

Junior Department Prospectus

LeicesterHigh
SCHOOL
FOR GIRLS





OUR VISION

To provide an exceptional and 'boutique' all-round education which will prepare our students for happy and fulfilling lives, and, therefore, during their years with us creating memories that will last a life-time.

Education, Confidence and Opportunity

Our key values of education, confidence and opportunity are core to all we do. The girls receive the support and skills they need to excel and our girls are taught there are no limits to what they can achieve.

This ethos starts in our Early Years and carries through into Year 5 and beyond, into the LHS Senior School. Our girls are taught teamwork, independence and resilience through our innovative curriculum and our outstanding extra-curricular programme.

I am particularly proud of our excellent Pastoral Care, which ensures that all girls feel valued and supported within our community and develop as confident and unique individuals.

We also enjoy welcoming their parents into our community. We understand that girls learn best when they are happy and cared for and we aim to provide the best environment for your daughter to thrive.

I hope you find the information you need in this prospectus. However, I recommend that you come and see us in action to really get a sense of what makes LHS, and our girls, so special. We would be happy to arrange a visit at a time to suit you.

I look forward to welcoming you soon,



Mrs Sarah Davies

Head of the Junior Department

Life in the Junior Department

Right from Pre-School, in our Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Unit, the girls develop their confidence and make outstanding progress in their learning. Our well-designed classroom spaces are situated within our separate Junior Department building, enabling us to maintain the family feeling which our parents value.

We provide a broad and balanced education based around the Cornerstones Curriculum, a nationally recognised approach for delivering outstanding learning opportunities for children. The curriculum is delivered through Knowledge Rich Projects which provide exciting and motivating learning activities that make creative links between all aspects of learning.



We believe children learn better when they are encouraged to use their imagination and apply their learning to engaging contexts. We embed trips and visits, so that learning is brought to life. To develop teamwork, independence and resilience, outdoors education starts in our EYFS Unit, culminating in adventurous activities and a residential trip for Years 4-5.

An outstanding programme of clubs and activities is on offer and is regularly updated with new opportunities including; Latin, Bushcraft, Drama, Netball and Tennis.





"At LHS, everyone supports each other"

Student, Year 3

Joining Us

If you are considering joining the School, we recommend visiting us as a first step. During the year we have regular Open Days, including a specific Junior Department Open Morning in the Spring. However, you are welcome to arrange a personal visit outside of these times – either instead of, or in addition to, attending an Open Day.

Your daughter will also be invited to attend a Taster Day where she will spend time in lessons with her future classmates.

Once you have decided that you would like to progress with an application, you need to register your daughter for an assessment. Details of how to apply can be found on our website www.leicesterhigh.co.uk/joining-us

Assessment

Before an offer of a place can be made, your daughter will be invited to join us for an assessment.

EYFS: Years Foundation and Reception, age 3-5

For the assessment, which usually lasts around two hours, girls spend time in their

classroom being encouraged to become involved in a range of activities.

You will have the opportunity to meet with the Head of the Junior Department and key staff during the assessment.

Junior Department: Years 1-5, age 6-10

Junior Department assessments for Years 1-5 include tests in English and Maths and last all day. During the assessment, your daughter will join in with the classroom activities going on that day. She will also spend time in the playground with her classmates, exploring and playing whilst being observed.

When a new girl is due to join us in the September, they will be invited to attend an Induction Day, usually in the June before. This is an opportunity for you to get to know the staff, the School and each other before School starts.

Girls joining EYFS and Reception classes will also receive a home visit from their class teacher before they start at the School.



Early Years Foundation Stage

We know how important it is for young pupils to feel safe, happy and included, and for parents to feel welcomed, informed and supported. Our excellent Pastoral Care ensures the very best start to a girl's school life.

Our EYFS Unit is where girls learn about the excitement of discovery based upon the Cornerstones Curriculum.

Girls in EYFS have a dedicated learning space, including their own library, on the ground floor of the Junior Department building. Here they begin their learning journey in a safe and supportive environment.

The girls benefit from outdoor education opportunities in our onsite spinney. Learning through structured play enables the girls to develop their understanding of the world around them.





Girls can start after their third birthday and girls frequently join the YF class during the academic year, often from a nursery. The girls move from Foundation to Reception in the September of the academic year in which they will turn five. Developing brains learn best through play, so we use the approaches of the Early Years Statutory Framework within a school environment, meaning that the girls can benefit from school lessons or activities, such as PE, ballet or assemblies.

Example topics include:

Me and My Community (Personal social and emotional development)

Your daughter will learn about the school community and building friendships. They will explore the school grounds and find out about all the people in school who are there to help them. They will explore how they are special and unique and how everyone's family is different. They will take part in practical activities to support them to build new friendships and explore what makes a good friend. They will also find out about people in the community who help us, including doctors, nurses, and the emergency services.

Marvellous Machines (Understanding the World)

This interest-led project teaches children about the technology that is part of their daily lives and how machines help us. The project gives children the opportunity to build and create marvellous machines.

Once Upon a Time (Literacy)

Your daughter will be introduced to the wonderful world of stories. They will listen to a range of traditional tales and have the chance to act out the stories in their play. They will also listen to alternative contemporary stories to see different viewpoints from the characters and will use the stories to think about how life has changed from when the stories were written. They will also make up their own stories and make masks, props and puppets to act out their stories.

Puppets and Pop Ups (Expressive arts and design)

This creative project explores puppets and pop-up books and gives children the opportunity to make puppets and use them to tell exciting stories.

Winter Wonderland (Understanding the world)

Your daughter will explore the seasonal changes that happen during winter. They will find out about the different weather associated with the winter season and explore changes that happen to water as it freezes. They will find out about what happens to plants and animals during cold weather and explore places in the world that are always cold and snowy, including the animals that live there.

Juniors

Years 1-5 have their classrooms upstairs in the Junior Department building, where there is also a library, a computer suite and an art room.

The learning is carefully structured, using topics from the Cornerstones Curriculum, to develop a young mind academically, whilst engaging a creative imagination. The pupils enjoy the full range of curriculum subjects every week, as we believe that pupils deserve a broad education as the foundation for their future. Progress is continuously assessed and monitored, with summative assessments at the end of each term.

Leadership opportunities start from the moment a girl starts school. At every stage our pupils can take responsibility, solve problems, develop teamwork, use their initiative and increase resilience.



We pride ourselves on the close relationships we build with our pupils' families, which support the pupils to fulfil their potential. Regular 'express' events enable pupils to share their learning with their families, whilst productions and sports competitions allow parents to see their children perform publicly. Curriculum Information Evenings provide opportunities for parents to learn about curriculum content and teaching methods and find out how to support their daughter's learning at home.





Year 1

Is the first year of Key Stage One. Pupils are taught mainly by their class teacher but are taught some lessons by different teachers to give a wider experience of teaching styles. As the girls move onto the Key Stage One curriculum, learning is directed by the class teacher. Our curriculum is engaging and interactive in its approach however, your daughter will be taught more formally than in the EYFS curriculum. The girls start their swimming lessons, can participate in the extra-curricular activities and can choose to learn a musical instrument.

Examples of our Knowledge Rich Projects include:

Childhood (History)

Your daughter will learn words and phrases related to the passage of time. Everyday life in the 1950s will be explored, including shopping, transport, family life and childhood. They will also learn about the significance of Queen Elizabeth II's coronation in 1953 by studying photographs and online sources. The children will use maps to explore how places have changed over time and highlight any similarities or differences between childhood today and childhood in the 1950s.

Our Wonderful WorldOur Wonderful World (Geography)

Your daughter will learn the meaning of the terms: geography, physical feature

and human feature. They will also become familiar with the cardinal compass points, north, south, east and west. They will learn the names and positions of the continents and oceans of the world and understand the terms equator, Northern Hemisphere and Southern Hemisphere. They will study maps to learn the names, capital cities and positions of the four countries of the United Kingdom and find out the characteristics of a village, a town and a city. Your daughter will carry out simple fieldwork to find out about local physical and human features.

Animals Y1Animals (Science)

This project teaches children about animals, including fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, mammals and invertebrates. They identify and describe their common structures, their diets and how animals should be cared for.

Shade and ShelterShade and Shelter (Design and technology)

This project teaches children about the purpose of shelters and their materials. They name and describe shelters and design and make shelter prototypes. Children then design and build a play den as a group and evaluate their completed product.

Funny Faces and Fabulous Features (Art and design)

This project teaches children about the concept of the portrait and how the collage technique can be used to make a portrait.



Year 2

Is the last year of Key Stage One. Pupils are taught mainly by their class teacher and are taught some lessons by different teachers to give a wide experience of teaching styles. Having completed our phonics scheme, the pupils develop their reading and writing through book-study, their spelling through word study and develop their cursive handwriting. Pupil progress is continually monitored, with more formal assessments taking place at the end of each term.

Examples of our Knowledge Rich Projects include:

Movers and Shakers (History)

Your daughter will learn five statements from Dawson's model that will help them identify people who are historically significant. They will complete in-depth studies of significant explorers Christopher Columbus and Neil Armstrong, and significant activists Emmeline Pankhurst and Rosa Parks and think carefully about the impact of their actions. The children will also carry out an independent study of a significant person from the past and learn about people who are significant today. They will also learn how significant people are commemorated and design a memorial for a person they have studied.

Coastline (Geography)

Your daughter will use maps to learn about the location of the world's seas and oceans and keys to learn about map symbols. They will also find out about the directions on a

compass. They will learn about the human and physical features of a coastline, including the effects of erosion and how to stay safe when visiting the coast. They will have the opportunity to learn about the work of the RNLI, what happened to the SS Rohilla and about the coastal town of Whitby, including how Captain Cook is linked to the town. They will research the tourism industry and consider what features make a place a successful tourist destination.

Uses of everyday materials (Science)

This project teaches children about how everyday materials are used and how a material's properties make them suitable or unsuitable for specific purposes. They begin to explore how materials, including foods, can be changed, and about creative uses for everyday materials.

Remarkable Recipes (Design and technology)

This project teaches children about sources of food and tools used for food preparation. They also discover why some foods are cooked and learn to read a simple recipe. The children choose and make a new school meal that fulfils specific design criteria.

Flower Head Flower Head (Art and design)

This project teaches children about the visual elements of flowers, including shape, texture, colour, pattern and form. They also explore various artistic methods, including drawing, printmaking and 3-D forms, using paper and clay.



Year 3

Is the beginning of Key Stage Two. As they are now in the upper half of the Junior Department, the Year 3 pupils are expected to become more responsible and independent. Three Year 3 girls will be selected to be 'House Captains' and another three will be selected to be 'Sports Captains' each term, based upon their qualities as role models. Year 3 are taught more lessons by different teachers in preparation for the Senior School. Girls are responsible for their own stationery and may be awarded a 'Pen Licence' if their cursive handwriting is judged to be neat enough. The girls have the opportunity to join in a School Sleepover, so that they can experience staying away from home in a familiar setting.

Examples of our Knowledge Rich Projects include:

Through the AgesThrough the Ages (History)

Your daughter will learn about three different periods of British prehistory: the Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age. They will discover terminology relating to time and sequence dates to make a timeline. They explore the changes to people, homes and lifestyle throughout the different periods and investigate examples of prehistoric settlements, monuments, burials and artefacts in detail. They will also study how technology improved over time, including how the discovery of different metals changed the way that people lived.

Rocks, Relics and Rumbles (Geography)

Your daughter will learn about the different layers of the Earth, including plate tectonics and their potential effects on the Earth's surface. They will investigate different types of rock to learn about their uses and properties. They will also investigate soil and fossils, including learning about the work of Mary Anning. They will use maps to learn about the lines of latitude and longitude and a compass to learn about the cardinal and intercardinal points. They will also learn about volcanoes, earthquakes and tsunamis and the consequences that these can have.

Forces and Magnets (Science)

This project teaches children about contact and non-contact forces, including friction and magnetism. They investigate magnets and magnetic materials, exploring how they behave in relation to their poles.

Cook Well, Eatwell (Design and technology)

This project teaches children about food groups and the Eatwell guide. They learn about methods of cooking and explore these by cooking potatoes and ratatouille. The children choose and make a taco filling according to specific design criteria.

People and Places (Art and design)

This project teaches children about the genre of figure drawing. They study the figure drawings and urban landscapes of the artist LS Lowry and create artwork in his style to show scenes from their school.



Year 4

Is in the middle of Key Stage Two. As they are now in the upper half of the Junior Department, Year 4 pupils are expected to become more responsible and independent. Three Year 4 girls will be selected to be 'House Captains' and another three will be selected to be 'Sports Captains' each term, based upon their qualities as role models. During the year, we hope that Year 4 will join Year 5 to participate in a team-building trip, involving outdoor challenges or a residential experience.

Year 4 pupils are taught mainly by their class teacher but are taught more lessons by different teachers every year in preparation for the Senior School.

Examples of our Knowledge Rich Projects include:

Invasion (History)

Your daughter will explore the effects of the Roman withdrawal and the chronology and geography of subsequent invasions. They will study the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings in detail, examining their reasons for invading, their settlements and their everyday life. Your daughter will also look at monasteries and the Anglo-Saxon legacy. They will consider how we know about life in this period and investigate the Sutton Hoo ship burial. They will learn about Athelstan, an Anglo-Saxon king, and what happened after his death, before ending the project by learning about the Norman invasion of 1066.

Interconnected World (Geography)

This essential skills and knowledge project teaches children about compass points and four and six-figure grid references. They learn about the tropics and the countries, climates and culture of North and South America. Children identify physical features in the United Kingdom and learn about the National Rail and canal networks. They conduct an enquiry to prove a hypothesis, gathering data from maps and surveys before drawing conclusions.

Sound (Science)

This project teaches children about sound and how sounds are made and travel as vibrations through a medium to the ear. They learn about pitch and volume and find out how both can be changed.

Tomb Builders (Design and technology)

This project teaches children about simple machines, including wheels, axles, inclined planes, pulleys and levers, exploring how they helped ancient builders to lift and move heavy loads.

Warp and Weft (Art and design)

This project teaches children about the artform of weaving and how it has developed over time, including the materials and techniques required to create woven patterns and products.





Year 5

Are the oldest pupils in our Junior Department. The girls wear their blazers all year to show they are the role models for appearance and behaviour. Every pupil is given an area of responsibility, such as School Councillor, Librarian, or Art Room Monitor. During the year, we hope that Year 5 will participate in a team-building trip, involving outdoor challenges or a residential experience. Year 5 prepare for their transition to Year 6 in the Senior School by being taught some lessons by Senior School teachers, sometimes in the Senior School classrooms. The Junior Department staff liaise with Senior School colleagues to share academic results and curriculum information. Year 5 pupils are often invited to attend events, assemblies and trips in the Senior School.

Examples of our Knowledge Rich Projects include:

Dynamic Dynasties (History)

Your daughter will learn about periods of ancient Chinese history. They will take a deep dive into the history of the Bronze Age Shang Dynasty and explore evidence found in the ancient city of Yin. The children will look at significant aspects of life after the Shang Dynasty, including the work of Confucius in the Zhou Dynasty, the short but significant reign of Emperor Qin Shi Huang of the Qin Dynasty and the importance of the Silk Road created by the Han Dynasty.

Sow, Grow and Farm Sow, Grow and Farm (Geography)

Your daughter will learn about allotments and farming in the United Kingdom and food webs and animal life cycles. including how living things are dependent on one another within a habitat. They will investigate the different ways that plants reproduce and will dissect flowering plants to identify the different structures. They will also learn about world farming and how the different climate zones affect where different foods can be grown.

Earth and Space (Science)

This project teaches children about our Solar System and its spherical bodies. They describe the movements of Earth and other planets relative to the Sun, the Moon relative to Earth and the Earth's rotation to explain day and night.

Moving Mechanisms (Design and technology)

This project teaches children about pneumatic systems. They experiment with pneumatics before designing, making and evaluating a pneumatic machine that performs a useful function.

Light, Shade and Shadow (Art and design)

This project teaches children about the visual qualities of line, light and shadow. They explore the work of Pablo Picasso and Rembrandt and are introduced to a range of shading techniques. They take black and white photographs and use pencil, pen and ink wash to reimagine their photographs in a shaded drawing.

Year 6 - The LHS Way

Why do we think Year 6 is so special?

At LHS, **we see Year 6 differently**. Rather than the end of one stage of education, we see it as the natural continuation into the next. Because of this, girls join our Senior School in Year 6, allowing them to gain an additional year of the secondary curriculum.

Building on the sense of curiosity she has developed during her primary years is key to our ethos for ensuring your daughter makes the most of her abilities. Owing to this, **we don't undertake SATS in Year 6**. We believe that, at this age, building a love of learning is key to later academic success. By allowing the girls to focus on a **full range of subjects**, we ensure we get the best out of your daughter, and **she gets the best out of her school experience**. At LHS, we see this as more important than measuring her ability to do well in an examination.

We provide your daughter with the **benefits of the specialist teaching spaces and staff in the Senior School**, combined with a **structured approach to wellbeing and support, through a full year of transition activities**, designed in collaboration with our Junior Department. This holistic approach is based on our understanding that academic excellence must go hand-in-hand with outstanding pastoral care in order for our girls to achieve their potential.

How does Year 6 work at LHS?

Rather than just conducting transition activities in the Summer Term, we treat the whole of Year 6 as transitional. Year 6 girls undertake an **Induction Day over the Summer**, where they have the opportunity to get to know the Senior School, meet their Head of Year and Form Tutor, and, perhaps most importantly, spend time with

their classmates, building their friendships through a series of teamwork activities.

Year 6 have their own Form Room within the Senior School building. This also acts as their classroom for the majority of their subjects. Where a subject requires specialist teaching equipment, such as Science, Art or Computing, they will access the specialist teaching rooms, ensuring they **benefit from the excellent teaching facilities LHS has to offer**.

We understand the **importance of play for building skills and confidence** - as well as for burning off excess energy! Year 6 girls are therefore able to use the recently refurbished Junior Playground during break and lunchtimes. They also have access to the **full range of extracurricular activities** the Senior School has to offer.

At LHS, **we believe that everyone is someone** and this shines through in our excellent pastoral support. As well as support from their Form Tutor, Head of Year and the School Nurse, Year 6 girls will attend some Junior Department assemblies.

During the Summer Term of Year 6, once they are familiar with the Senior School buildings and timetable, the girls will begin to travel to their subject-specific classrooms for every lesson and **become fully-integrated into the Senior School**.

Outstanding pastoral care has never been more important than it is now. We believe the LHS approach to Year 6 offers the **best possible provision**: access to Senior School teaching and facilities, and excellent levels of pastoral support, which recognises the specific needs of your daughter.



#weareLHS

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The information in this prospectus was correct at the time of print (September 2021) and is subject to change.

