

Croydon High Sixth Form

Pathways Mentoring Programme



Croydon High School
for girls aged 3-18

CROYDON HIGH SIXTH FORM IS COMMITTED TO INSPIRING GIRLS TO DISCOVER AND REALISE THEIR DREAMS AND AMBITIONS WHEREVER THESE LIE

Our Pathways Mentoring Programme is specifically designed to enable our girls to do this more effectively and to support them through their sixth form years. The programme will guide students to choose the right degree, enhance their UCAS applications, obtain relevant work experience and ultimately bridge the gap between sixth form and university, apprenticeships or working life.

Croydon High girls have always received the highest levels of support in preparing for life after school, but the Pathways Programme goes one step further, providing invaluable personalised mentoring in dedicated time once a fortnight. Experienced mentors work with the girls individually to ensure that they are making the most of every opportunity available to them. These mentors have knowledge of and access to online courses, trips, additional reading and of course, networking contacts that will broaden the girls' knowledge and experience and enrich their applications for future study or careers.

The Pathways Programme is designed to support those who know where they are going as well as those who are still exploring their options.

OUR HEAD OF CAREERS, SUSAN GOWER EXPLAINS:

“Some girls will already have an idea of what subject they want to read at University, or a definite career goal in mind. But others may still be undecided and need perhaps more time and personalised guidance to discover where their main interests and ambitions lie.”

Those committing to specific paths, like Medicine or Law, will have bespoke support, specifically designed to enhance their future degree and career applications.

Others who are still open minded about future careers, will be exposed to a wide range of opportunities and ideas that will help them shape and realise their own aspirations.





THE INTRINSIC VALUE OF THE PATHWAYS PROGRAMME IS THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE MENTOR AND MENTEE

Croydon High is privileged to have teachers who have invaluable expertise in their specific subject areas. Their experience has already enabled generations of girls to go on to study and work in esteemed professions at the highest levels.

These teachers understand what it takes to reach these goals and by harnessing their experience, we will be providing exceptional focused support for every girl in our care.

WHAT IS PATHWAYS MENTORING?

- Mentoring is recognised as a powerful personal development and empowerment tool. It is an effective way of boosting confidence and is credited with helping young people believe in themselves.
- The Croydon High Pathways Mentoring Programme provides every girl with the opportunity to think about her own career options and to explore new ideas in confidence – and with confidence in her mentor.
- Pathways Mentoring is about the girls becoming more self-aware, taking responsibility and directing their lives in the direction they choose.
- The Programme aims to empower girls to make the right informed choices and create opportunities for themselves before moving to the next stage of their education.

“The Pathways Programme provides an amazing opportunity to get specialist guidance on our chosen industry; the programme gives students a safe space in which to explore their options whilst simultaneously pushing them out of their comfort zone.”

Current student





Our Pathways Mentoring Programme prepares girls for the challenges they will face in the future, offering an enhanced and futureproof curriculum and a staggering variety of extracurricular opportunities to enrich her learning.

During fortnightly mentoring sessions, girls will discuss opportunities to develop their interests and knowledge with their mentor; reflect upon them and then take responsibility for themselves to pursue them. They will be expected to dedicate an hour of their study time to researching their options and will bring evidence of their research to the mentoring sessions.

Those who have a path in mind and have chosen A-level subjects accordingly, will join a relevant bespoke Pathway.

Those who are still considering their options will start on what we refer to as an Open Pathway. These girls will be made aware of a range of opportunities, relevant to their interests and academic study, to help them explore different options. This may ultimately lead them to join a specific Pathway.

WHAT WILL THE PATHWAYS PROGRAMME INCLUDE?

The chart on page 6 shows the sort of opportunities available to girls opting to follow a International Relations, Politics & Civil Service Pathway. It is not an exhaustive list but it gives an indication of the sort of areas covered.

These opportunities will not be exclusively offered to girls on this Pathway; they will be available to all girls who show an interest.

The member of staff mentoring each Pathway will ensure all mentees are aware of the benefits of the different components, will actively encourage girls to become involved and will assist them in translating the experience they gain into enhancing their Personal Statements and applications.



PATHWAYS CAREER PROFESSIONALS

We are excited to announce a new development for the 2019/20 academic year; the Careers Department will be introducing Pathways Career Professionals or PCPs who will support the students and mentors on the Pathway Mentoring Programme here at Croydon High.

WHAT IS A PATHWAYS CAREER PROFESSIONALS (PCPS)?

The Pathways Career Professionals is an individual who provides career guidance through group mentoring, e-mail communication, visits and networking. Croydon High School Careers team have invited professionals to register to be a Pathway Career Professional, most of whom come from our generous and much valued alumnae body. They include Barristers, Cancer Researchers, Scientists, Retail Directors, Human Resource Managers and Medical Doctors.

Students will have the opportunity to hear from PCPs from areas that they directly are interested in and some with more generic experience. This is a valuable opportunity to hear about the choices current professionals have made on their career journey.

THEIR EXPERIENCES AND EXPERTISE WILL HELP STUDENTS IN THE FOLLOWING WAYS:

- To make informed decisions about career options
- To understand more about a chosen career path
- To ask pertinent questions related to careers
- To build networking experience

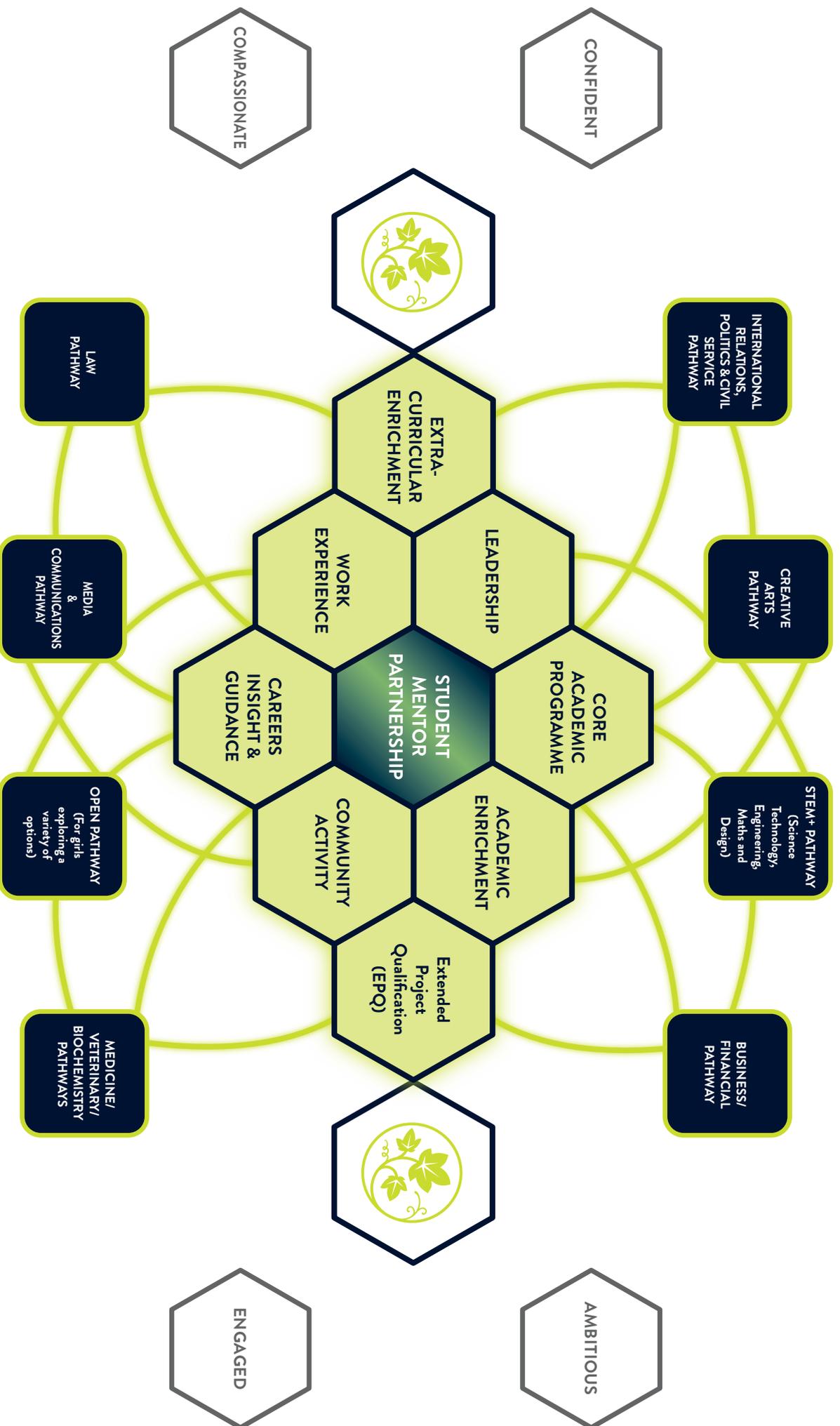
MOST OF OUR PCPS OFFER SOME OR ALL THE FOLLOWING:

- A visit to the school to talk with students who are interested in related career pathways
- E-mail communication once every half term (managed via careers team)
- A visit to their workplace where appropriate
- A mock interview with a CV check
- A profile of their career path so far

We look forward to welcoming them back to Croydon High and we are sure that their contributions will be much appreciated by all. They will be an amazing addition to our successful mentoring programme.



INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, POLITICS & CIVIL SERVICE PATHWAY OPPORTUNITIES	
Designed for	Students who are interested in learning more about careers in politics, the diplomatic or civil services.
Recommended A Level subjects	Some useful subjects would be Humanities, Languages, Philosophy and Ethics. This is not prescriptive, although one extended writing subject would be an advantage.
Example Extracurricular activities	Philosophy Society, MUN Debating Club, History Club, Amnesty International, British Parliamentary Debating, Young Reporter.
Example Enrichment activities	Debating Club and competitions, Model UN, whole school MUN.
Relevant Trips	Washington and New York Trip, Trip to Geneva, Westminster and No. 10.
Relevant Visiting Speakers	MP and Local Councillors for Croydon South and representative from Public Health England and the Head of Drug Licensing at the Home Office.
Competitions	Young Enterprise, Yr 11-13 debating competitions, Croydon MUN, and GDST competitions.
Online courses	Future Learn courses such as 'Ethics, Regulation and Purpose' (University of Birmingham), Introduction to the UK Parliament: People, Processes and Public Participation (British Parliament).
Suitable Work Experience	GDST Insight days, shadowing days (e.g. British Parliament scheme). Extensive opportunities available through the parent and alumnae network.
Potential degree course	Law, Business Administration, Politics and International Relations, Finance, PPE or Human, Social, and Political Sciences (HSPS).



The actual groups will be bespoke and led by the girls' own aspirations.



“Some teenagers know instinctively what they want to do, others need support to guide them towards that decision. Our bespoke and personalised programme is tailored to each girl to help her reflect upon and consider her experiences within the context of her overall career pathway.”

Emma Pattison
Headmistress