



THE SIXTH FORM COLLEGE
COLCHESTER



ACADEMIC ASPIRATIONS

OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUR MOST AMBITIOUS, HIGH-ACHIEVING STUDENTS

The college provides an enormous range of opportunities, activities and guidance for all our students and we create individualised programmes and support for every student, including those with the highest aspirations.

Every year, several hundred of our students progress to the most selective universities including Oxford, Cambridge and other Russell Group/Sutton 30 institutions. Many of them will achieve places on the most competitive courses including law, medicine, mathematics, architecture and others, having achieved top grades at A Level.

This leaflet outlines the opportunities, support and guidance available at college to help students achieve the highest aspirations.

ASPIRATIONS AND VISION

The AV Programme is for A Level students with ambitious plans. It is an exciting programme of weekly events, including talks and discussions, mini lectures, visits, advice and expert speakers. Its aims are to broaden horizons, encourage bold choices and help students navigate the process of applying for the most prestigious places in higher education. Our AV coordinator is an extra point of contact and much valued source of guidance for students who sign up to the programme.

OXBRIDGE SUPPORT

For students who may wish to apply to Oxford or Cambridge, expert guidance begins in the first term at college. Our two Oxbridge coordinators (one for the arts subjects, one for STEMM) are both Oxbridge graduates who provide initial information and then organise opportunities for potential applicants to meet former college students currently studying at Oxford and Cambridge. Later in the year, they will have one to one interviews with the relevant coordinator. Parents can find out more at the Oxbridge Briefing Evening. The support then continues with advice on super-curricular activities, the personal statement, entrance tests and interview preparation and practice.

DOCTORS, DENTISTS AND VETS

Aspiring medics join a dedicated group to learn more about the medical profession and prepare for the challenging selection processes to enter medical school. Students get help and encouragement with arranging relevant work experience, preparing for additional admissions tests and practising the rigorous interviews, including the "multi-mini" or "speed-dating" interviews. Specialist staff have expert knowledge of the precise requirements of individual medical schools and universities, which they use to help students make successful applications.

LAWYERS

The Lawyers group is for students who don't study law at A Level but who want to explore law as a future career. As well as offering information and careers advice, the course develops core skills, such as debating and public speaking. Students take part in mock trials, often competing and succeeding at national level.

SUPPORT WITH PREPARATION FOR UNIVERSITY ENTRANCE EXAMS

Several universities either require or prefer candidates to take additional admissions tests, for example STEP (for mathematics), BMAT and UKCAT (for medicine) and LNAT (for law). Help is available from subject specialists to prepare for these tests. Some of the STEP students join the group not because their chosen university requires it, but just for the joy of extra maths!

OPPORTUNITIES TO ENTER PRESTIGIOUS NATIONAL COMPETITIONS

Over recent years, college students have seen real success in national competitions such as the Biology, Chemistry and Physics Olympiads, The Maths Challenge and The Bar Mock Trial Competition. They even won a competition where knowledge of physics was required to crack a safe!

BROADER PROGRAMMES OF STUDY AND EXTRA QUALIFICATIONS

Students with strong GCSE grades have the opportunity to study 4, or even 5 A Level options, from a range of approximately 50, including options in 'harder to find' subject areas such as A Levels in further mathematics, classical civilisations, geology, art history, German.

We also tailor Extended Project Qualifications (similar to a university dissertation) to suit students' needs, interests and aspirations. With the help of their supervisors, students have completed excellent projects in areas such as law, medicine, anthropology, archaeology and creative writing.

THE CHANCE TO FURTHER DEVELOP LANGUAGE SKILLS

We offer A Levels and GCSEs in a wide range of languages including German, alongside opportunities to explore languages such as Latin, Greek, Mandarin Chinese and Japanese.

A HUGE RANGE OF EXTRA-CURRICULAR AND SUPER-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Students have access to a wealth of new opportunities and experiences, some academic, others which will stretch and develop them in different ways, from overseas trips and volunteering to performing and debating.

A COLLEGE ETHOS WHICH FOSTERS SUCCESS BEYOND A LEVEL

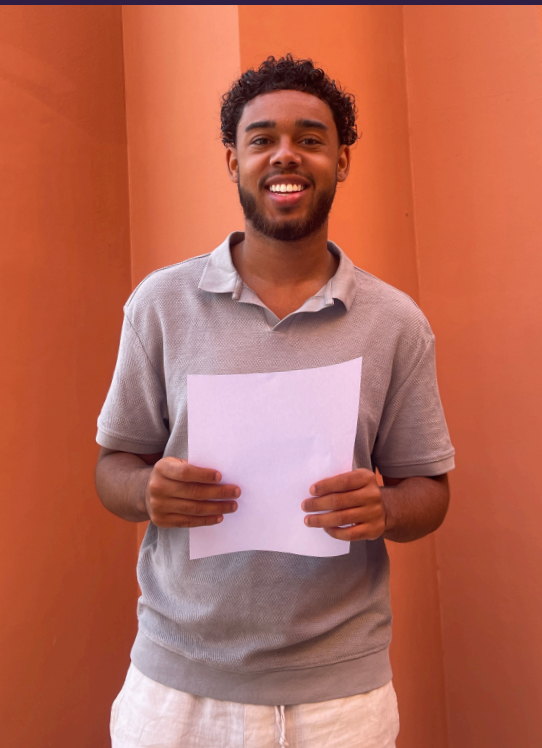
Many of the familiar aspects of school life carry on in a similar vein at the college, but in a more 'university style' young adult environment. Students will join academic subject classes with an average of 17 or 18 students and will meet with their teacher for a regular pattern of 4 double lessons per week in each A Level subject, as part of a timetabled day, from 9am to 4pm.

Individual care is very important at college. Each student sees their personal tutor every day, giving students and parents an important first point of contact.

Staff guide and encourage students to become independent thinkers and self-motivated learners. This ensures that, not only do they succeed in getting places but, once at university, they thrive. Our students consistently achieve stunning degree results.



Elsie (pictured here with Nellie) joined us from Manningtree High School and two years later she moved on to read English and modern languages at Sheffield, taking with her a stunning two A* grades and an A grade at A Level, alongside another A* grade in her EPQ



Isaiah, who joined us from St Helena School, achieved two A* grades and an A grade at A Level, before joining a prestigious solicitor degree apprenticeship programme at Eversheds Sutherland.

A very substantial number of this year's leavers successfully attained the grades necessary to progress to degree courses, including large numbers progressing to some of the very most competitive courses in the country.

Sam, who joined us from St Benedict's College, celebrated a stunning three A* grades in chemistry, maths and biology, alongside a B grade in further maths. He's now at The University of York studying biochemistry.

Rosie, who joined us from Thomas Gainsborough School, gained a place at Clare College Cambridge to read English, having achieved two A* grades and an A grade at A Level, alongside another A* grade for her extended project. Whilst she was here, she also picked up a national writer's award as part of our additional studies programme.

Former Tendring Technology College student **Albert** achieved excellent A*AA grades and moved onto Cambridge to read human, social & political sciences.

Melissa, from Manningtree High School, progressed to Cambridge to study French and Italian –taking with her a stunning FOUR A* grades at A Level, including three A*grades in three separate languages! – French, Spanish and Italian.

Sam, who joined us after completing his GCSEs at The Gilbert School, scored A* grades in biology, geography and history, with an A grade in chemistry too. He moved onto Queen's College at Oxford to study biology.

Madeline (pictured on the front cover), who joined us from The Maltings Academy, achieved A* grades across all of her A Levels (chemistry, biology and environmental science), and was one of a number of students heading to Oxford to study science last year.