



LIFE IN THE FOURTH FORM



Scan me
to watch a day in the life
of a L4 pupil



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A word of welcome

The move to senior school is an important moment in a young person's life. It is when they gain a greater taste of independence, but still need care and nurture to grow into the best possible version of themselves.

At Sherborne Girls, we understand the importance of this moment. We provide a stimulating environment in which everyone is given what they need to thrive, with appropriate academic stretch, a wealth of co-curricular opportunities, and the chance to join a community in which everyone's accomplishments are celebrated.

All this is wrapped up in first-rate pastoral care that has won us recognition throughout the sector.

For our Fourth Formers, we ease the transition to senior school with a dedicated Boarding House in which girls form friendships for life. Our team supports every pupil, giving them roots to grow in their first years at Sherborne Girls, and wings that hold them aloft for the rest of their lives.

Mrs Emma Jamieson
Housemistress

Miss Rachel Dinsdale
Head of Fourth Form

Our Fourth Form:
Lower Fourth (L4): Year 7, 11+ entry
Upper Fourth (U4): Year 8

Meet the Fourth Form Team



Mrs Emma Jamieson and family
Housemistress

The House team

Housemistress Emma Jamieson is supported by a Resident Matron, Day Matron and Resident Graduate Assistant. In addition, non-resident Tutors support resident staff and girls in the evenings and at weekends.

Academic and Pastoral Tutor team

All teaching staff at Sherborne Girls are Personal Tutors to a group of seven or eight girls. They are attached to Boarding Houses and see their tutees for lunch at least once a week, as well as meeting regularly for individual tutorials.

Tutors oversee both the academic and pastoral wellbeing of pupils. They are one of the key contacts for parents. Our experienced West Tutor Team engages regularly with the girls, encouraging them to ensure balance in their weekly programme and a breadth of enrichment opportunities.



Miss Rachel Dinsdale
Head of Fourth Form

Miss Dinsdale works closely with Mrs Jamieson. Together, they are responsible for the academic and pastoral wellbeing of all Fourth Form girls. Miss Dinsdale holds year group meetings, coordinates the Junior Diploma and advises on the curriculum for Years 7 and 8.



About West: a perfect home from home

Aldhelmsted West, known as "West", was purpose built in 2013 for girls entering School at age 11 or 12. It accommodates approximately 50 pupils. Girls enjoy comfortable four-bedded en suite rooms, study areas with stunning views of the surrounding Dorset countryside, and welcoming communal areas for relaxation and socialising. The House has its own kitchen and a spacious, light and airy dining room that leads out onto a tranquil garden.

Pupils say: "Life in West is always warm and welcoming. It feels like home as soon as you step inside. The dorms are lovely and spacious with really comfy beds. The food is great and it's so fantastic to have a house dog! The atmosphere is like one big family, because everyone cares and looks out for each other."

"Not for oneself but for all"

House Motto

Graded “Excellent” for quality of education in our most recent inspection, we provide academic stretch in the context of a busy and enriching boarding environment, where pupils are self-motivated and driven to succeed.



West Boarding House

All-round excellence

Our mission

To provide a broad and enriching full-boarding education that develops the unique talents of every girl within a supportive community.

To send out into the world girls of character, commitment and compassion who can think clearly and creatively, choose wisely and have the courage to make a difference.

Our values

Curious

Sherborne girls are intellectually enquiring and imaginative. They seek challenge and inspiration in the pursuit of excellence.

Courageous

Sherborne girls are bold and adventurous. They have the courage to take risks, the resilience to overcome adversity and the inner confidence to lead others.

Compassionate

Sherborne girls are principled, considerate and kind. They have a sense of responsibility to make a positive contribution to the communities in which they live and work.

Adaptable

Sherborne girls are principled, considerate and kind. They have a sense of responsibility to make a positive contribution to the communities in which they live and work.

Spiritual

Sherborne girls understand Christian values. They value reflection, exercise self-care, and seek the wellbeing of others.

Life in all its fullness

“Creativity, innovation and investigation are at the heart of our curriculum. Girls learn by doing, with interdisciplinary opportunities and outdoor education adding to their experience. As a result, they gain confidence to explore, to question and to grow. Their full-boarding education is enhanced by the extended week, providing opportunities for a carefully crafted co-curricular and enrichment programme that supports our academic provision.

Every girl learns a musical instrument or sings in a choir, and we encourage them all to perform in a School play. They enjoy sport or health-related fitness every day and benefit from a bespoke tutor support programme that aids their growth as individuals and promotes compassion, kindness and consideration for others.”

Louise Orton

Senior Deputy Head



The Sherborne Girls Junior Diploma

11+ and 12+ entry

We created our Junior Diploma to help girls fully inhabit our School values and thrive for the future. We blazed a trail in the sector with this innovation, helping our pupils foster a natural love of learning, a thirst for knowledge and a healthy attitude to life and work.

By putting our values at the heart of the girls' education, we help them grow to be adaptable, compassionate, courageous, curious and spiritual. By the end of their time in the Fourth Form, every girl attains the Junior Diploma and is ready for the next stage in their journey of formation and growth at School.

Our unique programme includes academic achievement and assessments, independent learning, and community involvement. It refines girls' presentation skills, develops their ability to reflect on mistakes, and shapes their approach to risk-taking.

Overall, it gives them a deeper understanding of their own learning and helps them take full advantage of the wealth of opportunities available at School.

With advice and guidance from their Personal Tutor, girls compile a portfolio throughout the year that charts their progress through the Junior Diploma, bringing together the threads of academic study, personal growth and their relationships with others.

Projects can take a variety of forms and girls are encouraged to design them around their passions and interests. For example, they could undertake a research presentation about someone or something that embodies the relevant core value, a piece of artwork or sculpture, a photography project, a Flipgrid vlog, a piece of creative writing, a science experiment, poetry or a musical composition. The possibilities are endless!

The Junior Diploma culminates in a group interview, at which the girls exhibit their projects, explaining how each one has helped them develop their appreciation of the relevant School value over the course of the year.



Curious
Inquirer,
critical thinker,
ambitious, imaginative,
creative

Courageous
Open-minded,
risk-taker, resilient,
ambitious, responsible,
persistent

Compassionate
Caring, principled,
socially responsible,
respectful, communicator

Adaptable
Risk-taker, resilient,
resourceful, flexible,
collaborative

Spiritual
Reflective,
Christian values,
empathetic, humble,
self-aware

School
VALUES

**SG Learner Profile:
Learning Attributes and Attitudes**



Fourth Form curriculum

“The academic success of pupils is strongly influenced by much effective teaching which stimulates interest, provides a high degree of challenge and encourages active pupil involvement.”

Latest ISI Inspection Report

Women of the future

The Sherborne Girls curriculum is recognised as being of the highest quality, giving girls what they need to become women of the future who can thrive in the 21st century.

Our unique approach creates an ideal context for learning and growth. We help pupils take flight academically and identify their strengths and enthusiasms, all the time maintaining our commitment to the flourishing of our School, local community, and the wider world.

What’s more, we help them grow as people – becoming the best possible versions of themselves, full of talent, passion and potential to make a difference to the world.

Our core subjects

To deliver a broad-based curriculum, we cover the following core subjects:

- Art
- 3D Design
- Textile Design
- Cookery
- Drama
- English
- Latin
- Mathematics
- French or Spanish (set by ability and experience)
- Music
- Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PSHEE)
- Careers Education
- Science
- Physical Education
- Games
- Adventure and Leadership
- Entrepreneurship
- Future Ready Skills

“Intelligence plus character – that is the goal of true education.”

Martin Luther King Jr

Digital learning

We are proud to have attained the prestige of being a Microsoft Showcase School. This recognises our status as a forward-thinking school embracing the very latest technology to enhance teaching and learning and help our pupils adapt to the challenges of tomorrow's world.

Our digital vision

We embrace technology in the classroom for teaching and learning when it enriches the educational experience and supports our School vision to create a community of empowered learners. We enable girls to use technology efficiently, effectively and responsibly in every facet of their lives.

Our digital mission

We require all pupils to have a Microsoft Surface, keyboard case and Microsoft Pen. We use this technology to enhance the educational experience, providing greater potential for collaboration and opportunities for pupils and teachers to be taken on new learning journeys together.

Our digital objectives

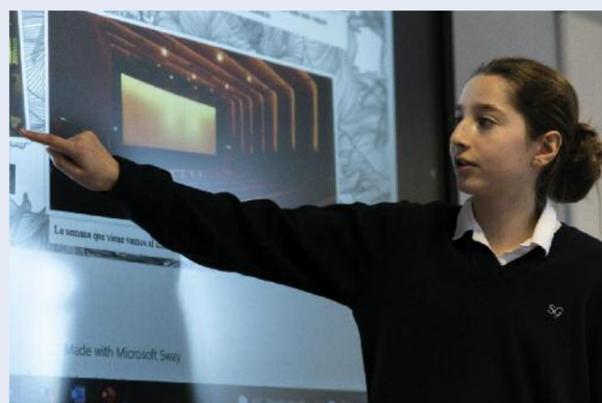
Our adoption of pen-enabled devices facilitates improved teacher feedback, quality use of prep time, and creative individual organisation. Using them also adds interest and pace to classroom teaching. We leverage Microsoft Office 365 technology to provide powerful learning experiences and quick access to resources from anywhere in the world, as well as developing the digital skills of our whole School community.



Digital media

We draw a clear distinction between technology for learning and social media. Mobile phones are left in West during the school day. When in House, the following rules apply to digital devices:

- Phones and other digital devices are not to be used during the School day: they are put away in the device cupboard during break times, lunchtimes and overnight
- Phones and devices are not allowed upstairs except for use during Prep sessions
- With permission, girls can use their phones to call home at appropriate times



The Sherborne Girls Future Ready Skills curriculum

This innovative curriculum gives girls the advanced learning skills they need to thrive in our globalised, knowledge-based society.

We recognise that young people need skills to understand, apply, analyse, and evaluate information, before using it to create and construct new knowledge.

The Future Ready Skills curriculum is designed to help our pupils develop and practise these skills. It focuses initially on digital literacy, ensuring girls can leverage the amazing connectivity, versatility and utility of their tablet devices and apps with confidence and discretion.

The programme goes on to focus for half a term on each of six key 21st Century Learning Skills:

- Knowledge
- Construction
- Collaboration
- Real-World Problem Solving
- Skilled Communication
- The Use of ICT for Learning

Throughout, the girls work on cross-curricular, self-designed and regulated projects, equipping them with a broad range of skills and helping them grow into women of the future.

“ Pupils of all abilities benefit from a wide variety of extra-curricular and enrichment experiences and many achieve high levels of success, developing their talents to the full.

The outstanding social development of pupils enables them to demonstrate strong leadership and support for others.

Pupils have a genuine and well-developed commitment to contribute usefully to the lives of others. ”

Independent Schools Inspectorate Report

Aspiration and wellbeing

We make the most of our full-boarding ethos to provide a busy programme of evening and weekend activities. This fans the flames of our pupils' interests and talents and helps them form a strong sense of togetherness.

At the heart of our approach is a commitment to giving every Fourth Former the opportunity to unwind, reflect and build friendships that will stay with them for life.

Co-curricular opportunities

In a full-boarding community like ours, what goes on outside the classroom is just as important as what goes on during lessons. The Fourth Form offers girls a chance to uncover, discover and develop interests that turn into lifelong passions, with abundant opportunities in Music, Drama, Sport, and Adventure and Leadership.



Music

Music holds a very special place in the tradition of cultural excellence at Sherborne Girls. The School calendar includes a vibrant programme of large-scale choral and orchestral concerts and regular lunchtime concerts. We also welcome celebrity and professional musicians to deliver masterclasses and recitals in our beautiful Grandsden Hall, providing a treat to be savoured by our whole community.

Individual lessons are available from our team of specialist Visiting Music Teachers on the full complement of orchestral instruments, along with the piano, harp, recorder, saxophone, organ, percussion, guitar and voice. The weekly co-curricular Music programme is rich and diverse, with opportunities for all levels of musician to participate in genres including classical, jazz, pop, and rock. There is a dedicated "West" choir for pupils in the Fourth Form, while our regular lunchtime concerts in House help develop the girls' confidence as performers.

Drama

There are multiple opportunities to get involved in co-curricular Drama. In addition to the annual West Play in the Trinity Term, we offer group Speech and Drama lessons following the well-regarded Trinity College London syllabus.

We aim to show the girls as much live theatre as we can and regularly run trips, host touring theatre companies, and show screenings of the National Theatre's archive shows. We regularly welcome professional actors to run hands-on workshops with our girls. Recent visitors include The Paper Birds, Frantic Assembly, Splendid, Shared Experience, Vamos, Kneehigh and Wise Children.



Sport, Adventure and Leadership

Girls in the Fourth Form have a wide range of sporting opportunities available, through both the extensive Games and PE programme and our popular after-school clubs. These sessions are delivered by specialist sports coaches.

At this early stage in their sporting lives, we encourage girls to sample as many sports as possible. We provide opportunities to play hockey, lacrosse, netball, cricket, tennis and badminton as well as compete in athletics, cross-country and swimming. Girls can also take up horse riding, fencing, sailing or dance as extra activities.

At Sherborne Girls we have a culture of outdoor learning in which we encourage girls to be adventurous and courageous. Fourth Formers enjoy opportunities to take part in sailing, climbing and kayaking as well as learning basic navigation skills and exploring the beautiful Dorset countryside.

Other opportunities

As part of the School's extensive programme of co-curricular clubs and societies, girls in the Fourth Form have enrichment opportunities in areas such as Maths, Science (including astronomy), engineering, creative writing and modern languages. They also participate in annual science competitions and entrepreneurship days.

An example of a School week:

Our School week is configured around our pupils' need for quality sleep, good nutrition and regular relaxation and social time, at the same time as helping them take full advantage of the brilliant academic, creative and sporting opportunities on offer at Sherborne Girls.

Lunch in the Boarding House is followed each day by a time to pause. This provides a regular period when pupils can think of others, develop their emotional intelligence, meet their Personal Tutor, attend a music lesson, enjoy quiet reflection, or spend time with their friends.

| Period | Time | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thur | Fri | Sat | Sun |
|--------|-------------|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| | 07.30-07.55 | Breakfast | Breakfast | Breakfast | Breakfast | Breakfast | Breakfast | |
| | 08.00-08.05 | House meeting | House meeting | House meeting | House meeting | House meeting | House meeting | |
| | 08.10-08.25 | Assembly | | Prayers | | Prayers/Hymns | | |
| 1 | 08.30-09.15 | Lesson | Lesson | Lesson | Lesson | Lesson | Lesson | |
| 2 | 09.20-10.05 | Lesson | Lesson | Lesson | Lesson | Lesson | Lesson | |
| 3 | 10.10-10.55 | Lesson | Sport | Lesson | Lesson | Lesson | Lesson | Brunch |
| | 10.55-11.25 | Break | Break | Break | Break | Break | Break | |
| 4 | 11.25-12.10 | Sport | Lesson | Lesson | Lesson | Sport | | Weekend Programme continues |
| | 12.15-13.00 | Sport | Lesson | Lesson | Lesson | Sport | | |
| | 13.00-13.45 | Lunch | Lunch | Lunch | Lunch | Lunch | | |
| 6 | 14.35-15.20 | Lesson | Lesson | Matches | Lesson | Lesson | Matches/ Weekend Programme starts | |
| | 15.25-16.10 | Lesson | Lesson | Matches | Lesson | Lesson | | |
| 8 | 16.15-17.00 | Lesson | Lesson | Matches | Lesson | Lesson | | |
| | 17.00-18.00 | Co-curricular | | | | | | |
| | 18.00-18.30 | Supper | Supper | Supper | Supper | Later Supper | | |
| | 18.30-19.30 | Prep | Prep | Prep | Prep | Prep | | School Service |
| | 20.00 | L4 to rooms, Bed 20.15, Lights out 20.30 | | | | | | |
| | 20.15 | U4 to rooms, Bed 20.30, Lights out 20.45 | | | | | | |

Scholarships at Sherborne Girls

We promote a culture of aspiration and ambition in every pupil. We harness and strengthen curiosity, enquiry, and investigation in all our learners – helping each person identify and pursue their particular passions, enthusiasms and interests.

It is an honour to be recognised as a Scholar at Sherborne Girls. Such pupils are selected at their point of entry to the School, or during their time with us. They demonstrate aptitude and ability to achieve outstanding academic success, becoming independent thinkers who show ambition and develop habits of learning that will stay with them for life.

Like all pupils, our Scholars are encouraged to take measured risks in their learning, think creatively, and grow by making mistakes. They are role models for other girls, pursuing a bespoke programme that helps them realise their full potential, mixing across year groups so they can learn from each other.

Our provision includes:

- A themed programme of cross-curricular lunchtime lectures across the year, exclusively for Scholars, delivered by external and internal speakers
- Meetings with the Academic Enrichment and Oxbridge co-ordinator, providing a bespoke pathway for academic nourishment
- Collaboration with Academic Prefects and Sixth Form pupils inspiring academic aspiration and curiosity, as well as discussion around current affairs and real-life issues

Seeing is believing

If you'd like further information or to visit Sherborne Girls and have a tour of West, please don't hesitate to get in touch. We'd love to hear from you.

Visits

For 11+ entrance, we recommend visiting for a tour morning or afternoon during Year 4 or Year 5. Dates for upcoming tour events can be found on our website: www.sherborne.com.

If your daughter is in Year 6 and you are seeking a place for next September, please contact admissions@sherborne.com at the earliest opportunity and we will arrange a tour for your family.

Entrance

For entry into the School at age 11, all registered applicants must complete online assessments in Year 6. All candidates are required to undertake the ATOM suite of tests at Sherborne Girls as part of the Boarding Taster and Assessment Weekend in December of Year 6. This event also involves a programme of engaging academic and extra-curricular activities to give girls a positive experience of School life.

Arrangements can be made for girls to complete the assessments remotely if they are unable to travel to the School for the Boarding Taster and Assessment Weekend. A small number of places may also be offered at 12+ (Year 8).

If you have missed these timings, please contact admissions@sherborne.com.

Scholarships

Academic Scholarship assessments are held alongside the entrance assessments in December. All other scholarships will be assessed with the 13+ scholarship testing in January. Further information is available on the School website.

Bursaries

Bursaries may be available in cases of demonstrable need. They are awarded on the receipt of a means-test form and are subject to regular review. Most bursaries will be awarded in conjunction with scholarship awards.





If you'd like further information or to visit Sherborne Girls and 'West', please don't hesitate to get in touch. We'd love to hear from you.



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