

HIGHGATE



Senior School & Sixth Form

Careers & Higher Education

highgateschool.org.uk

Higher Education

The majority of Highgate pupils choose to continue their education at university following their A levels in Year 13. Our dedicated Higher Education team oversees the advice and support throughout the process, giving pupils the confidence and tools to follow their aspirations, whatever they may be.

The range of university courses on offer, both in the UK and abroad, is bigger than ever and the prospect of narrowing down what to study can sometimes be overwhelming. Year 12 pupils take part in an Extension Programme in Lent Term as a springboard for university applications. Weekly lessons are provided where teachers deliver off-syllabus, university-level material to help pupils think about their subjects in a different way. In February, Highgate

hosts its own Higher Education Fair for Year 11-12 pupils, with around 50 different UK universities, gap year companies and degree apprenticeship providers giving a taste of what they offer.

Alongside talks and events, every Sixth Former is assigned a personal mentor who provides one-to-one advice about their subject choices, how pupils can develop themselves further, what universities they're interested in, along with preparations for the UCAS application process. Staff specialise in applications for medicine, dentistry and veterinary medicine courses, Oxbridge admissions and institutions overseas.

Higher Education Day follows in mid-June, which is the first time pupils will log on to their UCAS account, with applications made electronically in Michaelmas Term of Year 13. Following an application, pupils may be required to take university admissions tests or attend interviews before they receive and accept offers. Tutors, Heads of House and the Sixth Form team are available to provide support to all pupils during this daunting but exciting time.



“Successful university outcomes are a direct result of our pupils working hard but it’s also because we equip them to apply sensibly. It’s about getting the balance between aspiration and realism just right.”

Highgate Director of Higher Education



“The team were incredibly supportive with thorough information sessions. I was encouraged to broaden my selection and explore some choices that I wouldn’t have done otherwise.”

Year 13 pupil

International Options

We have a dedicated member of staff who supports pupils wanting to explore options for applying to US and Canadian universities, as well as other worldwide institutions. Support classes take place every fortnight from January to June in Year 12, to help pupils understand the process and what the universities are looking for, and most importantly, ensuring this is a route they want to pursue. Pupils and their parents and carers are encouraged to attend online open events during the research phase and can meet representatives from overseas universities who will visit the school.

The US application process starts before UCAS and involves a SAT or ACT exam for most universities. As part of this support, pupils have essay training and a weekly drop-in clinic gives individual help with all aspects of their applications.

University Destinations

Highgate pupils go on to study at a vast array of courses and destinations each year, from Ivy League institutions in the US to Russell Group universities in the UK and specialist art and music colleges.

2024 Sixth Form Results

82%

of Sixth Formers secured their first choice of university, in addition

10% received their second choice

77%

are going to Russell Group universities

21

Sixth Formers received places at Oxbridge

*For up-to-date statistics visit: highgateschool.org.uk/sixth/exam-success/



Careers and Employability

Highgate's Careers and Employability programme aims to help pupils develop the relevant personal behaviours, values and transferable skills that will enable them to enjoy a successful professional life beyond school.

Exploring careers options in a world that is ever-changing can be difficult for young people to navigate. Highgate's Careers and Employability Specialist helps support and prepare our pupils for their future choices, with up-to-date and impartial advice that allows them to have a clearer understanding of their own personal interests and motivations.

The careers programme is embedded into the academic timetable, including tutor time sessions, employability days and external speakers. Once pupils reach Year 10, they start to receive individual careers support and take part in the Morrisby Profiling, a commonly used career aptitude test that can help young people discover which pathway they might want to consider.

Talks & Events

Senior School and Sixth Form pupils have the opportunity to engage with and hear from recent graduates and established professionals in wide ranging sectors, from the arts to medicine.

- Curriculum scheduled Q&A panel sessions for pupils from Year 9 onwards, where they can interview professionals about their careers.
- Industry Insight sessions with guest speakers talking about their own personal experiences.
- Highgate's alumni network helps pupils to participate in mentoring events.
- Year 10 Pupils take part in Employability Day in June and complete a careers profile.
- The annual Careers Fair for Year 11-13 is attended by employers and individuals, including Highgate alumni and parents/carers from diverse backgrounds, to help pupils explore routes such as internships and work placements.

"Everything we hear from industry experts is that pupils should follow subjects that they really enjoy, because they are most likely to do well in them and therefore, make themselves more employable along the way."

James Newton, Deputy Head (Academic)



Professional Advice & Work Experience

Practical advice and guidance is embedded throughout the school curriculum and is supported by additional Employability Days.

Pupils learn about writing CVs and cover letters, preparing for interviews and finding work experience. Our compulsory five-week interview skills sessions in Year 12, delivered by specialist teachers, allows pupils to use video interviewing software (in line with changing external recruitment processes), before completing a mock job interview with an external professional in the summer term. Practical 'Futures Forum' sessions have previously included a wide

range of topics including: 'Digital profiling and LinkedIn' and 'How to get Hired', exploring methods used by organisations and recruiters to identify the strongest applicants.

Year 12 pupils can join our Employability Mentoring programme, working alongside external contacts and pupils from partner sixth form, the London Academy of Excellence Tottenham. In addition, pupils in all year groups have access to the school intranet, Hero, which has a dedicated Careers and Employability section, providing pupils with a range of resources, including work experience contacts and guidance and subject specific insights.

Work Experience

Another important resource that pupils are encouraged to pursue is finding their own work experience. Pupils can have practical sessions to help draft their CV and get advice about how to navigate which companies or organisations they should apply to. Year 12 attend compulsory one-to-one interview skills sessions with external volunteers with each pupil participating in a 20-minute interview to practise their responses and hone their body language skills, followed by constructive feedback by the interviewer.

Personal Support

Pupils can book one-to-one careers conversations with our Careers and Employability Specialist, to receive impartial and independent guidance; explore individual career options; develop their CV, and work on applications for apprenticeships, volunteering and gap year opportunities.



"After working at three different companies, I feel much more confident in my professional interpersonal skills. It made me structure my workdays independently to complete all my tasks promptly, and I was responsible for myself and my work to a degree I never had before."

Year 12 pupil



Careers & Higher Education Timetable

	MICHAELMAS	LENT	SUMMER
Y7	Specifically, through PSHE Education lessons and morning tutorials; holistically, throughout the year through the academic and wider co-curricular.		
Y8			
Y9		Careers Q&A Panel	
		GCSE Options Advice & Discussions	
Y10	Careers Q&A Panel	Individual Careers Profile completed online (Morrisby Manager)	Employability Day & Individual careers discussions with external advisers
Y11	Work Experience guidance session & guide shared	CAREERS FAIR	Work Experience completed after the GCSE exams
	A level Information Evening	A Level Choices & 1-2-1 Meetings	
		Careers Q&A Panel	
Y12	Work Experience Guide shared	5-week Interview Skills sessions	Formal practice job interviews with industry professionals
		CAREERS FAIR	
	Careers Q&A Panel	Higher Education Fair, UCAS study days & Higher Education information	
		Mentoring Programme with LAET	University Open Days
Y13	Careers Q&A Panel	CAREERS FAIR	
	UCAS applications submitted		
	1-2-1 Careers advice drop-in sessions (available all year around)		
	Futures Forum		
	Industry Insights		

 Year specific activity

 Optional

*Employability is fully embedded into the PSHEE Education curriculum in Y7-13