

THE SIXTH FORM COLLEGE, COLCHESTER



Examination Results and Provisional Destinations Data

Relating to

Academic Year 2025-2026
(as available October 2026)

INTRODUCTION

Outstanding Student Retention, Achievements and Progression – 2025/26 year

The College was awarded **Ofsted Outstanding** in spring 2024. We were graded Outstanding in all of the categories: overall effectiveness, quality of education, behaviour and attitudes, personal development, leadership and management, education programmes for young people and provision for learners with high needs. Since being awarded Ofsted Outstanding, our students' results and retention have improved still further, year on year.

The Sixth Form College is extremely proud of the reputation it has established over the last thirty nine years for very high academic standards and the outstanding achievements of our students – as well as the outstanding range of wider activities, experiences, pastoral care and personal development programmes we provide for our students. College students have consistently achieved excellent A level results and we have also been delighted with student achievements in other qualification areas including Applied General, GCSE and more specialist supplemental courses, such as Extended Project Qualifications, Core Maths, and Coaching Sport.

Our students thrive in the supportive, inclusive, young adult environment that we provide. They have the opportunity to participate in a huge range of activities which will help to prepare them for successful progression into Higher Education, employment and adult life. The College is a happy, positive, caring community. Students and parents tell us that they appreciate the high levels of support we give, helping students to fulfil their potential, both academically and personally. Our students' high levels of academic success, together with their impressive achievements in a wide range of other activities, demonstrate that the College is a place where an inclusive cohort of young people, including those with health or personal difficulties, can develop and flourish.

Results in 2025/26 were strong in 'absolute' terms and perhaps more meaningfully, in 'value added' terms. What this means in practice is young people and parents can be confident that students here make very good progress, whether they join us with stellar GCSE grades or more modest results. Our 100 highest achieving students in College came from 30 different secondary schools and all achieved at least three A grades at A level, with over 40 students achieving two or more A levels at A*. Their achievements once again exceeded those gained in most selective and independent schools.

At GCSE, the pass rates at the College in 2025/26 at grades 9-4, notably in GCSE re-sits in Maths and English Language, were once again outstanding - significantly above the national average Post 16 figures in all school sixth forms and colleges.

As a result of their strong results and achievements, virtually all students completing two year Advanced level study programmes at the College had the choice to progress into degree courses in Higher Education. In Summer 2026, over 1000 of our very successful students chose to progress on university degree courses in a very wide variety of fields, including significant numbers who commenced degree courses in the prestigious fields of Medicine and related, Sciences, Engineering, Computing, IT, Mathematics, Languages, English, Economics, Journalism, Art and Design, Social Sciences, Law, Music, Business, Management, Finance, History, Modern Foreign Languages and Geography. Many of the 'class of 2026' students commenced degree courses in Autumn 2026 whilst others have 'deferred' and will start degree courses in 2027. Other students have progressed to specialist higher or further education courses in the fields of Art, Photography, Performing Arts, Finance and Accounting, Engineering and IT. Over 250 of the Summer 2025 leavers have or will progress to degree courses at 'high tariff' universities, (sometimes known as "Russell Group" or "Sutton 30". These include Oxford and Cambridge, and other highly selective universities.) Roughly 10% of students have chosen a 'year out' – and in many instances they have achieved university places for commencement in Autumn 2027. A sizeable cohort of students successfully progressed onto Degree Apprenticeships or employment with training or community, voluntary or third sector opportunities.

Each year the Government produces Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) data showing the success rates of students at university linked to their sixth form background. The published HESA data has consistently shown that former students of this College perform outstandingly well on university degree courses – the HESA data (see tables below) shows their performance is significantly above the national ‘norms’ and this demonstrates that the skills our students develop while they study at the College provide them with a very strong basis to succeed at degree level.

All Universities					
Provider	First	Upper Second	First and Upper Second	Lower Second	Third
The Sixth Form College Colchester	32.7%	49.9%	82.6%	14.8%	1.3%
Sixth Form College sector	29.5%	49.7%	79.2%	17.1%	2.2%
State sector	28.6%	49.7%	78.2%	17.0%	2.2%

Russell Group					
Provider	First	Upper Second	First and Upper Second	Lower Second	Third
The Sixth Form College Colchester	35.9%	56.5%	92.4%	7.6%	0.0%
Sixth Form College sector	33.1%	54.6%	87.7%	10.4%	1.0%
State sector	32.2%	54.3%	86.6%	11.1%	1.1%

Students from areas with lowest HE participation					
Provider	First	Upper Second	First and Upper Second	Lower Second	Third
The Sixth Form College Colchester	28.0%	50.3%	78.3%	16.1%	2.1%
Sixth Form College sector	24.2%	48.5%	72.7%	22.2%	3.2%
State sector	23.7%	49.0%	72.6%	21.7%	3.3%

Continuation Rates after first year of study			
Provider	All HE institutions	Russell Group	Students from areas with lowest HE participation
The Sixth Form College Colchester	91.0%	94.0%	90.6%
Sixth Form College sector	89.2%	93.7%	87.5%
State sector	87.8%	93.8%	84.7%

Student achievements in a variety of other areas are also very impressive – and it was pleasing that there was a vast spread of wider student activities in the 2025/26 academic year. In the fields of Sport, Music, Drama, Dance and Visual Arts, large numbers of College students have consistently demonstrated excellent standards. Students participated in active citizenship and voluntary service in the community. Large groups of students undertook the Pre-Teaching programme, which involves support work on a regular basis in local schools, or the “DDV” programme, which provides support and preparation for students aspiring to be doctors, dentists and vets. There was also a very successful and popular Lawyers programme. A sizeable cohort of students were involved in a range of applied media and journalism activities including the Young Reporter Scheme, College Magazine, work placements through the Tuskar Trust Scheme or the College Radio Station. A further group of students were involved in sports coaching experiences which include organising sports projects activity with local schools. Over 2,000 of our students chose to get involved in sporting or fitness activities at the College in 2025/26.

Involvement in the College Council and its very active committees, the Sports Leadership programme, placements in local schools and our Peer Mentoring support programmes all offered students opportunities to develop leadership, life and employability skills. There is also a high level of student involvement in charitable and volunteering work. All students had the opportunity to participate in a range of day or residential trips and visits – some were linked to subjects but many others were offered on an extra-curricular basis across the College.

Jo Cadman
Principal

October 2026

SUMMARY OF EXAM RESULTS IN QUALIFICATION AREAS

A level Subject	Number of Entries	A*	A	B	C	D	E	College % A* to E
ACCOUNTING	66		6	13	16	19	9	95%
ANCIENT HISTORY	34		5	6	10	12	1	100%
ART AND DESIGN (FINE ART)	92	14	17	30	18	11	2	100%
ART AND DESIGN (PHOTOGRAPHY)	56	6	9	31	8	1	1	100%
ART AND DESIGN (SCULPTURE)**	11		2	1	4	3	1	100%
ART HISTORY (ART AND DESIGN: CRITICAL & CONTEXTUAL STUDIES)	17	1	2	4	9	1		100%
BIOLOGY	213	11	29	58	57	37	10	95%
BUSINESS**	211	3	26	50	54	45	28	98%
CHEMISTRY	155	12	32	32	37	24	14	97%
CLASSICAL CIVILISATION	64		5	31	13	11	4	100%
COMPUTER SCIENCE	103	1	15	32	21	18	15	99%
DANCE	13	1	1	2	7	2	0	100%
DRAMA AND THEATRE STUDIES	33			1	11	11	8	93%
ECONOMICS	148	3	24	37	36	34	13	99%
ELECTRONICS	19	7	4	5	2	1		100%
ENGLISH LANGUAGE & LITERATURE**	94	3	8	27	30	19	6	99%
ENGLISH LANGUAGE	121	1	6	30	46	27	9	98%
ENGLISH LITERATURE	131	8	10	46	28	19	16	97%
ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES	90	4	5	30	26	17	5	97%
FILM STUDIES	80		8	38	26	6	1	99%
FRENCH	27		4	13	5	3	2	100%
GEOGRAPHY	131	7	23	38	33	26	3	99%
GEOLOGY (EARTH SCIENCE)	39	3	6	7	7	9	5	95%
GERMAN	21	5	5	9	1	1		100%
GOVERNMENT & POLITICS	94	10	9	34	22	12	4	97%
GRAPHICAL COMMUNICATION	82	9	15	29	17	7	4	99%
HISTORY (3 SEPARATE TIME PERIODS)	228	8	35	67	60	40	11	97%
ITALIAN	9	4	5					100%
LAW	177	11	17	38	42	37	27	92%
MATHEMATICS	266	13	65	50	57	43	28	96%
MATHEMATICS (FURTHER)	29	2	7	14	3	2		97%

A level Subject	Number of Entries	A*	A	B	C	D	E	College % A* to E
MEDIA STUDIES	110		6	28	34	35	7	100%
MUSIC	23		4	5	8	4	2	100%
MUSIC TECHNOLOGY	30	1	1	4	7	12	3	93%
PHILOSOPHY	63		7	14	17	9	10	90%
PHYSICS	107	4	25	27	19	16	13	97%
PRODUCT DESIGN (RESISTANT MATERIALS)	37	1	3	5	10	14	4	100%
PSYCHOLOGY	367	19	69	110	89	47	24	98%
RELIGIOUS STUDIES	48	1	6	10	16	10	4	98%
SOCIOLOGY**	305	12	43	70	88	52	26	95%
SPANISH	21		4	10	7			100%
SPORT AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION	77	7	4	18	26	15	6	99%
STATISTICS	75		6	11	18	12	21	91%
TEXTILES	38	4	4	19	8	3		100%

NB Please note that there are very significant differences in the national grade allocation profile awarded by subject across the spread of A level subjects – particularly at A* and A grade allocations.

**A proportion of the students entered for Business, English Language and Literature or Sociology studied these specific A level courses for just one academic year prior to their exams. Re A Sculpture, all the students studied the course for just one academic year prior to assessments.

**LEVEL 3 / APPLIED GENERAL EXTENDED CERTIFICATE (A LEVEL EQUIVALENT) SUBJECT RESULTS
SUMMER 2026**

Level 3 Subject	Number of Entries	A*	A	B	C	D	E	College % A* to E
CRIMINOLOGY	215	14	33	69	58	32	4	98%
EXTENDED PROJECT QUALIFICATION*	137	18	38	39	25	7	4	96%

*EPQ is a half A level sized qualification

Applied General Extended Certificate (Level 3) Subject	Number of Entries	Distinction*	Distinction	Merit	Pass	College % D* - Pass
APPLIED BUSINESS	35	7	15	11	2	100%
APPLIED LAW	19	3	8	7	1	100%
HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE	87	19	32	21	12	97%
INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY	48	6	13	15	12	96%
PERFORMING ARTS	15	3	4	7	1	100%
SPORT	26	3	11	9	3	100%

**GCSE RESULTS
SUMMER 2026**

Key GCSE 're-sits' and overall average % pass rates (Grades 9 to 4)

		College 2025/26	National (17 year olds - all Post 16 school and college providers) 2025/26
Grades 9-4	GCSE Mathematics	40%	
	GCSE English Language	78%	
	GCSE overall	51%	



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