities today, we believe that our students leave us equipped to go out into the world of the 21st Century ready to make a real difference.

Choosing a secondary school is a difficult decision; it is, however, an important one. I would encourage you to visit us to see what we have to offer and look forward to meeting you in the future.



Lee Sargeant  
Head Teacher



*“ Your relentless focus on improving the quality of teaching has led to rapid improvements in the progress that pupils make by the time they reach the end of key stage 4.”*

*Ofsted 2019*

# Curriculum

Our Curriculum Vision: Students at DHSG have access to a challenging and inspiring curriculum that meets the needs of the most able, fosters intellectual curiosity and prepares them for a global society.

## *Overview*

The curriculum at Devonport High School for Girls relates directly to the school's mission and ethos statements. The curriculum displays breadth, balance, relevance, differentiation, progression and continuity. We ensure we provide a broad and balanced curriculum that promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of our students and prepares them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life. In addition to students studying the traditional academic subjects, we ensure that students have access to independent, impartial careers advice at all key stages and to relationship and sex education. The specialist language status of the school also ensures students have excellent access to modern foreign languages and extra-curricular activities, that prepares them for life in a global society.

## *Challenge through subject based knowledge*

Students are taught discrete subjects by specialists from Year 7. However, DHSG teachers are more than individuals with knowledge specialisms; they are all curriculum designers. Their professional focus is to design learning programmes that nurture enquiry, spark imagination, push creativity, create well-rounded caring citizens and produce high attaining learners. Above all, academic challenge and rigour are ensured by subject leaders giving careful consideration to the knowledge to be delivered enabling the strongest possible progress.

## *Challenge through breadth*

Students are taught a broad curriculum throughout Years 7-13. Challenge is ensured by students' experience of a wide range of disciplines and their associated progression models, alongside our aim for 100% participation beyond academic study.

## *Challenge through depth*

Students are taught linear specialist courses (not blended disciplines) in all academic areas of the curriculum. Challenge is enabled by specialist planning which aims to deepen core knowledge across Years 7-13.

## *Knowledge*

Imparting knowledge to the next generation we see as a great honour and at DHSG we recognise the importance of knowledge accumulation in the development of skills.

## *Choice*

Whilst maintaining breadth, students have many opportunities to choose their curriculum. For example, in year 9 students could choose to learn a second foreign language. The timetable is designed each year with the aim to maximise student choice. A broad range of subjects are offered including Separate Sciences, Classics and Food Preparation and Nutrition.

## *Extended curriculum*

Our curriculum provides regular opportunities to develop students' personal life skills through a myriad of extra-curricular activities, sport, volunteering, international links and trips, work experience, STEM activities, charity ventures, and enterprise activities. Our curriculum includes experiences outside the classroom for all our students, enabling them to become self-confident, resilient and independent.

## Specialist Languages College Status

Devonport High School for Girls was first awarded Specialist Languages College status in September 2005. The school has achieved recognition both locally and nationally with the following examples of successful innovation.

- Mandarin Chinese introduced into the curriculum in 2005.
- Devonport High School for Girls initiated a successful consortium bid to create the Peninsula Group Confucius Classroom (PGCC), promoting the teaching of Chinese language and culture throughout the South West. Since 2008 this group has been supported by Chinese Hanban teachers seconded annually to PGCC whose workshops have benefited students across all sectors in the region. Through the PGCC several students have been able to participate in a Mandarin Chinese summer study camp for the fifth time, mainly funded by the Chinese government, where they develop their linguistic skills and cultural understanding over two weeks of lessons, sight-seeing and activities with their peers in China.
- International links with Chile, China, Croatia, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Hungary, Japan, Mexico, Nepal, Poland, Romania, Spain, South Africa, Republic of Ireland, USA and Zimbabwe allow students and staff to achieve greater global understanding both through curriculum and enrichment work, as well as visits to partner schools funded by European and International programmes.

The school has been successful in attracting European Union support with funding of over £170,000 for five Comenius Projects and two Erasmus+ projects as well as a further £100,000 of funding for international projects from various sources. The projects fund cross-curricular activities and reciprocal visits for students and staff from Devonport High School for Girls and colleagues from several of the countries listed above.

- Devonport High School for Girls has led in the support of Primary Languages locally with a methodology course for primary teachers, workshops in Mandarin Chinese and Year 9 students working with primary students as Language Leaders.
- For the past thirteen years, the school has organised a visit for Sixth Form students from a number of schools in the South West (including Devonport High School for Girls) to the European Parliament in Strasbourg. There they have taken part in a European Youth Parliament Day with 500 other young people from the EU under the Euroscola programme. The experience has been extremely useful and motivational for students.
- The Specialism has initiated enrichment events and projects, for example in Art, Business Studies, English, History, ICT, Mathematics, Music, PE, Psychology and Sciences, as well as the Modern Languages department.



## International School Award (ISA)

Devonport High School for Girls first achieved International School status in 2006 and has held it since, recently receiving it for the fourth time. The school's International Co-ordinator was named International Co-ordinator for 2012 by HSBC / British Council in their Link2Learn awards and became a British Council Schools Ambassador in 2014. Devonport High School for Girls has been successfully reaccredited with the ISA award year on year. Our main international target is for students to enjoy well-established and enriching links with other countries and thereby gain a greater understanding of global issues.

The ISA portfolio features a range of partnerships with active involvement in international curriculum-based projects. Details of key aspects are listed below.

- The Language Leader programme which provides an opportunity for students to develop their leadership skills and confidence by giving them a real context within which to exercise their knowledge of language and culture. Last year the Year 9 Language Leaders learnt how to teach key language vocabulary as well as make exciting and innovative resources to teach to other students and peers. Students have successfully created and taught lessons in world languages such as Chinese, Cornish, Finnish, French, German, Hawaiian, Italian and Spanish to Year 7 and primary students who were enthused and absorbed by the lessons. The Language Leader programme is highly successful and is being continued again this year with year 9 students, preparing exciting lessons with the aim of teaching and instilling a love of languages within local primary schools.
- Devonport High School for Girls, on behalf of schools across the South West, has led an annual visit to the European Parliament as part of the Euroscola Programme. Sixth Form aged language students from across Europe attend The European Youth Parliament Day discussing aspects of European integration in multilingual working groups. A fantastic opportunity that often defines a students' career path.
- An on-going partnership with our link school Hangzhuo Entel Foreign Languages School, China. Students from Year 9 have a Chinese partner with whom they communicate via email and Skype during their Language lessons. This supports students' language acquisition and cultural knowledge as well as using their language skills in a real context.





- The ongoing work of the Peninsula Group Confucius Classroom. The principal aim of this group is to introduce the Chinese language and culture to a large number of schools and students in the South West of England (to date more than 60 schools and 15,000 students). In the past up to four teachers were seconded each year from China through the Hanban organisation. They work alongside the resident PGCC Chinese teacher whilst visiting a large number of the local schools. From 2015, one of the Hanban teachers has been involved in a pilot scheme to introduce Mandarin Chinese into the curriculum of two Plymouth primary schools - Stuart Road Primary and College Road Primary. The Hanban teachers have been instrumental in continuing to promote Chinese language and culture throughout the South West.
- A multilateral Comenius project based on Science with schools in Croatia, Germany and Romania, which extended into a second project - the Magic of Sound (2015-2017), and then a third project - the Magic of Water (which will be a two year project). Students have already completed a successful trip to Germany and Romania to meet partner schools and students.



Our portfolio is enriched by the wide-range of regular supplementary activities at Devonport High School for Girls: hosting international visitors, teaching of languages and culture at primary level, our international carol concert and hosting Comenius or Erasmus+ Assistants from European countries who work in a variety of curriculum areas. We were also appointed an Expert Centre for the Global Learning Programme which involves running workshops for colleagues from local schools who wish to develop and extend the global dimension in their curriculum.

The school was recently named an ISA Best Practice School, part of a national network of schools who bring together like-minded schools with a common goal - to share their international work and International School Award experience with schools in their local area.

In feedback from our recent ISA reaccreditation, the International School Award Team at the British Council said "international activities are ambitious and accomplished, providing rich learning opportunities in different subject areas and age groups, promoting citizenship and foreign language learning and celebrating cultural diversity across the school and wider community."

Through our International School Status, we are able to provide students with opportunities to travel beyond the UK, completing projects in many different countries around the world as well as excellent opportunities to communicate with and share experiences with students from other countries within classroom projects. With our global outlook and excellence in languages, Devonport High School for Girls encourages strong communication skills, the celebration of diversity and an international perspective.





# Care, Support and Guidance

## *Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PSHEE)*

PSHEE is taught through the Pastoral Programme. This has been carefully designed and modified over the years to take account of current issues, advice from outside agencies and government legislation. It is a 'spiral' programme in which themes are developed from year to year in accordance with the age and general maturity of different year groups. Topics include work related learning, becoming a responsible citizen, British Values, Sex and Relationship Education, Drug and Alcohol Education as well as a raft of further guidance and support concerning personal safety and responsibilities. We aim to encourage students to have due regard to moral considerations and the value of family life. Visiting speakers with expertise in these areas deliver parts of the programme. Parents/carers have the right to withdraw their child from lessons on sex education within PSHEE following consultation with the relevant Head of House.

Much of our PSHEE programme is delivered through debate and discussions around related issues with the students. This is especially the case with Healthy Relationships and consent, E-Safety issues, and more complex issues such as child sexual exploitation and extremism. The curriculum is designed to be broad and balanced and to promote fundamental British values.

## *Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG)*

The fundamental aim of the programme for Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance is to help all students to achieve their own potential and to set them on the path to an appropriate course in Higher Education and ultimately a successful adult and working life. This is something that is carefully mapped for each student from Years 7-13, and uses Gatsby benchmarks to ensure all our learners are ready to take their place in the world. From Year 8 upwards, careers guidance is part of the Pastoral Programme which increases in content and scope through Key Stage 4 and into the Sixth Form. Work experience in Year 10 provides a useful taste of the world of work, while the guest speakers to Sixth Form students, visits to universities and higher education fairs, and the opportunity to participate in work placements throughout Key Stage 5, provides a rich source of ideas for possible pathways to follow. Careers literature is available in the library and the study area of the Sixth Form Centre, whilst independent advice is offered to students from the Careers South West Group.



## Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

We are committed to ensuring that those students with any Special Educational Need should have the same entitlement to the full range of the curriculum. We make the curriculum accessible to all through differentiation, varying teaching styles and classroom support according to individual needs. The school will also provide training for staff, will work with parents/carers and provide specialist support through outside agencies where necessary.

Parents/carers who feel that their child may have a Special Educational Need or medical condition requiring a support plan, should write in the first instance to the school's Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCo), giving details of their concerns.

## The Pastoral System

The pastoral care and support of our students is of paramount importance to us and permeates every aspect of school life. Every member of staff shares a joint responsibility for promoting wellbeing, as well as the moral, social and spiritual development of students. That students are treated as unique individuals is apparent in the warm relationships and mutual respect evident between students and staff and in the close working relationships we have with parents and carers. Our commitment to these themes has been judged to be no less than outstanding in inspections to date.

Our ethos is characterised by this relational approach with high levels of support, inclusivity and a practical commitment to welfare underpinning the positive atmosphere in classrooms, high quality teaching and learning and student outcomes.

Students are supported by a contemporary and rigorous PSHEE Programme which immerses them in the complexities of modern life and provides them with the relevant and adaptable life skills they require for an ever shifting world. Our specific pastoral House structure enables a deep understanding of students' needs through partnership with families and our skilled Student Support Team are relentlessly focussed on meeting these individual needs. Through strategic leadership of Inclusion and Safeguarding we ensure effective and timely multi-agency working that advocates for our students and their families at times of most need, partnering with CAMHS, Young Devon, Barnardo's and Jeremiah's Journey amongst others.

Members of the team can provide support on a wide range of factors.

- Safeguarding
- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)
- English as an Additional Language (EAL)
- Attendance
- Behaviour for Learning
- Social and Emotional issues
- Mental Health
- Young Carers

*"Pupils are particularly clear about how willing teachers and other staff are to give of their time to help pupils outside of lessons"*

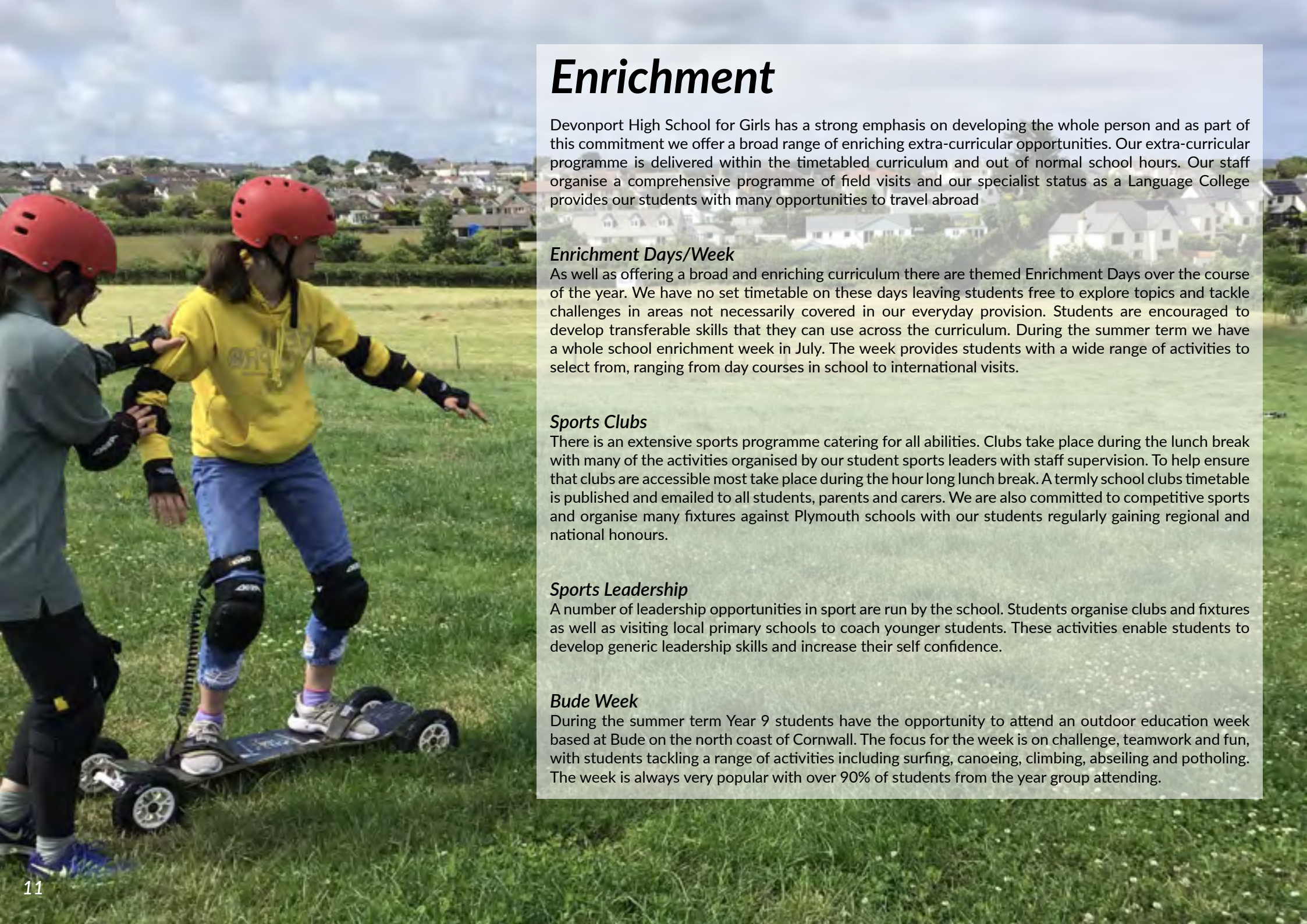
*Ofsted 2019*

*"The school has a highly effective and well-developed culture of safeguarding"*

*Ofsted 2019*

*"... early identification of pupils that need academic or pastoral support is at the heart of this work.."*

*Ofsted 2019*



# Enrichment

Devonport High School for Girls has a strong emphasis on developing the whole person and as part of this commitment we offer a broad range of enriching extra-curricular opportunities. Our extra-curricular programme is delivered within the timetabled curriculum and out of normal school hours. Our staff organise a comprehensive programme of field visits and our specialist status as a Language College provides our students with many opportunities to travel abroad

## *Enrichment Days/Week*

As well as offering a broad and enriching curriculum there are themed Enrichment Days over the course of the year. We have no set timetable on these days leaving students free to explore topics and tackle challenges in areas not necessarily covered in our everyday provision. Students are encouraged to develop transferable skills that they can use across the curriculum. During the summer term we have a whole school enrichment week in July. The week provides students with a wide range of activities to select from, ranging from day courses in school to international visits.

## *Sports Clubs*

There is an extensive sports programme catering for all abilities. Clubs take place during the lunch break with many of the activities organised by our student sports leaders with staff supervision. To help ensure that clubs are accessible most take place during the hour long lunch break. A termly school clubs timetable is published and emailed to all students, parents and carers. We are also committed to competitive sports and organise many fixtures against Plymouth schools with our students regularly gaining regional and national honours.

## *Sports Leadership*

A number of leadership opportunities in sport are run by the school. Students organise clubs and fixtures as well as visiting local primary schools to coach younger students. These activities enable students to develop generic leadership skills and increase their self confidence.

## *Bude Week*

During the summer term Year 9 students have the opportunity to attend an outdoor education week based at Bude on the north coast of Cornwall. The focus for the week is on challenge, teamwork and fun, with students tackling a range of activities including surfing, canoeing, climbing, abseiling and potholing. The week is always very popular with over 90% of students from the year group attending.



### ***Ten Tors Challenge***

The Ten Tors challenge is an annual weekend hike organised and run in early May for over 2,000 young people by the British Army on Dartmoor. There are three different distances that participants can tackle; 35 miles, 45 miles and 55 miles. We enter teams at all 3 distances.

### ***Duke of Edinburgh Award (D of E)***

We are a self-certificating Duke of Edinburgh Centre and run a vibrant unit at Devonport High School for Girls with students completing a personal programme of activities in four sections:

- volunteering - helping someone, your community or the environment
- physical - becoming fitter through sport, dance or fitness activities
- skills - developing existing talents or trying something new
- expedition - planning, training for and completing an adventurous journey

We have students completing the Award at all three levels – Bronze, Silver and Gold.

### ***Performing Arts - Music***

Students have the opportunity to have instrumental or singing lessons through the one to one music tuition scheme with our peripatetic teachers. We run a number of choirs and instrumental ensembles and there are various performance opportunities throughout the year with the highlight being our school carol service at St Andrew's Church in Plymouth. Students will also be able to get involved with music as part of the school's regular musical theatre productions.

### ***Drama***

Students have the opportunity to take part in Drama activities delivered throughout our enrichment programme, for example, as part of the School's 'World Book Day' Enrichment Day. Key Stage 3 and 4 students are able to audition for parts in the School Production, which takes place in the Summer Term. Recent productions have included 'Guys and Dolls', 'A Midsummer Night's Dream', 'Young Scarlett Hood', 'Alice in Wonderland', 'Peter Pan' and 'The Wizard of Oz'.

### ***Enterprise Events***

Students have the opportunity to take part in Enterprise Days where local business people visit the school to set challenges and judge outcomes. Students gain experience of designing business models, managing budgets and meeting strict deadlines. Throughout the day they utilise employability skills such as creativity, communication, teamwork, problem solving and decision making. Years 7, 8 and 9 have competed in challenges which focus on issues such as Social Enterprise, Corporate Social Responsibility and the Environment. Examples of recent challenges include Gandy's Social Enterprise, The Young Apprentice, and marketing an event to promote Plastic Free Plymouth. Year 10 students took part in the Ryman Enterprise challenge with the finals taking place at Wembley stadium.



### ***You're Hired***

Sixth Form students have the opportunity to take part in the You're Hired challenge. 'You're Hired!' is a business challenge, for 17 year olds across Plymouth. A number of local, national and international businesses are involved in this challenge and students have to solve commercial problems in a creative and strategic manner.

### ***BASE competition***

BASE is the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales' (ICAEW) National Business and Accounting competition for school and college students aged 16-17. It provides our students with a unique opportunity to engage in business challenges that enable them to develop key employability skills and understand what it is like to be an ICAEW Chartered Accountant. They work with professionals gaining first hand advice and learn about the professional life of a chartered accountant.

### ***Young Enterprise***

Sixth Form students can enter business competitions where they have to setup their own company, design and market a product with the aim of producing a profit. Students get help and advice from local Business Advisors who attend weekly meetings. We have a track record of success at both local and regional levels in this competition. For example, last year's Young Enterprise group Eclipse reached the Devon Finals having won 3 awards in the local competition including Best Company Report and Best Presentation.

### ***Work Experience***

GCSE students are offered a week long work experience placement at the end of year 10. This opportunity provides students with a valuable taste of the world of work and helps them make decisions regarding future career paths. Many students complete work experience as part of their Sixth Form studies improving their transferable skills whilst enhancing their application into Higher Education or training.

### ***Field Visits and Foreign Excursions***

Our students are provided with a wide range of opportunities to take part in educational visits. These range from day visits in the local area such as Geography fieldwork to residential trips abroad such as the Year 8 visits to Cantabria, France, Normandy, and Northern Spain. We also run a ski trip to Austria which takes place during Spring half term.

### ***STEM Opportunities***

At Devonport High School for Girls we encourage students to challenge themselves to take their learning beyond the main curriculum. A robotics club, South West Academic Challenge Events, Go4SET and Big Bang Competition, GCHQ CyberFirst Competition, hands on experience in University Medical Laboratories are just a few of the opportunities, when available, on offer. These provide students with a chance to develop new skills and compete at the very highest level both regionally and nationally.





*Devonport High School For Girls*

*Lyndhurst Road  
Peverell  
Plymouth  
Devon  
PL2 3DL*



# GCSE RESULTS 2023

<i>SUBJECT</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>Total</i>
Art	6	7	6	3	0	0	0	0	22
Biology	20	22	17	10	8	1	0	0	78
Business	18	9	8	9	3	2	1	0	50
Chemistry	17	13	20	10	12	4	1	0	78
Chinese	1	1	3	0	1	0	1	0	7
Computing	1	3	0	2	1	0	0	0	7
Drama	3	9	8	10	2	0	0	0	32
English Language	29	40	26	18	7	0	1	0	121
English Literature	44	26	26	13	7	3	0	1	120
Food	19	9	6	0	0	0	0	0	34
French	9	4	8	11	9	3	2	0	48
Geography	17	17	19	6	4	1	0	0	64
German	2	5	0	2	3	0	0	0	12
History	14	13	11	20	8	5	3	0	74
Latin	2	3	3	2	0	1	2	0	13
Maths	11	44	25	26	13	2	0	0	121
Music	0	1	3	0	1	0	0	0	5
PE	5	2	7	10	2	3	0	0	29
Physics	14	19	21	9	9	3	2	0	78
RS	8	9	18	18	3	0	1	0	57
Russian	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Spanish	7	8	8	7	11	2	2	0	45
Textiles	6	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	12
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>254</b>	<b>264</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1108</b>

<i>SUBJECT</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>Total</i>
Combined Science	9	22	17	24	11	3	0	0	0	86

	<i>DHSG</i>	<i>National</i>
Percentage 9 to 5	95%	52%
Percentage 9 to 7	68%	21.6%
Average point score per entry	7.1	

## A LEVEL RESULTS 2023

<i>SUBJECT</i>	<i>A*</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>C</i>	<i>D</i>	<i>E</i>	<i>Total</i>
Ancient History	0	0	0	2	0	0	2
Art	6	1	1	0	0	0	8
Biology	3	7	10	7	6	2	35
Business	3	2	0	2	1	0	8
Chemistry	3	4	4	6	6	2	25
Drama	0	0	3	1	0	0	4
English Literature	10	9	13	1	1	0	34
French	2	4	2	2	1	0	11
Further Maths	3	0	1	1	2	0	7
Geography	2	6	8	3	1	0	21
History	1	11	7	5	1	1	26
Maths	4	6	7	5	7	2	31
PE	1	1	0	0	0	0	2
Physics	0	2	2	3	1	2	10
Politics	0	2	2	1	0	0	5
Psychology	2	7	17	7	2	2	37
RS	2	3	6	0	1	0	12
Sociology	0	0	1	1	0	0	2
Spanish	2	1	2	6	0	0	11
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>291</b>

	<i>DHSG</i>	<i>National</i>
Percentage A* to E	99.7%	97.2%
Percentage A*/A	38%	26.5%
Average point score per entry	40.1	

## OTHER QUALIFICATIONS 2023

<i>SUBJECT</i>	<i>A*</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>C</i>	<i>D</i>	<i>E</i>	<i>Total</i>
Certificate Level 3 Mathematical Studies	1	0	1	0	2	0	4
Extended Project	1	9	1	4	1	1	17