



S6 Prospectus

2011-2012



Building on Success, Embracing Independence

New Academic Challenges

It is important that in Sixth Year the strong academic ethos of your previous years at Hutchesons' Grammar School is maintained. With over 50 courses available to you, it is in the Sixth Year that the richness and diversity of the school's curriculum really come into their own, however, allowing you to build on the high academic standards you have already established by adding greater depth or breadth. There are several ways of achieving this. Post-Higher qualifications such as A Level and Advanced Higher allow you to explore a subject in greater depth than ever before, firing your curiosity as well as providing an invaluable head start for your university course. For many of you, a diet of at least three A Levels or Advanced Highers is the most appropriate route, whether to provide you with an increased level of intellectual challenge or as the gateway to applying to Oxford or Cambridge. Each post higher course has been selected for the quality of challenge and educational experience it provides in that subject and for its ability to prepare you for the next stage in your education. Subjects offered at A-Level will challenge you to complete in a year what other school pupils will undertake over two years. Advanced Highers will develop skills of research and independence in rigorous coursework assessed alongside traditional paper examinations. In both cases you can expect the full support of expert and experienced teaching staff even as you take new steps towards more flexible and independent ways of working. For others, the option of taking up a range of subjects which were not available earlier or which you chose not to pursue, in the form of one or more 'crash' Highers, or even re-sitting to upgrade your qualifications, will prove to be a more suitable academic path through Sixth Year.

New Approaches to Learning

The flexibility and specialisation made possible by courses of study in the Sixth Year help to provide the motivation and the inspiration for you to be a 'self-starter', to take the initiative, to open your mind to new ideas and ways of thinking. Whatever path you are taking through Sixth Year, you should be preparing yourself for university study and the world beyond by taking advantage of one of the many opportunities available here for developing research and independent learning skills. For example you should seriously consider embarking on Hutchesons' own IRP (Independent Research Paper). This is a year-long study of any, or several, subjects which results in a written presentation and a 'viva'. As well as giving you the

opportunity to win a significant prize, this will give you the opportunity to develop and demonstrate to others your ability to explore intellectual topics across and beyond subject boundaries. Other new opportunities include the OU YASS scheme in which you can integrate real university experience into the schools academic and extra-curricular programme.

You have access to a well stocked school library, ICT facilities in the flexible learning suite and Underground, superbly equipped music, art and science areas and, most important, the continuing support of dedicated and expert teaching staff, who are sympathetic to the principles of independent learning through small tutorial groups and balancing private study with class teaching. All this accelerates the development of study patterns that will prove invaluable to you for lifelong learning at university and beyond.

New Fields of Study

You may relish the opportunity to try something new, a subject such as Archaeology, Accounting, Psychology, Philosophy, Critical Thinking, Law or Media Studies. You may prepare for and take the internationally recognised European Computer Driving Licence, or choose from courses ranging from National Certificate Drama to Car Maintenance or conversational Italian.

Beyond School

There are many opportunities for you to extend your academic range outside the school. Language scholars may benefit from the chance to hone their skills in the Euroscola trip to Strasbourg, and prospective law students can taste life in an Oxbridge college by attending their Sixth Form conferences. Hutchesons' Philosophy department hosts a conference with distinguished speakers, which offers a meeting of minds with pupils from other schools. In addition, a huge number of field trips and visits to places of academic or cultural interest are available to pupils in S6, which contribute to making the final year at Hutchesons' Grammar School truly memorable.





S6 – The Bridge to Higher Education and Beyond

New Pastoral Structure

In addition to developing independent learning skills during the S6 year at Hutchesons', you will be given more freedom to plan your day. You will belong to a tutorial group of just four or five pupils who will work closely with a tutor who is responsible for pastoral advice and guidance and for the management of administrative matters. A pastoral team of a year tutor, two assistant year tutors and about 40 tutors will support S6 pupils throughout the year.

Co-Curricular and Leadership Opportunities

In collaboration with their tutor, every S6 pupil will be expected to create their own programme of academic study complemented by leadership and enrichment activities, all of which will contribute to your sense of achievement during your final year at school. A group of around 50 prefects elected by their peers and by staff will play a major role in the running of the school on a day-to-day basis and in representing the school to the wide community. Eight pupils are House Captains, responsible for organising activities for pupils throughout the secondary school.

Leadership opportunities include acting as a 'buddy' to younger pupils or as a classroom assistant at Hutchesons' Primary School. Other pupils join in community projects, train as an 'Active Listener' or join one of a variety of teams which include the S6 Committee, the Yearbook, the S6 Communications & Marketing group or the editorial team of the Hutchesonian.

Commitment to the Wider World

The Talking Points lectures help to develop the commitment of Hutchesons' pupils to participate responsibly in political, economic, social and cultural life. Eminent speakers inform, inspire and provoke the year group throughout the series of talks. S6 pupils play a leading role in charity fund raising and



have the opportunity to take part in Model United Nations conferences around the UK. Pupils also participate in the Youth and Philanthropy Initiative (YPI), which helps to foster philanthropic values and encourages involvement in assisting others in the local community.

Leadership and Confidence

Participation in Young Enterprise, the Mark Scott Leadership for Life programme and the Duke of Edinburgh's Awards all encourage resilience and self-reliance. You will learn to communicate in different ways, in different settings, and to apply critical thinking in new contexts. There will be opportunities to take the initiative and to lead as you work in partnership and in teams. Pupils at Hutchesons' take part in national conferences and in public speaking and debating engagements. The Gold Award is the top level of the internationally recognised Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme and it makes high demands on you in terms of physical endurance, teamwork and leadership qualities. Many of our S6 pupils enjoy the challenge of belonging to a Young Enterprise company, with its opportunities for creating, developing and problem-solving.

Preparing for the Future

Conference

In S6, a personal programme of academic coursework and co-curricular activities will help you make decisions about your future and we encourage all pupils to take the initiative in planning their own educational future and careers. To further assist, we have a structured programme in place which will help to bring your options into focus. This begins with a Conference in June, which takes place after the Higher examinations. The conference includes presentations, as well as activities to develop skills and understanding of the wider world. All pupils participate in sessions designed to assist with decisions about Higher Education applications and it is at this time that we begin the process of completing the UCAS application form.

Where to Go? What to Study?

Most Scottish universities and colleges, as well as a good number from England and Wales, are represented at a Higher Education Fair at Hutchesons' on Thursday 9 June 2011. In addition, Open Days provide an opportunity for you to make sure you choose a university and course that suits your own needs. Both Glasgow and Edinburgh universities hold open days in June and you are encouraged to use this time wisely. You can also visit Oxford and Cambridge colleges to get a flavour of university life there.

Hutchesons' leavers in 2010 are now attending all the Scottish universities, as well as Oxford, Cambridge, London and many of the universities in the UK's Russell Group. They are taking courses that range from Accountancy and Aero-Mechanical Engineering to Social Anthropology and Zoology, as well as everything in between.



Thinking about a Gap Year?

There is a multitude of opportunities you could explore, including the Year in Industry scheme, voluntary work overseas or in the UK, or undertaking course-related employment.

Career Advice and Interview Skills

Former pupils, university staff and practising professionals in the fields of business, science and engineering, medicine and law visit the school to talk to interested pupils in an informal setting. We help all S6 pupils to develop their interview skills, for university applications and for work experience and job applications, in an Interview Skills Presentation session and in workshops. Members of the Career Development and Higher Education Department are available to discuss future pathways.



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