



10 Questions to Ask on a Hertfordshire School Open Day

A guide by RMS for Girls to help you find the perfect fit.

Visiting a school is about more than just seeing the facilities; it's about uncovering the culture. Use these ten targeted questions to go beyond the brochure and find out if a school is truly the right environment for your child.

Academic & Future-Focus

1. "How does the school measure 'Value-Added' progress?"
 - *Why ask:* Top grades are great, but you want to know how the school supports a child to exceed their own predicted potential from their starting point.
2. "How are subjects like STEM and Coding encouraged among all students?"
 - *Why ask:* Look for evidence that traditionally "gendered" subjects are inclusive and popular across the board.
3. "What does the 'Life Skills' or careers programme look like in the younger years?"
 - *Why ask:* University prep shouldn't start in Year 13. High-quality schools build leadership and financial literacy from Year 7.

Pastoral & Wellbeing

4. "How do you support the transition from Primary/Prep to Senior school?"
 - *Why ask:* The jump to "big school" is significant. Ask about "Buddy" systems or dedicated Year 7 transition hubs.
5. "Who is the first point of contact if my child is struggling socially or emotionally?"
 - *Why ask:* You need to know that there is a clear, accessible safety net, be it a Form Tutor, Housemistress, or Wellbeing Coordinator.
6. "How does the school handle digital wellbeing and mobile phone use?"
 - *Why ask:* This reveals the school's stance on modern social pressures and how they protect focus during the school day.

Culture & Community

7. "What kind of child 'thrives' here, and what kind of child might struggle?"
 - *Why ask:* An honest answer here shows the school knows its own identity. It helps you decide if your child's personality matches the school's pace.



8. "How much of the co-curricular programme is student-led?"
 - *Why ask:* If students are starting their own clubs (e.g., Eco-Committee or Coding Club), it's a sign of a high-agency, confident student body.
9. "For boarding/flexi-boarding: What does a typical Tuesday evening look like?"
 - *Why ask:* It's easy to make weekends look fun; you want to know the "normal" routine is warm, structured, and supportive.

The "Gut-Check" Question (Ask your Student Guide)

10. "If you could change one thing about this school, what would it be?"
 - *Why ask:* This is the ultimate test of authenticity. A rehearsed answer is easy; a genuine, thoughtful reflection tells you everything about the student-teacher relationship.

Top Tip: Take a photo of the school's Notice Boards as you walk around. They often show the *real* daily life of the school - club sign-ups, lost property, and student-run initiatives - more clearly than a polished presentation.

Ready to see these answers in action? Book a personal tour or attend our next Open Event at RMS for Girls. [Click here to find out more.](#)