



SHARJAH ENGLISH SCHOOL



Sixth Form Admissions 2020

Your Future Matters



www.sharjahenglishschool.org

Sharjah English School, PO Box 1600, Sharjah, United Arab Emirates • Tel : +971 (6) 558 9304

Why Choose Sixth Form at SES?

Our Teachers

All our teachers are experienced UK trained specialists. At the heart of our School's success is our ability to recruit and retain hard-working, committed staff who can deliver imaginative and inspiring lessons. While at SES teachers all undertake continuous professional development, and indeed lead other schools in raising standards and keeping abreast of educational developments, A Level, BTEC specifications and changing university admission requirements.

Our Ethos

The distinction of being a not-for-profit school has a profound impact on the schooling experience of children, staff and parents. Our focus is on teaching and learning – not on bowing to any commercial pressures from owners or sponsors.



Our Sense of Community

One cannot think of SES without the word 'community' suggesting itself. Due to the size of the ex-patriate community in Sharjah, the school is more central to the local community than is possible in a larger more anonymous urban setting. Our families and students regard the school as having a pivotal place in community life. Parents are heavily involved in the school, an engagement that is supportive and enriching.

Our Size

With only two form intake in much of Secondary, expanding to three form entry over the next five years, our school remains small by UAE standards. Our A Level classes have an average of six students per class. This permits staff to have an in depth knowledge of every student, and permits secure and supportive relationships needed to embrace challenges. Our commitment is to remain small enough to preserve our strong community and family feel.

Our Success

Ultimately, however pleasant or supportive the learning experience, parents expect a school to deliver excellent results, and to enable students to move on successfully to their next phase of education, whether in the UK or internationally. Most importantly, our A Level students expect and deserve the opportunity to access the top universities and colleges in the world. SES has established an enviable record of examination success; nearly all our graduating students find places at their first choice university, including the most renowned institutions worldwide.

Our Site and Sports Facilities

At just under 100,000 square metres, our school site (generously donated by HH The Ruler of Sharjah) is amongst the largest of any UAE school. This permits us to maintain playing fields which few schools in the region can match, and host numerous Sharjah and Dubai inter-school events. Plenty of space remains on our site for all future building and facility needs.

Our Music and Drama

For a comparatively small school, SES enjoys huge success and a magnificent reputation at national and Gulf level for the quality of its performing arts. Music and Drama opportunities exist from Foundation level, through to examination classes in Secondary. The majority of SES students will experience the excitement and confidence that being on stage can bring. Students will remember their experiences in these areas long after they have left school.

Leadership opportunities

Our Sixth Form offers students many opportunities to lead and take responsibility. Student Leaders are role models for younger students and staff often look to them for assistance and support. Sixth Form Leaders run academic clubs, organise charity events, mentor Key Stage 3 students, plan annual events, provide student voice, influence school decisions, conduct guided tours, and embody the very ethos of SES.

Further Mathematics

Further Maths is a challenging course in which students study six modules which have not already been studied for their Maths A level. Some UK universities require Further Mathematics to at least AS to be accepted onto a degree course in Mathematics. Students wishing to study Further Maths must have an 8/9 at GCSE Maths and be recommended by their Maths department.

The Sixth Form – A Crucial Decision

The choices you make, about what and where to study in the Sixth Form, will have a significant bearing on your future life and career. The qualifications you acquire, the personal qualities and life skills that you develop and the friendships you forge will all be crucial in determining how you cope with the transition from school to adult life, and your success in an increasingly competitive world.



The Sixth Form is different

It is said that virtually all students find their time in the Sixth Form to be the most exciting and enjoyable of their whole school careers. It is not just an extension of life lower down the school – you will be studying the subjects that you have chosen. Teaching groups will be smaller, allowing you to contribute more personally, and you will develop a more relaxed and adult relationship with staff. You will make new friends, often based on a shared interest in a particular area of study.

You will have your own common area and will be able to choose from a range of extra-curricular activities. You will be an integral part of the school community, taking on leadership responsibilities, helping with the running of the school and acting as a role model for the younger students. As you transition through Sixth Form you will be afforded more autonomy and you will develop the independence to cope with the next steps in your life.

Support and guidance

At Sharjah English School, we pride ourselves on the detailed personalised support (academic and pastoral) that we offer. Our low student to teacher ratios (currently an average of 1:6) facilitate this. We are very conscious of the need to transition to a more independent mode of working, we encourage individuality and we have designed our programmes to allow for autonomy.

Much emphasis is placed on helping you manage the transition from the more structured environment of Key Stage 4 to the greater independence of the Sixth Form. The same form tutor will stay with you throughout your two years in the Sixth Form. Your tutor will offer advice and support on academic, personal and career matters, and be responsible for your day to day welfare. Academic progress will also be reviewed on a 6 week basis. This information will be quickly and clearly shared with the students, parents and pastoral staff in order to create an environment where everyone works together in order to maximise your potential. Parents will be invited to meet subject staff and tutors to discuss progress twice during each academic year.

Staying on?

Inevitably, some existing students will be asking why you should stay on at Sharjah English School, and may be tempted by the prospect of change in general. However, there are very considerable advantages to staying on. There will be no disruption to the continuity of your education. You are already an integral part of the community here. You have forged friendships over the years, and you know the staff and they know you. The Sixth Form tutors will guide you through the complex application systems into higher education, and the vital school reference is based on a detailed knowledge of your achievements and potential and can reflect your development throughout your whole school career.

Moving Schools?

New students should know that Sharjah English School is committed to achieving excellent grades for all. We believe that SES can maximise your achievements at A Level through having small class sizes, which will permit close supervision and individualised teaching; also, our staff offer a blend of very experienced teachers at this level and more recently qualified staff who are very well versed in current UK developments and teaching practices.

Higher Education Destinations

Sharjah English School caters for applications across the world and we have a proven record of success. 2020 will mark the completion of our eleventh application cycle and the information below outlines the range of our applications.

The majority of our students have gone into undergraduate education and we have an excellent follow on/completion rate at degree level. This, in part, can be attributed to the intensive research that goes on throughout the application process and through support you will receive from teaching staff, your peers and the wider school community. Our UCAS offer rates, when compared to the UK averages, are excellent and we are very proud of the continued progress that our students are making.

UK based students (61% of all Sixth Form leavers)

Including – Oxford, Cambridge, UCL, Brighton, Durham, Edinburgh, Imperial College, Loughborough, Queen Mary, York, Manchester, Nottingham, Plymouth.

US/Canada based students (20% of all Sixth Form leavers)

Including – Albany (NY), Brown, Loyola (Chicago), Seattle, USC, Washington, West Virginia, McGill, Toronto, US Navel Academy.

Rest of the world (19% of all Sixth Form leavers)

Including – Adelaide, Melbourne, Waikato (NZ), Lahore, Warsaw, Durban, Dubai, NYU (Abu Dhabi) European Business School (Germany), Seoul, Sydney.

Applying for University places in the UK

The UCAS (University and Colleges Admissions Service) points tariff is set up to convert A level results into points for applying to a UK-based University.

Previous SES offers have ranged from AAA to CC with the students applying for a range of different courses throughout the UK. In common with similar schools, our Year 12 students will choose to study three subjects at A level. Universities will make offers based on predicted grades in three A Level subjects, or points equivalent.



Grade	Points Value - A2	Points Value - BTEC	
A*	56	Distinction*	56
A	48	Distinction	48
B	40		
C	32	Merit	32
D	24		
E	16	Pass	16



Unconditional Offers

Unconditional university offers are rare in the UK. They mean that the student has a guaranteed place based upon the strength of their application, regardless of their results. Over the past few years, we have managed to secure a pleasing number of Unconditional places.

Applying for University places in the USA

A Levels are an internationally recognised qualification. As such they are admissible as entry requirements for American Colleges. You can enter the American system after Y12 with your AS grades. However, recent advice from our college contacts and alumni suggests that gaining a full A level is more helpful. Completion of A2 gives you a competitive advantage over the other applicants as your depth of study will be greater. Many of our students have been granted credits on their degree course and academic scholarships based on their A level studies.

US Colleges have admissions tutors who convert GCSE and A levels reports, predictions and results into GPA's. We have found over the last few years that the course profiles are consistent with the UK system and that our students meet the entry requirements for their chosen areas of study (including applications to Brown, Boston, Georgia Tech, University of Southern California, US Naval Academy, Harvard, CalTech and MIT).

We do not formally report on class ranking. However, if it is needed to support your application to the most competitive US institutions there is always a facility for us to outline their position in the year group; we will express this information honestly in application forms and letters of recommendation.

As with UCAS, we expect you to be pro-active in your applications: doing research, organising SATs, completing application essays and investigating financial aid. We will endeavour to guide you through this whilst producing the supporting evidence for your application (transcripts, letters of recommendation and reports).



The Sixth Form Curriculum – Choosing A Level and/or BTEC Subjects

You will choose three A Level courses, three BTEC courses, or a combination of both A Level and BTEC courses, to follow in the Sixth Form. In addition, all students follow a Life Management Skills (LMS) programme. This is a varied course that complements your other subjects, helping you to think critically, logically and constructively about significant issues. This meets the Key Skills requirements for British Universities. Outside speakers will be invited to talk to the Sixth Form on a variety of topics, ranging from political and environmental issues, to career and life experiences, gap year opportunities, and life at university. Throughout the Sixth Form you will also have the chance to enjoy a variety of extra-curricular opportunities.

Dropping down from eight or more subjects to three subjects can present a difficult choice, and there is also the option of taking up completely new subjects. It is quite likely that you have no clear idea what you want to do for a future career, or even what you might want to study at university. Hence, having to make decisions can be a worrying process. However, this is very common, and there are some general ground rules to follow.

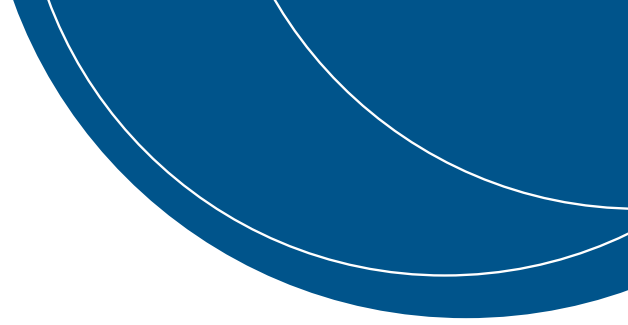
Firstly, try to choose subjects that you enjoy, and that you want to explore further – if you are finding a subject too difficult now you are unlikely to enjoy it at A Level or BTEC. You can decide to carry on with a subject even if you don't shine at it particularly, but you must be realistic; a grade B at GCSE does not automatically translate into a grade B at A Level or Merit in BTEC.

Specific course information sheets will be available at the A Level/BTEC Options Evening, these will also be available through the Sixth Form section of the school website.

Study the course structure and content for each subject, then discuss these further with your teachers. Make sure you understand what the course involves – again talk to subject staff, and find out as much as you can about the skills required.

Clearly, if you want to pursue a scientific, medical or paramedical career you will need to take some science subjects, for instance Chemistry is essential in medicine.

For entry to most other career areas or university courses there are no hard and fast rules. For example, subjects such as History and English where you are researching, evaluating and weighing arguments on paper are considered a good foundation for law. A language can be a useful attribute in many careers such as business or management. However, there is no point in choosing subjects because you think they will be useful if you can get better grades and more satisfaction studying something else.



You should not feel pressured into taking subjects you don't want to study, or that you don't feel confident about. You should remember that it is you will be studying the course, and taking examinations at the end of it, so it really must be a personal choice.

Choose two subjects that complement each other to some extent (e.g. English and History, Mathematics and Physics, Business Studies and a language). The third subject might also be complementary, or might provide a contrast.

Don't worry that some A Levels might be seen as 'better' than others – at the end of the day you are likely to be made a conditional offer by a university such as 'ABB' in three A2 subjects, or points equivalent. This is based on your suitability for the course, your 'personal statement' and the school's reference about you. It is worth remembering GCSE's are used by many universities as a part of their selection process, so it's important to work hard now to get the best grades possible.

If you have a particular degree course or university in mind then it is worth researching to find the detailed entry criteria. This can be accessed through the establishment's website, through UCAS/Collegeboard or by contacting the admissions tutors directly.

Subjects Offered:

A Level

Art & Design
Biology
Business
Chemistry
Computer Science
Design & Technology (Product Design)
Drama & Theatre
Economics
English Literature
French
Further Mathematics
Geography
History
Mathematics
Music
Physical Education
Physics

BTEC Level 3

Business
Physical Education

Courses require a minimum of three students to run.

Option Blocks

The subjects will be arranged in option blocks (for timetabling purposes). These blocks will be designed in accordance with the needs of the cohort.

You may not choose Business and Economics together - based upon university admission guidance.

Selection criteria for Sixth Form at Sharjah English School

The Sixth Form at Sharjah English School is open to all who qualify by ability **and** attitude.

References will be called for and those who are unlikely to benefit from a Sixth Form course because of a record of poor attendance and/or a negative attitude to study will not be accepted.

Students achieving a minimum of 5 GCSE passes, 9 – 6 (A*-B) including Mathematics and English, will be considered for entry to A Level. There will be an expectation that a B (6) grade at GCSE has been achieved before you are allowed to commence an A Level course in a particular subject.

For BTECs a minimum of 5 grades: 9-5 (A*-C) including English will be required.

Some of our internal and all external candidates will be interviewed to assess their suitability.

Further information

There will be an A Level and BTEC Options Afternoon on **Tuesday 21st January**. The event will commence at **1.30pm**, with an introductory talk about option choices in general. Parents and students will then be able to meet with subject staff and current students.

There will be information sheets available for all subject areas, these are also available on the school website: www.sharjahenglishschool.org

New students who require information about the entrance policy and fees can contact the school reception on **06 5589304** or alternatively go to the admissions section on the school website.

The Application Process

1. Attend the information afternoon on the 21st January 2020 (1.30 start)
2. Join us for our Taster Morning on the 10th February 2020 (7.50 start)
3. Research possible course combinations (use the further info links)
4. Fill in the options form
5. Attend Interview (if required)
6. Present proof of results on the start date

For any enquiries please contact: a-levels@sharjahenglishschool.org





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edexcel BSO BSME AQA

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