



'A Day in the Life of an SCGSG Year 12'



BRACE YOURSELF



## Tia's Day

The average day in the life of a Year 12 student differs from day to day, bringing new and exciting challenges and experiences to get engaged in and learn important lessons from, in academic and non-academic components of the school day.

Usually, my day begins with form time, an opportunity to talk amongst my peers and form tutor before going to lessons. My favourite form time activity is 'Mindfulness' where each member of the form chooses a wellbeing-based activity to participate in, as there is so much emphasis and support on wellbeing here at Sutton Girls – within the prefect team, the sixth form team and subject teachers.

After this, I have my three A-level lessons of the day amongst my study periods. I study biology, chemistry and French, all of which I am thoroughly enjoying as I find the content interesting but also the challenge within the subjects at A-level makes it all the more enjoyable. During my previously mentioned study periods, I have the essential additional time required at A-level to consolidate what I have learnt in my lessons throughout the day, to create revision materials and to complete homework.

Outside of lessons, there are also many extra-curricular activities which we can choose to participate in. For example, on Wednesdays I attend Dentist Society, in which I have the opportunity to speak to some of the Year 13 students who have just completed the vigorous application process about my next steps throughout this academic year, as well as discussing current affairs within the NHS.

In December, there was a Year 12 trip to 'Medlink' at Nottingham University where more information was given about healthcare professions. As daunting as the jump between GCSEs and A-level seems, trips like this are set up to begin the thinking process about post-18 life early, as well as our useful 'How To' sessions on a Monday morning which aid our understanding on a variety of useful topics.

Reflecting on my year so far as a Year 12 student, I can honestly say that each day in sixth form has positively contributed to the development in my knowledge both inside and outside of the classroom and I am excited to see what opportunities the new academic year brings!

## Jess' Day

My typical Year 12 day starts with form time (8:50-9:10) where we focus on current events in the world, mindfulness and learn about relevant life skills to be aware of and understand such as taxes.

After form time the rest of my day includes studying psychology, sociology and art and then usually two study periods where I either do homework or further reinforce work from my lessons in the library, in a silent study room or catch up on some of my art in the Art Department. I enjoy all of my subjects as learning new concepts academically pushes me and makes learning the content enjoyable.

I spend break (10:10-10:30) and lunch time (12:30-13:30) in the common room with my friends but I also have the freedom to leave the school site at lunchtime if I want to, which is always a nice option to have. I also helped to run a 'Boxercise' club for Year 7s with my friends, which was a good opportunity to demonstrate leadership roles and enhance my sixth form experience further. Once a week I spend part of my lunchtime mentoring a Year 7 student and assisting her during her transition into Sutton Girls, which is rewarding to see her do.

However, the only exception to my typical day is on a Monday as the morning starts with an engaging assembly (8:50-9:10) that covers a variety of topics. We're told about any extra/super-curricular activities we have the opportunity to partake in and we are also prepared for the upcoming week. Period 3 on a Monday (11:30-12:30) sees all of Year 12 engage in a "How to" session which differs on a weekly basis. Topics we usually cover include apprenticeship opportunities, how to make our UCAS applications stand out from the crowd in preparation for university, how to write an excellent personal statement, and we are also given advice on how to structure our work and get the most out of our allocated study periods.

The dedication the school provides us, in particular the sixth form team, in relation to settling in to sixth form life and helping us make the best decisions for us after A-levels makes me excited to see what Year 13 holds!

## **Rebecca's Day**

Apart from Monday when we have assembly, all my days start with form which I really enjoy. It is longer (20 minutes) than it was at my secondary school and I've found that it has helped the transition from another school and given me a sense of community. It has especially helped having a form tutor who I know I can talk to if I have any problems.

After we have discussed some world issues in the news or had some quiet time to plan for the day ahead, I have lessons interspersed with library periods (two a week), independent study periods or silent studies (two a week), depending on the day. My subjects include maths, English literature and French. Most days I have all three of my subjects.

Break is at 10.10, which I typically spend in the common room, or checking on my Year 7 mentee.

Then it's lunchtime, which for me is filled with different clubs depending on the day. The opportunity to start a new club was an exciting prospect. So now on Mondays I run a French film club. Then Tuesdays is LawSoc, where we learn more about law, from old pupils coming back and discussing their job to having the University of Law come in to talk about the different routes you can take to become a lawyer. I recommend it as it is fascinating for aspiring lawyers. And in addition to that there is the preparation for the Moot competition, which we jointly won this year, continuing the school's winning streak from last year. And finally, on Fridays I go to FemSoc where we discuss intersectional feminism through watching Ted Talks and discussing the news.

After lunch I tend to have one or two lessons and a study period of some kind. On Mondays I have my privilege and leave at 2.30 instead of 3.30, which is one of the new freedoms that come with sixth form life. My days are quite different to secondary school with fewer lessons, but equally as enjoyable, if not more as I get to spend time doing the subjects I love.

## Georgina's Day

A day in the life of a Year 12 student at Sutton Girls consists of challenging lessons, hard work and, of course, homework. But more importantly, Sutton Girls' sixth form brings unlimited exciting opportunities, such as work experience, EPQ and DofE, all of which develop several skills which prepare you for life after sixth form. From participating in the DofE award, I have acknowledged just how much willpower I can have when faced with physical challenges. Year 12 has also made me increasingly more independent, which is a vital skill needed when you leave school.

To start the day off, we have form time or assembly, which aim to make us aware of weekly events going on inside or outside of school. Sutton Girls makes everyone widely aware of these events, such as Wellbeing Week, Black History Month and house/charity events. I also enjoy form time because it gives me the opportunity to speak to other students whom I wouldn't otherwise have much contact with, and allows me to speak to my form tutor about any issues or activities going on inside or outside of school.

I then have lessons in my subject choices which are maths, psychology and art. We also get study periods throughout the day which I find incredibly useful because they allow me to keep on top of my workload, and I have time to complete further research and revision around my subjects. By being given these study periods, it has made me a lot more academically independent in terms of time management and coordination. I love my subject choices as I now have a much more complex understanding of maths, developing some of the key skills from GCSE into a more in-depth explanation. I have also been able to massively improve my GCSE skills by taking art, by experimenting with different media such as oil paint. I love psychology as the topics we cover are extremely interesting and I am very keen to see the new content which Year 13 will bring.

Being in Sutton Girls' sixth form has introduced me to so many new opportunities, and educated me on all the options I will have this time next year, when thinking about life after sixth form. For example, every Monday we have a "how to" session, which teaches us vital skills for the upcoming years such as applying to universities and writing a personal statement. These sessions have been incredibly useful to me as I feel a lot more comfortable and secure with these tasks, considering I started Year 12 not knowing anything to do with applying to a university. As well as this, we had a visit from ex-students to talk to us about the apprenticeships that they enrolled in after sixth form. This was useful to me as it made me aware of all the other options outside of university. The teachers' support is immense; whether you need help with schoolwork, extracurricular activities or just general advice, they do what they can to make your sixth form experience worthwhile.

Overall, my experience so far of Year 12 has brought so many exciting and challenging opportunities and taught me a huge amount about essential skills needed for later life, as well as a wider understanding of my subject choices. Aside from this, and most importantly, I have maintained friends from lower down the school and made new lifelong friends, who are great support when I face challenges and require motivation to keep working hard, and this is why they are a huge aspect as to why I find sixth form so enjoyable.

## Jasmine's Day

The first place I'll find myself on a Monday morning is the Hub. Yawning, just like everyone else around me, I sit back as Mr Charles, as lively as ever, dives into a new assembly: he divulges some interesting new scientific facts to begin with, and then the fact that a new school week has commenced really kicks in, as he comes to the message for the week and the usual notices. In a few minutes, chairs scraping, we'll be off to our first lesson of the day, and for me that's maths.

I take four subjects: biology, chemistry, maths and physics (and yes, I do have a strange obsession with naming them in alphabetical order), and most would say that's a crazy decision on my part. I've gone ahead and dug myself into a huge hole, with no way out. But, quite honestly, I can say that the workload is manageable, and as long as you truly commit to it, well, you actually might enjoy it! However, don't forget, there are many who sign up for this arduous task, and then do end up dropping one subject, so I'd say there's never anything wrong with signing up for four, if only to get a feel for all four subjects, and the workload, during the first few weeks, and then you can make an informed decision about whether you'd like to continue, or if in fact, you've come to the conclusion that one of the subjects just isn't right for you, or is perhaps not what you expected. And that's fine; there are no requirements for you to do four subjects.

Something new on a Monday is 'How To', which you may have heard of. This takes place during Period 3, and is a chance for you to get to grips with some of the changes in sixth form life, the new opportunities available and the focus on life after sixth form. This means that a session might be on super-curriculars you could consider engaging in, or an Oxbridge admissions coordinator may come into school to discuss Oxbridge life and the admissions process, so overall this is a wonderful opportunity to take advantage of what you can do now that you're in sixth form.

I like to think the morning lessons have gone quite smoothly, despite it being a Monday, and then lunchtime has arrived. And why not do something useful during your lunch break? I certainly know Mrs Willis would love the help if you can spare 30-45 minutes of a lunchtime every week for LEP (mentoring a Year 7 student with English), and it doesn't even matter if you don't think yourself adept at helping someone with English; it may not have been your favourite subject at GCSE, and I know it wasn't mine! So, I sit down with my mentee and we begin with the usual spellings, and then we move onto the comprehension provided, or some reading.

And then there are only two more subjects to go – for me these lessons are physics and chemistry, and then we can go home for the day, and make a start on the homework!

## Esme's Day

Every day at Sutton Girls presents a new challenge that I have to overcome which has pushed me to become a better, more independent person. My week begins with an assembly led by the sixth form team or in my form room. In form we are given activities to complete throughout the week; one of my favourites was learning some sign language. We get to discuss current topics and help one another with work that we may have had difficulty understanding in class that allows me to understand what's happening in my lessons for that day as I am able to recap what I have learnt previously.

After this I go to one of my lessons where I spend an hour before break. During the school day we are given time between lessons to work on independent studies. In this time you are either set a classroom to complete your work in, the library, or you are given free rein on where you study. I like some of my study periods in the library as it allows me to focus on my work in the quiet. However, I am still able to talk to my peers if I need help which is really useful.

I take biology, chemistry and maths as my A-level subjects. I have at least an hour of each subject a day, which I really enjoy. All of my subjects have knowledgeable teachers who are willing to help whenever needed. I am able to go to them with any questions that I may have and they explain where I am going wrong, which I really appreciate. At the end of topics we have small tests which sounds daunting at first; however, this allows me to see my weaker topics so I am able to focus more study time on my areas of struggle so that I am able to complete future work and tests to my best ability.

Two hours after break we have lunch where I am able to meet up with my friends and eat food from the dining hall or to leave the school to buy food from elsewhere in Sutton. During lunch there are multiple clubs set up by students that consist of athletics, rowing, dentistry society and more. I have been attending medicine society that tells me a lot about the application process and how to write my personal statement, etc. I find this really useful as I get to speak to students who have already gone through the process to get a realistic idea of what I need to do in order to achieve my goals.

I have gotten lots of help from teachers to help me along my journey. It started with the jump from GCSEs into A-levels, which seems terrifying; however, the sixth form team eased me into the change calmly and easily which has made the transition much better on me. I can go to them with any concerns I have, academic or not, which is really useful as the office is a safe space to talk about anything (even if it's good news!). They have also organised lots of help with opportunities within or outside of school such as visits to universities, lectures, or having visitors come in to speak to the year group about their job/place of study and how to get there which I find really interesting.

Every day in sixth form has pushed me to be a better person and I look forward to what my future at Sutton Girls brings!

## **Saffron's Day**

I joined school in September, and I've loved it since my first day – everyone is so welcoming, and the school make an effort to ensure they integrate you well.

I take history, drama and sociology A-levels and they're really good; I think that there's some fear around history as an A-level because it is three miniature subjects within one, but I've found that it's not hard to keep up as long as you do homework in your study periods! I'm a part of the first drama A-level class in a long time and it's the reason I came! It's so much fun and you really feel like you're learning something, not just being there.

In sixth form, the classes are a lot smaller than in lower school which really helps you to build a rapport with your teachers and you can have more support when you need it. Everyone is so willing to help you and the teachers really want you to succeed and get the best grades you can.

The sixth form area is great as it really feels private and separated from the rest of the school. We have our own computer room and it is so helpful to have the common room to socialise with our friends, the kitchen to warm up food (key in winter!) and classrooms to do work in a more low-key environment than the library.



**Is it easy to drop/swap subjects?**

Don't wait too long otherwise you won't be able to 'swap' because there will be too much to catch up on. If you are unsure then take four and if you want to drop because you are taking four you can do this at any point and the sixth form team are always accommodating and helpful.

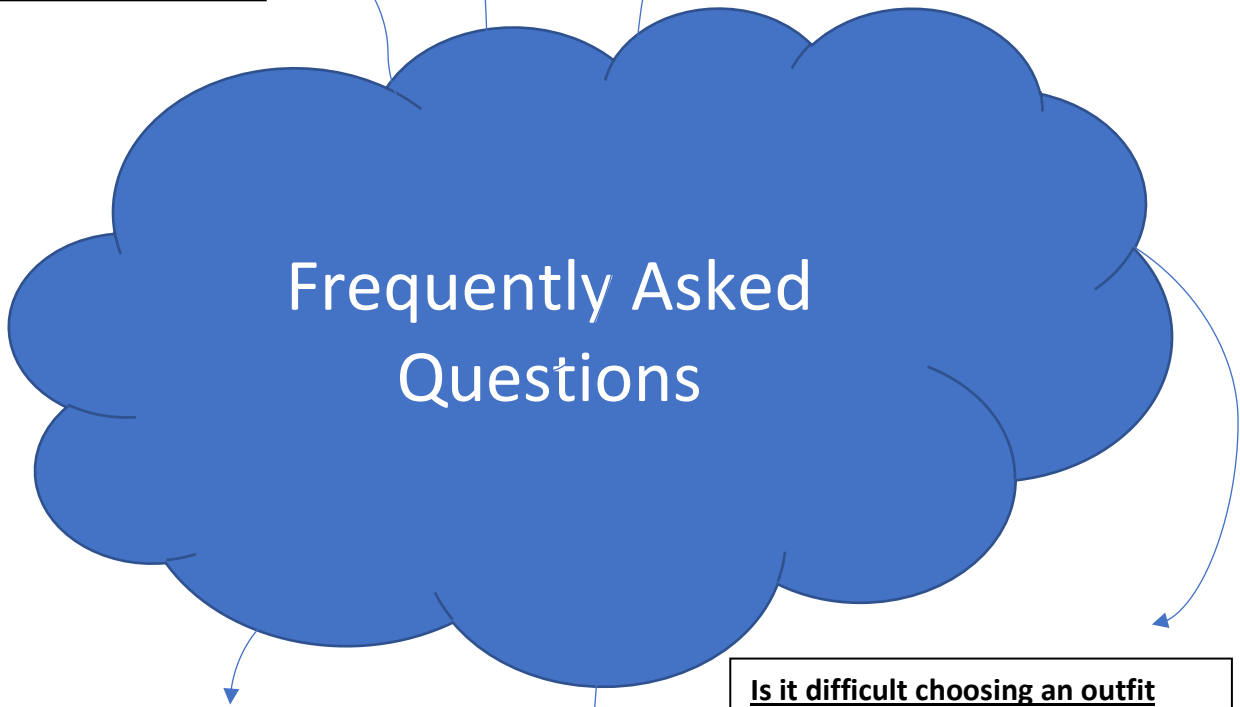


**Is the A-level workload unbearable?**

Not at all, you just need to be prepared to put in the work necessary. They are a step up from GCSEs and you do need to stay organised.

**Are you happy that you chose Sutton Girls sixth form?**

I think I speak for everyone in sixth form when I say ABSOLUTELY!



**Frequently Asked Questions**

**Are you allowed to leave during study periods?**

No and it is also not advisable to use them as a 'free' period. Use them to stay on top of your work.

**Is it difficult choosing an outfit every day?**

At the beginning, a bit, but you do get used to it. I would recommend buying a few staple items (that abide by the dress code, of course) and mix and match them.

**Do you have lots of exams in Year 12?**

You have your normal key assessments or end of topic tests at the end of each topic in most subjects and then a week of exams in February. These are nothing to worry about; they are just to show you what you need to work on in preparation for your June exams (which will largely go towards your predicted grades).

