



WELCOME TO THE SIXTH FORM COLLEGE, COLCHESTER 'OPEN EVENING' BRIEFING FOR 2023 ENTRY

**The information within these slides will be posted on
the College website on Friday 21 October**



Purpose of the evening (including this presentation)

- ✈ To find out more* about the Sixth Form College, its specialist facilities, ethos and atmosphere.
- ✈ To meet and liaise with our teaching staff and students - have your questions answered.
- ✈ To find out more* about the academic programmes and individual courses – to help you to make an informed choice.
- ✈ To find out more* about the wider activities and opportunities
- ✈ To help you to decide if this is the right community to continue with your studies - happily and successfully.

The Sixth Form College


➔ To help you identify how the Admissions Policy would apply to you – in a context of probable oversubscription.

*Information also available from the Prospectus, the Open Evening 2022 brochure, the College website, the range of course information sheets and the series of online videos – and, at a later stage, through the individual interview and an Induction Day.

➔ A specialist Sixth Form College.

✦ A ‘full’ and broad academic sixth form educational experience in a specialist 1618 environment.

- A wide choice of academic courses but also with pastoral support, personal development, preparation for H.E., future employability and citizenship **plus** choices from a very large range of Additional Studies and extra curricular activities.

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- ✦ Our students have timetabled academic classes on each of the 5 weekdays – with a high regularity of subject teaching (4 of the 5 days) for each subject. (An example of a ‘typical’ student timetable is on page 37 within the Prospectus).
 - ✦ All our academic classes are taught on our North Hill campus. A very strong College community ethos.

The Sixth Form College

- Opened in 1987 – 35 years of very successful experience in delivering A levels and a broad sixth form education.
- The only free-standing specialist Sixth Form College in the area.
- Excellent accommodation and facilities – specifically designed for 16-18 year olds in sixth form study.

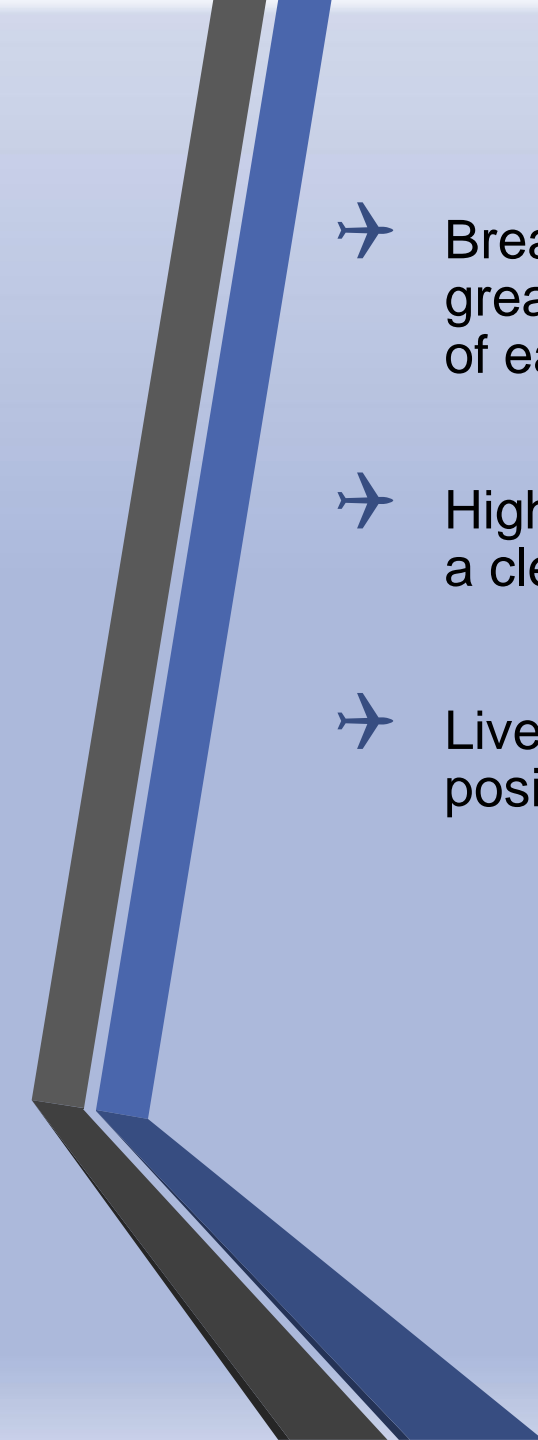
- Approximately 3,250 full time 16-18 year old students (virtually the same level as 10 years ago).
- Average academic class size:
 - ✦ Just under 17.5 in 2022/23.
 - ✦ Average class sizes are relatively low compared to the national average sixth form class sizes in state sector schools / academies and colleges – and despite substantial cuts in Government resourcing levels our average academic class sizes are also virtually the same as 10 years ago.
- The College continues to be far more able than most sixth form providers (in schools, academies and colleges) in the state sector in England to maintain a full time student sixth form experience.

The Sixth Form College

- The College offers many individual A level subject options which are not now provided in many local school sixth form environments e.g. German, Spanish, Italian, Music, Art History, Electronics, Product Design, Dance, Accounting....

Characteristic qualities of the College

- Care and concern for each individual student. ➤ Strong pastoral support and personal development programme.
- High quality of academic teaching, teacher expertise in sixth form education. ➤ High levels of overall student achievement, including in valueadded terms, enabling positive progression at age 18.
- A 'traditional' and 'full' academic sixth form experience – in a young adult environment.

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- ✈️ Breadth of opportunities – and great flexibility to meet the needs of each individual student.
 - ✈️ High expectations of students and a clear focus upon success.
 - ✈️ Lively and thriving community, positive ethos.



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Programmes of study

- Students choose their own individual combination of specific courses from one of two alternative academic programmes;

A Level Programme (two years)

See the 'structure of the two-year A level programme' section within the Open Evening brochure. Re the academic aspects:

- ★ The Government returned A levels to 2 year 'linear' courses approximately 5 years ago (i.e. A levels are not 'modular', mid-course AS levels are not generally taken and A level assessments and exams are largely taken at the end of the second year of study).

The Government changes also meant that some A levels (e.g. ICT), were converted to A level 'equivalent' (Applied General Extended Certificate) qualifications. These AG courses are modular and assessments and exams are spread through the 2 year period.

- ✦ Students generally choose to study 3 (or for some 4) A level (or equivalent) courses from a choice of over 50 subject options. A list of all the A level and equivalent course options is on page 38 of the Prospectus.

A level programmes of study (continued)

- ✦ A good number of A level subjects at the College have excellent extension options to enhance potential future applications to specialist Higher Education courses and/or careers paths; e.g.
 - Strong A level Maths students – option of also studying AS and A level Further Maths, and/or options of other mathematical courses e.g. A level Physics, A level Computing, A level Chemistry - and also the option of preparing for STEP Maths.
 - A level English students – have a choice from 3 different A level courses - and also have the option of studying an Extended Project Qualification (English and Creative Writing options).

- Strong visual arts students have a very wide range of creative course options including A levels in Art, Photography, Art History, Textiles, Graphics (and also A level Sculpture in Year 2).
- For those students interested in Medicine or related progression - option of our Medics programme and/or choosing a science or health based Extended Project Qualification (supporting A levels in Chemistry and Biology together with a 3rd, and possibly 4th, relevant A level subject).

A level programmes (cont.) – extension options include (cont.);

- For potential Engineering students – A levels in Maths and Physics can be combined with the following A level courses; Computing or Product Design or Graphics Electronics or Economics or Business and AS/A level Further Maths is also an option as a 4th A level course.

- A level Economics or Business and/or Accounting students – have an option of studying Financial Certificate (and in Year 2 A level Economics students can also choose to study A level Business in the form of an accelerated A level course).
- A level History students – have a choice from 4 alternative courses/time periods. Also the option of studying A level Classical Civilisation and/or Politics, and/or a choice of a specialist Extended Project Qualification (in History or Military History or Archaeology).
- Students with a talent for Modern Foreign Languages – choices from 4 different A level courses (French, German, Spanish and Italian), 2 GCSE subjects (Spanish or Italian) and a range introductory language courses (Latin, Mandarin Chinese, Japanese, Ancient Greek) and experiences including Languages Day.

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Choosing A level subjects

- At your interview, we will advise you on your potential choice of individual subjects and the whole package of subjects - and help you better understand the Post 18 progression opportunities.
- Whatever A level subjects you will wish to choose at the College, you will not encounter academic timetable clashes or combination issues.

Programmes of study – Advanced Foundation Programme

A programme for those who are likely to have more modest GCSE achievement backgrounds at the end of year 11 and would like one year of study to improve their level 2 qualifications with the ultimate aim of then progressing to A levels at the College or other ‘level 3’ options elsewhere, e.g. Apprenticeships or Applied General/BTEC full programmes);

The Advanced Foundation Programme includes opportunities to improve key GCSEs and also add new GCSE or equivalent level 2 courses – together with a pastoral support programme and an Additional Studies course.

Some AFP students will include a carefully chosen level 3 Applied General Certificate course.

Programmes of study

- ➔ A range of **Subject Information Sheets** are available – and provide a good deal of detail about each specific A level, Applied General and GCSE subject/course.

All the subject information sheets are contained within the Prospectus (pages 39 to 97) - or alternatively are available from the College website via the 'Courses' link.

- ➔ All A level subjects, and some other courses, also have prepared videos (each generally around 7/8 minutes in length), where staff and often students, provide a good level of further information and insight re each of the courses.

The College YouTube site also has some more general materials which will also be of interest to prospective students and their parents.

A level programme – more detail

→ Year 1 A level programme students choose a base of 3 A level courses (or equivalent) – and will then also choose 1 (possibly 2) other course(s). This 4th choice could be:

- ✦ A 4th A level subject choice or
- ✦ An alternative qualification based course or a skills based or vocational course e.g.:
 - Core Maths (generally for students choosing any one of fourteen numerate A levels – but not otherwise choosing A level Maths or Statistics) **or**
 - Financial Certificate **or**
 - Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award **or**
 - Medics **or**

- Pre-Teaching **or**
- Coaching Sport and Physical Education **or**
- Arts Mark Award (Level 3) **or** • a GCSE* **or**

*For strong linguists there is a choice of studying GCSE Spanish or GCSE Italian 'from scratch' in one academic year. Some other A level students may need to re-sit GCSE English or Maths.

Please note that the option of completing an Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) will generally be started in the Spring period of Year 1 – and therefore will not need to be chosen until Spring 2023.

A level programme – more detail

- ✦ Or alternatively (and the likely choice for a good number of students);
- ✦ The 4th (or for some, a 5th) course choice will be an Additional Study – with a choice from approximately 80 options available. More details later and full detail in the Additional Studies Handbook.

- ✈️ **All students** follow the **College Tutorial Programme** in addition to their chosen Programme of Study/academic courses.
- ✈️ All students then also have the option of taking part in one of a number of extracurricular activities spread through the year. Many of these are 'one offs' or 'for a while'. There are hundreds of options each year ranging from participating in residential field trips, a sport activity, or working to support refugees and asylum seekers (Friends not Foes), to broadcasting on the College radio station, or participating in our Arts and Cultural Festival or in our Black History Month activities.

Additional Studies

- ✈️ Available to all students. Options from approx. 100 regular Additional Studies courses including:
 - ✦ Many music, drama, dance and visual arts options and opportunities.

- ✦ Very wide range of sports – at either competitive (with fixtures and events) or development or recreational levels – including a series of team squads/fixtures/competitions.
- ✦ Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award.
- ✦ Coaching Sport and Physical Education.
- ✦ Medics Programme.
- ✦ Pre-Teaching Programme.
- ✦ Work Experience.
- ✦ Lawyers Programme.
- ✦ Range of Journalism and Media related opportunities – including College Magazine, Storm Radio Station.
- ✦ Financial Certificate (and in Year 2 Financial Diploma).
- ✦ A wide range of other interest or skills based courses e.g. Signing for the Deaf, Enterprise, Work Experience, Debating, Fashion, Chess ...

The Additional Studies and Extra Curricular Activities Booklet for 2022/23 year, provides the full listing of the courses offered this 2023/24 academic year - and is posted on the College website (via the Documents section). (2023/24 booklet to be distributed in June 2023 during the Induction Course).

Extra-curricular programme

As well as the range of regular Additional Studies opportunities, Extra Curricular ('one-off' or 'irregular' or 'for a while') options available to all students include:

- ✦ Clubs e.g. Running Club, Board Games, Conservation Group ...
- ✦ Societies e.g. Friends not Foes group, Debating, Amnesty International, Colchester Citizenship Alliance.
 - ✦ Productions.
- ✦ Field trips and visits.
- ✦ Expeditions – and the preparations for these.
- ✦ Vocational supplements / experiences – including for Medics, Pre-Teaching, Lawyers, Storm Record Label, Storm Radio, work experience ...
- ✦ HE visits and our Careers and HE Fairs.
- ✦ Sports – 'Squads' and fixtures/competitions – but also recreational sports (for fun and fitness). Sports Committee activities and events, coaching and leadership opportunities, a range of one off or more occasional sports activation activities.
- ✦ Health education, monitoring and activities.

- ✦ Charity activities.
- ✦ Citizenship and community activities.

The Tutorial Programme

- All students receive pastoral support from their Personal Tutor, - seen daily in registration and in a weekly Tutorial.
- Personal development and a range of educational enrichment activities are delivered through the Tutorial Programme, a weekly, timetable session which includes;
 - ✦ Target-setting, reviewing and action planning.
 - ✦ How to be a successful college student.

- ✦ College and British Values.
- ✦ Personal development, health, welfare and safeguarding.
- ✦ Work related learning and employability.
- ✦ HE and careers and preparation for successful progression.
- ✦ Social action (charity, community, volunteering and citizenship) elements.

A level programme – entry criteria

General guidelines:

- ✦ 4 A levels (For students who are very able and academically motivated and well organised).

A very strong GCSE profile with most GCSE grades in the 9 to 7 range.

Students who choose to study 4 A level courses in the Autumn of Year 1 will be expected to complete all 4 courses to A level in Year 2 (with the exception of those choosing Further Maths).

All students choosing AS level Further Maths in Year 1 will also study other 3 A levels alongside this (one of which will be A level Maths). There is then the option of continuing study of Further Maths to A level in Year 2. (Decision made in the Summer at the end of the first year). Grade 8 or 9 in GCSE Maths required.

A level programme - entry criteria (continued)

→ 3 A levels (or equivalent):

A minimum of seven GCSE grades in the 9 to 4 range – ideally including three at grade 5 or above including at least one from GCSE English Language and Maths.

- However each individual A level subject has important specific minimum entry criteria which must be met (outlined within the Student Information Sheets Prospectus pages or from the 'Courses' section of the website).
- It is unlikely that a student will meet the entry criteria for a programme including 3 A level courses unless they have achieved a minimum grade 5 in one of their GCSE English courses and/or in GCSE Maths.

AFP programmes - entry criteria

- **Advanced Foundation Programme**

For students with GCSE grades in the range between four or five GCSE grades at 4 to a minimum background of two GCSE grade 4's and four GCSE grade 3's with a grade 4 or above achieved in at least one course from Maths, and English course, a Science course.

Expectations of students

- Very high standards:
 - ◆ Motivation and commitment to study.
 - ◆ Co-operation. ◆ Maturity.

- A young adult environment:
 - ◆ Making the most of each student's potential.



✦ Preparation for the next (Post 18) phase of life.

The personal development and wellbeing of each of our students is important to us.

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High levels of academic achievement

- ✦ Students at the College achieve an excellent overall package of sixth form results well above the national average for school sixth forms and colleges. This represents high 'value added' when compared to GCSE results.
- ✦ High value-added packages of results are achieved by a range of categories of students – female, male, academically 'top-end', students from a range of ethnic backgrounds ...
- ✦ Average university entrance (UCAS) for the top 100 achievers is equivalent to A*A*A at A level.
- ✦ Student retention levels at the College are high.

*2022 Results booklet available tonight or from the website 'Documents' section.

External assessment

- The College has consistently had strong external assessments including Ofsted reports.
- The College was one of the first Sixth Form Colleges to be awarded Beacon status.
- The College was only the second Sixth Form College to be awarded a Queen's Award for Higher and Further Education.
- In recent years the College has been awarded Platinum level Science Mark and Gold level Arts Mark status.

*Last Ofsted report available from the website 'Documents' section.

College Admissions

(please also refer to page 2 of the Open Evening brochure)

➤ First Priority is given to students in the following 5 categories:

1a) STUDENTS ATTENDING YEAR 11 IN THE FOLLOWING SCHOOLS:

St. Benedict's College

Philip Morant*

Colchester High School

St. Helena*

Honywood

Colchester Academy*

Manningtree*

Stanway*

The Gilbert*

St. Mary's

Thomas, Lord Audley*

1b) and* Students who live in the catchment area of the asterisked (*) schools regardless of which school they have attended up to 16 years of age.

College Admissions

First Priority also for:

1c) Students attending Year 11 in any Secondary School located in the Borough of Colchester (such as Colchester County High School, CRGS, Thurstable, Holmwood House).

and

1d) Students who have a permanent parental residence which is closer to the Colchester Borough boundary than the nearest other Sixth Form provider of A level.

First Priority also for:

1e) Students who attend Year 11 in the following schools located outside the Colchester Borough boundary where there are good links within schools and/or where there have been traditions of high numbers of year 11 students choosing to study at the College:

College Admissions

Alec Hunter

Clacton County High

Colne Community College

East Bergholt High

Hadleigh High

Harwich & Dovercourt High

Hedingham

Holbrook

The Maltings

New Rickstones

Notley High

Ormiston Sudbury Academy

The Plume

The Ramsey

Stour Valley

Tabor High

Tendring Technology College

Thomas Gainsborough

✈ For those who are not in the 'First Priority' categories, for September 2022 entry, we would expect to be able to offer places to around 80% of those applicants who apply by the 31 January 2023 deadline.

Priority is given where there are:



College Admissions

- ✦ Strong 'course reasons' i.e. courses which cannot be studied more locally and where the College has places remaining.
- ✦ Where 'course reasons' are equal, offers of places would then be based upon distance from the College.
- ✈ A very limited number of A level courses may not be available as a choice to applicants who are not in the first 'Category of Admissions' for September 2023 entry.
Exactly which A level courses that this will apply to will not be clear until March 2023.
- ✈ Applicants from further afield are urged to carefully consider the issues of cost, availability and timetabling of transport services before applying.

College Admissions

- ✈ It is essential that all applications for September 2023 entry are received, online, by 31 January 2023.
- ✈ Decisions and 'Offers' will be made and communicated by mid-March 2023.
- ✈ Substantive information regarding admissions matters, as well as more general information, can be obtained from the website: www.colchsfc.ac.uk



Welcome to The Sixth Form College, Colchester

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Latest Announcements

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

[UPDATES RE. CORONAVIRUS ARRANGEMENTS](#)

[OPEN EVENINGS for 2023 entry will be held on 19 and 20 October 2022 - 6.15pm to 9.15pm. No booking necessary. More information coming soon.](#)

www.colchsfc.ac.uk

Applications



➤ Applications for 2023 entry will open on Friday 21 October 2022.

➤ Applications are submitted using an online facility via the College

Website:

<https://www.colchsfc.ac.uk/applications/>



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