

**WELCOME TO  
THE SIXTH FORM COLLEGE  
OPEN EVENING – OCTOBER 2019**



# Purpose of the evening

- 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

## □ A specialist Sixth Form College.

- A 'full' and broad academic sixth form experience in a 16-18 specialist 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.
- Our students have timetabled academic classes on each of the 5 weekdays\* – and the timetabled classes for each of the individual A level subjects studied will be spread through 4 of the 5 days of each week (a high regularity of subject teaching for each student).
  - \* An example of a 'typical' student timetable is on page 37 within the Prospectus.
- All academic classes are taught on our North Hill campus. A very strong College community ethos.

# The Sixth Form College

- ❑ Opened in 1987 - Over 30 years of very successful experience in delivering A levels and a sixth form education.
- ❑ The only specialist Sixth Form College in the area.
- ❑ Excellent accommodation and facilities – specifically designed for 16-18 year olds in sixth form study.

Many enhancements and additions to accommodation and facilities have been achieved over the last 10 years.

# The Sixth Form College

- ❑ Just under 3,000 full time 16-18 year old students (virtually the same as in 2010).
- ❑ Average academic class size:
  - Approximately 17 in 2018/19.
  - Average class sizes are relatively low compared to the national average sixth form class sizes in state sector schools / academies and colleges – and our average class sizes are 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 – in a context of the Government instigation of very deep cuts in resource allocations to support 16-18 education in England from 2011.
- ❑ The College offers many individual A level subjects which are not now provided in many local school sixth form environments e.g. German, Spanish, Music, Art History, Electronics, Product Design, Dance....

# 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 value-added terms, enabling positive progression at age 18.
- ❑ A 'traditional' and 'full' academic sixth form experience – in a young adult environment.
- ❑ 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 2 alternative academic programmes;

## **A Level Programme (2 years)**

- The Government instigated a series of reforms to the national A level system between 2015 and 2017:

A levels are, again, 2 year 'linear' courses (i.e. they are not 'modular' and AS levels are not generally taken). A level assessments and exams are 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.

- Students generally choose to study 3 (or for some 4) A level (or equivalent) courses from a choice of over 50 subject options.

# 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 3<sup>rd</sup>, and possibly 4<sup>th</sup>, 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 4<sup>th</sup> A level course.
- A level Geography and/or Biology and/or Chemistry students – have an option of also studying, A level Geology (Earth Science) and/or A level Environmental Science.
- 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 3 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

- Many of you will not yet have a career aim in mind.
- You may not have a specialism and you might want to choose a diverse range of subjects, to keep your options open.
- At your interview, we will advise you on your package of subjects and ensure that it will give you plenty of progression opportunities.
- However diverse the academic subjects you choose, you will not encounter timetable clashes.

# A level programmes – The option of Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)

- All A level students can also choose to study for an individual, focussed EPQ;
  - An EPQ can easily be related to support career progression areas e.g. Medicine, Health, Architecture, Finance, Engineering, Teaching, Sport ...

or

- Subject specific EPQ options include English, Creative Writing, History, Archaeology, Physics, MFL's, Computing, Music Technology, Psychology, Law, Anthropology, World Development, Dance, Performing Arts/Drama, Textiles and Art.

or

- There are 'generic' opportunities for completing an EPQ in any area of academic interest.
- EPQs are generally undertaken from April of Year 1 through to Autumn of Year 2.
- EPQs are half an A level and are viewed as excellent preparation for HE.

# Programmes of study – Advanced Foundation

For those with more modest GCSE achievement backgrounds;

**Advanced Foundation Programme** (1 year) – includes opportunities to improve key GCSEs and add new GCSE or equivalent courses. Some students will also add a level 3 course. For many there is the ultimate aim of then progressing to A level or other 'level 3' options after year one study.

# Programmes of study

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

All subject information sheets are within the Prospectus (pages 38-94) - or alternatively on an ongoing basis are available electronically from the College website via the 'Courses' link.

# A level programme – more detail

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

- A 4<sup>th</sup> A level subject choice

or

- An alternative qualification based course or supplementary skills based or vocational course e.g.:

- Core Maths (generally for students choosing any one of fourteen numerate A levels – but not 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

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\*For strong linguists there is a choice of studying GCSE Spanish or GCSE Italian ‘from scratch’ in one academic year.

\*\*EPQ’s will generally be started in the Spring period of Year 1 – and therefore does not need to be chosen until Spring 2021.

# A level programme – more detail

- Or alternatively (and the likely choice for a good number of students);
  - The 4<sup>th</sup> (or for some, a 5<sup>th</sup>) course choice will be an Additional Study – with a choice from approximately 70 options available.
    - More details later and full detail in the Additional Studies Handbook.

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**All students** follow the **College Tutorial Programme** in addition to their chosen Programme of Study/academic courses.

# Additional Studies

- ❑ Available to all students. Options from approx. 70 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.
  - Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award.
  - Coaching Sport and Physical Education.
  - Medics Programme.
  - Pre-Teaching Programme.
  - Lawyers Programme.
  - Range of Journalism and Media related opportunities – including College Magazine, Storm Radio Station.
  - Financial Certificate.
  - A wide range of other interest or skills based courses e.g. Signing for the Deaf, Enterprise, Work Experience, Debating ...

The Additional Studies Booklet for 2019/20, provides the full listing of the courses offered this academic year - and is posted on the College website (via the Documents section). The 2020/21 Additional Studies programme offering will be very similar. (20/21 Booklet to be distributed in June 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. Chess, 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 ...
- 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 e.g. Boxing, Clubbercise, Zumba, Cheerleading, Yoga, Indoor Cricket . . .
- Health education, monitoring and activities.
- Charity activities.
- Citizenship and community activities.

continued...



# Extra-curricular programme

- Performing arts – including productions, events, trips and visits, workshops, Storm Record label.
- Visual and creative arts – including exhibitions, Arts and Culture Festival, trips, workshops, visiting artists.
- Media – including Storm Radio, work experience, magazine, visits and workshops.
- Law – Lawyers group, bar mock trial competition, work experience.
- Student involvement and leadership experiences – including College Council Executive Committee and the six committees, College Ambassador Programme, volunteering, active citizenship, a series of peer mentoring programmes, Library Champions.
- Charitable activities – including Russ Shop and Russ Foundation collections, Pink Day, Red Nose Day, World Mental Health Day, Christmas hampers, activities (including toilet-twinning), events (including talent shows, fashion show), Charity Committee.

# The Tutorial Programme

- All students receive pastoral support from their Personal Tutor, - seen daily in registration.
- Further personal development and 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.
  - Careers and preparation for progression.
  - Social action (charity, community, volunteering and citizenship) elements.

# A level programme – entry criteria

- 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.

- 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.

# A level programme - entry criteria (continued)

- Each individual A level subject will have important specific entry criteria.
- Students wishing to study most of the A level courses in the social sciences and/or humanities area, will need to achieve at least one, and sometimes two, GCSE grade 5 or above in predominantly written based GCSE subjects (from GCSE English Language or English Literature or History or Sociology or Religious Studies). A number of these subjects will require a specific minimum grade in one of the GCSE English courses.
- A good number of A level subjects have a minimum grade requirement in GCSE Maths.

# AFP programmes - entry criteria

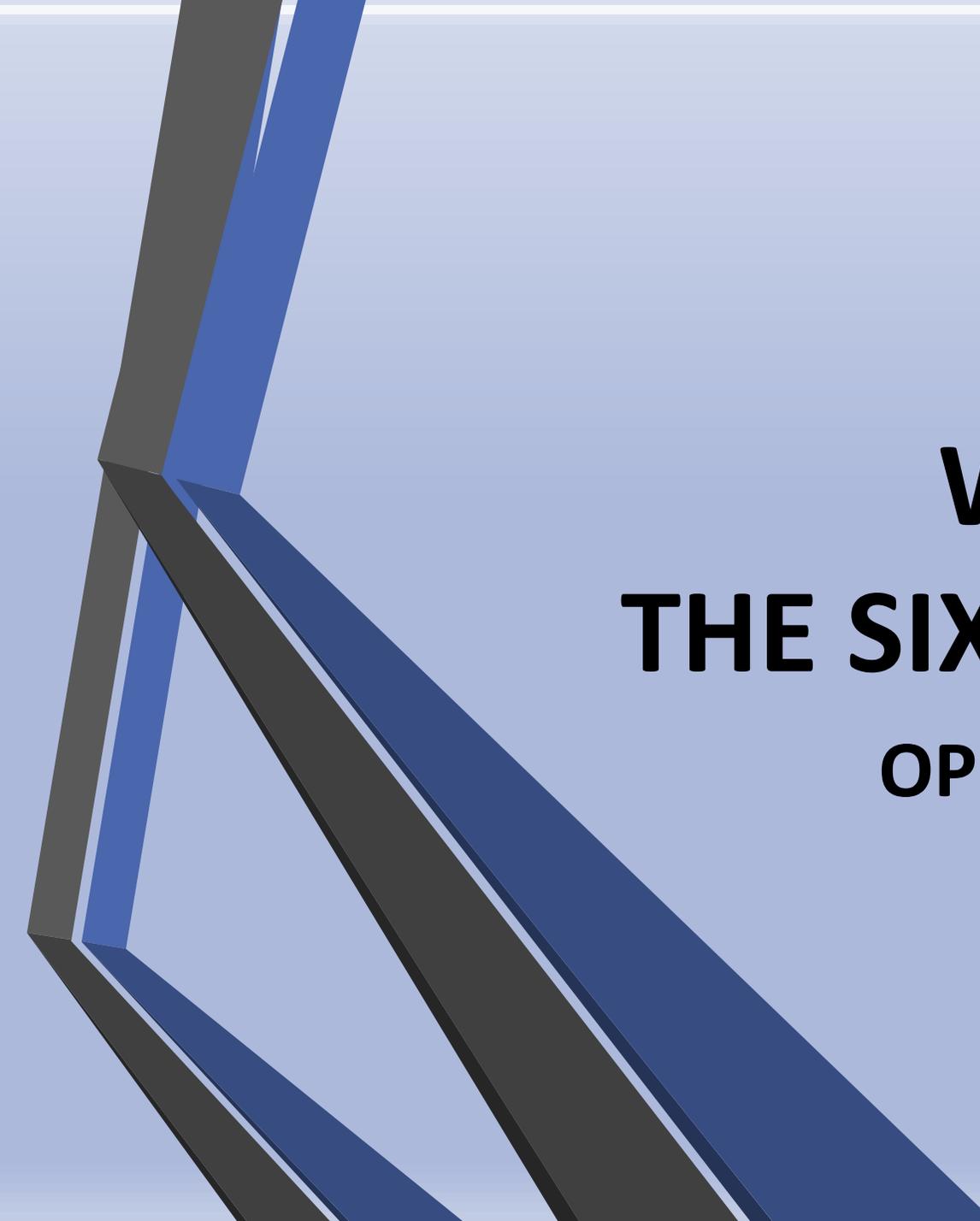
## **Advanced Foundation Programme**

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.

The important detail regarding the specific course entry criteria for each course is within in the Prospectus (curriculum section - pages 38 to 94). This information also on the website 'Courses' section.

# 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.



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# How does one judge the success of a post-16 institution?

## □ Criteria should include:

- Levels of academic achievement/examination results including overall 'value-added' achievements.
- Retention levels.
- Wider achievements.
- Student destinations.
- The quality of relationships.
- Levels of student satisfaction and contentment.

# How does one judge the success of a post-16 institution?

- Parent and community perceptions.
- Former student perceptions.
- Links with the community.
- Development of skills and preparations for higher education, employment and adult life.
- External inspections and other assessments.
- Demand for places.

# Academic achievement

- Students at the College achieve an excellent overall package of sixth form results (at A level or IB) well above the national average for school sixth forms and colleges. This represents high 'value added' when compared to GCSE results.
- A very high percentage of students at the College achieve 3 A level passes (the standard requirement for university entrance) - above the national average for school sixth forms and colleges.
- 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.

# External assessment

- College has consistently had very strong external assessments:
  - OFSTED inspections
  - IB five Year Review
  
- 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.

# College admissions

First Priority:

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\*

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:

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

and

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.

# College admissions

First Priority also for:

- 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 have been traditions of high numbers of year 11 students choosing to study at the College:

Alec Hunter

Colne Community College

East Bergholt High

Hadleigh High

Harwich & Dovercourt High

Hedingham

Holbrook Academy

The Maltings Academy

Notley High

The Plume, Maldon

Ramsey

Stoke College

Stour Valley Community School

Tabor High

Thomas Gainsborough

# College admissions

- For those who are not in the 'First Priority' categories, for September 2020 entry, we would expect to be able to offer places to around 80% of those applicants who apply by the 31 January 2020 deadline.

Priority is given where there are:

- 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.

# College admissions

- 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 2020 entry.

Exactly which A level courses that this will apply to will not be clear until March 2020.

- Applicants from further afield are urged to carefully consider the issues of cost, availability and timetabling of transport before applying.
- It is essential that all applications for September 2020 entry are received, online, by 31 January 2020.
- Decisions and 'Offers' will be made and communicated by mid-March 2020.
- Substantive information regarding admissions matters, as well as more general information, can be obtained from the website: [www.colchsfc.ac.uk](http://www.colchsfc.ac.uk)

[www.colchsfc.ac.uk](http://www.colchsfc.ac.uk)

The screenshot shows the homepage of The Sixth Form College Colchester. At the top is a dark navigation bar with icons and text for: About, Applications, Contacts, Courses, Documents, Job Vacancies, News, Results, Term Dates, and GDPR/DPA. Below this is a large hero image of three smiling students (two girls and one boy) in front of a blue entrance. Overlaid on the image is the text "Welcome to The Sixth Form College, Colchester". Below the hero image is a "Home" breadcrumb. A "Latest Announcements" section contains two links: "Open Evenings for 2020 Entry will be held on 23 and 24 October 2019 - 6.00pm to 9.00pm. No booking necessary." and "Update re First Essex Bus Route 75 From Maldon and Tiptree". Below the announcements are four content tiles: "Applications" with a prospectus cover, "Exam Results" with a group of students, "Courses" with a classroom scene, and "GDPR/DPA" with a student walking.

About Applications Contacts Courses Documents Job Vacancies News Results Term Dates GDPR/DPA

# Welcome to The Sixth Form College, Colchester

Home

### Latest Announcements

[Open Evenings for 2020 Entry will be held on 23 and 24 October 2019 - 6.00pm to 9.00pm. No booking necessary.](#)

[Update re First Essex Bus Route 75 From Maldon and Tiptree](#)

Applications Exam Results Courses GDPR/DPA

# Using Open Evenings effectively

Advice is available for both specific and general queries:

On the Concourse (1<sup>st</sup> floor - main building):

- Travel
- Financial Support
- Admissions
- Curriculum – General advice including Extended Project Qualification
- General Guidance
- Careers and Higher Education Guidance
- Learning Support

# Using the Open Evenings effectively

- Prospectus collection – from the Concourse or Midsite Reception.
- Applications – the on-line facility is available on the College website and opens at 7am on Friday (25 October). Alternatively, paper Application Forms can be requested from the College Admissions Office.
- Main Refectory (Ground Floor Main Building) will open from 6.00pm to 8.30pm. Russ Shop (2<sup>nd</sup> floor main building) 6.00pm to 8pm.



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