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THE COLLEGE

The Sixth Form College, Colchester provides prestigious academic education for 16 – 19 year olds, combined with excellent pastoral care and support, personal development opportunities and a fantastic range of wider activities.
WELCOME

Thank you for your interest in studying at The Sixth Form College from September 2017.

The decisions you make in Year 11 will shape the next few years of your life and influence your preparations for study in Higher Education and/or employment and also your adult life. We strongly advise you to take the necessary time to explore your range of options properly and to think well forward.

If you decide to apply to the College, your application should be for a programme of full-time academic study, with a range of specific courses that have been well considered and fit in well with your talents, interests and future aims. There is a jump in the academic level required to be successful for study at AS/A-level or IB, compared to GCSE. It is important that students are aware of the need for an academic focus and development.

We believe studying a full-time sixth form programme of continuing general academic education at the College represents an excellent choice for a good proportion of Year 11 students, following the completion of GCSEs.

We look forward to helping you find out more about the exciting opportunities at the College.

Ian MacNaughton
Principal
STUDENT PROFILE

“The fact that I was able to take the opportunity to study Japanese alongside my A-Levels was one of the major reasons that I chose the Sixth Form College”

Nicole, who joined us from Tabor Academy, gained some excellent A-Level grades, including grade A in Biology and English.
There is much to consider when planning for further study and we hope that the following ‘question and answer’ section will help you in making the decisions that are right for you.

WHAT DOES THE COLLEGE OFFER?

The Sixth Form College, Colchester provides prestigious full-time academic education for 16 – 19 year olds, combined with excellent pastoral care, personal development opportunities and a fantastic range of wider activities. The College continues to work to provide a broad and relevant curriculum for its students. We encourage our students to set their sights high and expect them to study relatively demanding programmes.

A wide range of academic course choices, together with options from the large number of Additional Studies, and other extra-curricular activities, enable our students to devise personalised programmes that suit their individual needs and aspirations.

Additional support is also offered to students who wish to stretch themselves, for example, help with preparing for Oxbridge entrance and university applications. All students are encouraged to use the support and extension activities run by academic departments, together with the wide range of resources available on the College intranet. There are also opportunities for one-to-one learning support and help with study skills available from our Learning Support team.

Our Tutorials and our review system encourage students to set themselves challenging targets and to take responsibility for their own learning. Students are expected to work to develop the resilience and skills required to complete their courses successfully so they can move onto the next stage of their lives with confidence.

WILL I BE ABLE TO STUDY THE COMBINATION OF ACADEMIC COURSES THAT I WANT?

Yes. The College offers one of the widest selections of AS and A-Level courses in the country (including, for example, three different History A-Level courses and four different A/AS Maths courses). Given the size and breadth of our provision, we are able to ensure that you can select the combination of subjects that you want without worrying about whether they conflict with other choices on the timetable nor will be withdrawn due to low demand.

The College timetable will enable any combination of AS-Level subjects to be taken, and this is also generally the case on the International Baccalaureate and Advanced Foundation programme. Maintaining coherence, breadth and balance when making choices is important. (Please note that there is a small number of ‘disallowed’ course combinations – usually to ensure that you do not narrow your course choice too much).

Students taking AS-Level programmes of study, especially those seeking places on prestigious degree courses, are advised to include at least one and ideally two ‘facilitating subjects’ (these are like the “English Baccalaureate Diploma” subjects) within their programme – and many students will include 3 such subjects in their choices.

All of these matters can be discussed at interview and then again at Induction and Enrolment.
WILL I BE ABLE TO STUDY EVERYTHING ON ONE SITE?

Yes. At the Sixth Form College, we teach all of our courses on one purpose-built site in the centre of Colchester. Those of you who have passed the entrance on North Hill, but have not yet visited the site itself, may be surprised to find that there are eight buildings on the site, all specifically focused upon the academic teaching and learning of wider experiences for 16-19 year olds, without the distractions of other activities or age groups.

Many visitors to Colchester will be familiar with the iconic view of the main building, sitting on top of North Hill that can be seen as one drives up Balkerne Hill – including the huge windows for the Art Department that span the top of the entire building. Less immediately obvious are the seven other modern, purpose-built facilities. These include the recently completed Syd Kent Pavilion, with its ‘living roof’ and student social and study spaces and the three specialist buildings for Languages, Performance and ICT. A tour of the College might, for example, include a visit to a sound studio, a student run charity shop, an AstroTurf pitch, a language lab, an electronics workshop, a radio station and dance rehearsal rooms.

Students may find themselves spending time in busy social spaces one minute or seeking out a quiet area for study or support facilities the next. Apart from sport, work and community placements all our activities take place within the ease and security of one site in the heart of Colchester.

WILL I BE ABLE TO CHANGE MY CHOICES?

Yes. The choices that you make during your application are only the beginning of a process of getting you onto the right courses for you. If there are particular courses that you very much wish to study, it is important that you make this clear at your interview as a very small number of courses are declared ‘full’ after the interview process. However, there is usually a lot of flexibility available and we are in a position to review your options at Induction and Enrolment in order to suit your skills, interests and aspirations. At Induction in June, there is always the chance to meet members of the different departments and think options through before you firmly commit to a course. Even in the first week or two of teaching we can, in a limited number of cases, explore the option of making changes but, once the teaching year is fully underway, we do expect all students to complete all the individual courses that they have enrolled upon.
Some of our students who completed their studies in 2016:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Name</th>
<th>School Previously Attended</th>
<th>Achievements</th>
<th>Current Studies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rebecca</td>
<td>Coggeshall, previously a student at Honywood Community Science School</td>
<td>Achieved straight A* grades in A Level Economics, Geography and Spanish.</td>
<td>Economics and Spanish at the University of Leeds.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amy</td>
<td>Braintree, previously a student at Friend's School</td>
<td>Achieved A* grades in A Level Mathematics, French and Extended Project Qualification and an A grade in A Level German.</td>
<td>Modern Foreign Languages at UCL.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rachael</td>
<td>Braintree, previously a student at Tabor Academy</td>
<td>Achieved 3 A* grades in A Level English Literature, Geography and World Development and an A grade in A Level History.</td>
<td>Geography at the University of Cambridge.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abbie</td>
<td>Colchester, previously a student at The Gilberd School</td>
<td>Achieved straight A* grades in A Level Mathematics, Further Mathematics and Chemistry, also top grades in AS Levels in Further Mathematics and Science in Society.</td>
<td>Chemical Engineering at Imperial College.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kate</td>
<td>Colchester, previously a student at Philip Morant School</td>
<td>Achieved 5 grades at A* and A in A Level Mathematics, Further Mathematics, Chemistry, Resistant Materials and an Extended Project Qualification.</td>
<td>Mathematics at Durham.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James</td>
<td>Witham, previously a student at Gosfield School</td>
<td>Achieved straight A* grades in A Level Biology, Chemistry and Economics.</td>
<td>Medicine at UEA Medical School.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daniel</td>
<td>Coggeshall, previously a student at Honywood Community Science School</td>
<td>Achieved straight A* grades in A Level Biology, Geology and Environmental Studies.</td>
<td>Zoology at the University of Bristol.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Madeleine, who joined us from Colchester County High School, achieved the maximum possible score of 45 points for her International Baccalaureate Diploma – a truly remarkable achievement. Across the globe just 0.2% of those students who are awarded the Diploma achieve this score. Maddy has now accepted her place to study a degree in English at Kings College, University of Cambridge.
WHAT ACADEMIC GRADES WILL I NEED?

The Sixth Form College is a relatively comprehensive institution that welcomes students from a wide variety of educational backgrounds and who bring with them a broad range of achievements. Our published entry criteria for the different programmes of study and individual courses ensure that we are able to offer appropriate courses to students, which meet their needs and capabilities. Sixth Form study builds upon knowledge and skills gained at school and moves students through academic programmes, which normally culminate in written examinations. This is why your performance in GCSE examinations is a key interest to us, as we need to establish that a foundation of knowledge and skills is in place for us to build upon.

For AS and International Baccalaureate programmes of study, we normally require students to have at least five to seven GCSE passes at grade C or higher, usually including English or English Language and Mathematics. However, entry into certain subjects will require a grade B, or in a small number of cases, even a grade A or A* in certain key subject areas. For example, Biology and Chemistry require B’s in key science and maths GCSEs. In the same vein, many ‘written’ subjects such as History, Law or Philosophy may require one or two B grades in subjects that demand a high level of written ability, such as GCSE English or History. Full details of all entry criteria for all of our courses are published in the second part of this prospectus and it is important that you check these before making any firm decisions.

It is important that you gain a clear sense of the entry criteria for each course that you are interested in and that you are aware that these are very much ‘minimum’ expectations. All students, not just those with plans to proceed to prestigious university courses or career paths, will need to ensure that they take full advantage of opportunities at school to maximise their grades in all qualifications.

With a range of government reforms over the next few years, we will be dealing with a combination of ‘numbered’ and ‘lettered’ grades being presented to us by applicants. For the next few years, we will work with either, or in many cases, both. This prospectus lists these in the form of ‘lettered’ A-E grades, as the bulk of grades will still be issued in this format. We understand however, that English and Maths GCSE grades will be issued in the new ‘numbered’ (1-9) format. For Sept 2017 we will apply the following ‘conversion rate’: A* = 9, A = 7, B = 5, C = 4. (Please note that, in line with government reforms, it is very possible that these boundaries will shift slightly in subsequent years). We are already very much used to dealing with applicants who have sat (or even resat) qualifications at different points in the exam cycle during years 10 and 11 and will continue to take all such grades into consideration.

WHAT IF I DO NOT ACHIEVE THE GRADES THAT I NEED?

As part of your application process, we will ensure that we work closely with you to ensure that any courses offered to you are realistic, in the sense that you should be able to manage the course and succeed if you work hard and are in line with your plans and aspirations. We will also be clear with you about the targets that you need to achieve in order to ensure your place. Sometimes students are unable, for a variety of reasons, to achieve the grades that they need and in this case we will be available, on GCSE results day and beyond, to discuss further options and often this will require only minor amendments to your course. If, however, there is a more significant danger that you will not achieve the grades that you need to achieve your goals, please do not be afraid to discuss this at your interview. We offer a very wide range of courses and it is often the case that a range of possible alternatives can be discussed.
STUDENT PROFILE

Max, who worked extremely hard to improve his grades in his second year, achieved two A grades and an A* in his A Levels and is now going to study Mathematics at Queen Mary University of London.
HOW WILL COLLEGE BE DIFFERENT TO SCHOOL?

You will study a smaller number of subjects in a more specialist way and at a higher academic level.

Many of the familiar aspects of school life carry on in a similar vein at the College. You will usually join classes with an average of 17 or 18 students that meet with their teacher for a regular pattern of lessons every week. You will have a Personal Tutor who you will see every day and a weekly timetable of single or double lessons that last from 9.00am until 4.05pm. The routines of registers, target grades, homework, mock exams, etc. will all be very familiar from school and your work in the classroom will build upon and extend the style of work that you adopted for your GCSEs.

College is meant to be part of a journey from school onto higher education or employment and, as part of this, it is important that we adopt a more ‘adult’ approach to your learning. Staff will make clear demands of you in terms of attendance and achievement and work closely with you and your parents if needed, but you will find that the way you talk to and work with staff will reflect a more adult approach. You will call all staff by their first name and work closely with them in a way that encourages you to gradually take more responsibility for your own learning.

WHAT WILL MY WEEKLY TIMETABLE BE LIKE?

The College only offers full-time general education programmes of study and, as a student enrolling at the College, you are committing to participate in a full week of varied activities including timetabled academic lessons, a daily tutorial and any sports, cultural or other wider activities that you have chosen, as well as individual study.

The College academic day starts promptly at 9am and runs until 4.05pm (Monday to Friday). Many students travel from a considerable distance to study with us and we therefore work hard to ensure that all academic lessons and many of the choices of other activities take place within the main 9am – 4.05pm College day. However, a wide range of optional extra-curricular activities, such as sports and performing arts (including residential fieldwork and evening events) will also be offered outside of the timetabled framework.

The College day is a busy one. Lessons are generally 80-85 minutes (these are doubles) but there are also some 40 – 45 minute single lessons. On any given day, students are likely to attend lessons in three, possibly four of their different subject areas and on some days students will participate in their chosen Additional Study.

In total and on average first year students are likely to be involved in approximately 22 hours of timetabled classes each week but this can vary between a minimum of 21 hours and a maximum of 25 hours. First year students will have timetabled commitments on each day, Monday to Friday. You will be given an individual timetable after your enrolment, based upon the choices that you have made as part of the Interview, Induction and Enrolment process. It is important to note that all students are expected to fully attend and complete every course upon which they enrol in late August.

Any flexible time during the college day 9am – 4.05pm will need to be carefully managed, including use of a proportion of this time to complete assignments, as well as recreational and social time. It is not permissible for students to engage in part-time paid employment before 4.30pm Monday to Friday in term time.

You may leave the College site when you do not have timetabled commitments. This means that you will not always be required in College for the start of the day at 9.00am and may have an afternoon when you can leave before 4.05pm. Effective use of time is a key part of becoming an independent learner and the journey towards university or employment.
WILL I MAKE FRIENDS?

Any new school or college can be daunting at the beginning. One of the good aspects about joining the College is that, on your first day, everyone else in your year group will also be starting on that day - so everyone starts on an equal footing. The College offers an excellent opportunity to make an exciting fresh start in a new environment and, as part of this, the opportunity to widen the group of friends made at school. There is a wide number of students here, from a variety of backgrounds, so there are bound to be some that fit your interests and outlook. It will take time for people to get to know the College and each other, and this is why we organise a number of activities during Induction and Enrolment and we will work hard to ensure that you will soon feel at home.

The College aims to provide a supportive inclusive environment for all students qualified to undertake the programmes of study we are able to offer. The College has a strong commitment to and an excellent reputation for its pastoral care and guidance systems. Maintenance of a friendly and happy atmosphere is valued as an important part in contributing to students' success.

STUDENT PROFILE

“The Sixth Form College was always my first choice as it offered exactly the subjects that I wanted to do and I’m really glad that I went there.”

Mary, who joined us from Colne Community School and achieved 5 A grades in her final year at college before progressing to study Politics and Economics at Nottingham
WILL I BE ABLE TO CARRY ON WITH MY OTHER INTERESTS?

Yes. A very wide-ranging programme is available and students should make decisions based upon their own individual needs, interests, skills and aims.

You should look upon the College as providing an opportunity to broaden experience and to develop new skills. The number and type of courses chosen will be determined by many factors, including the demands of your academic programme, together with your particular interests and career aims. You are advised to choose one Additional Study course in the first instance, although you may choose to take part in further activities if these are available and fit into your overall programme. Personal Tutors will help with advice and guidance. These options normally run for two terms. Most are a commitment of one or two periods per week.

Performing Arts:

There is a wide range of facilities and opportunities for making music, dance and drama at the College. Whatever your current level of performance and whatever type of music, dance or drama you are interested in, you should be able to find ways of taking part. You do not have to be an AS-Level Music, Dance or Drama student to become involved in Additional Studies Performing Arts. All who are interested and enthusiastic are welcomed.

Examples of choices available include:

- Band
- Choir
- Dance Choreo Lab
- Contemporary Dance
- Drama Clubs – Shakespeare and Contemporary
- Music Instrumental Tuition
- Orchestra
- Productions
- Rock Music Workshop
- Theory of Music
- Performance Activities

The wide range of College concerts, dance productions and plays are not the only opportunities for you to perform. ‘Unplugged on the Concourse’ events and the annual Battle of the Bands competitions have also continued to produce student performances of a very impressive quality. A good audience is important, so even if you don’t feel you have the skills to take part you will be very welcome to be a part of these many events.

Other Activities:

Clubs and societies give you a chance to spend more time on activities connected with your studies or to follow interests that are outside your main timetable. Examples on offer include:

- Amnesty International
- Ceramics
- Christian Union
- Conservation Group
- Creative Writing
- Culture Committee
- Debating Society
- Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award
- Financial Studies Certificate
- Introduction to Japanese or Mandarin Chinese
- Medics (Year 2)
- Russ Fair Trade Coffee Shop
- Signing
- Storm Radio

Whether you just want to try to keep fit and have some fun, or you take your sport seriously and want to compete at the highest level, we have something to suit you. On-site sports facilities include a sports hall and all-weather pitch. This increases the range of sporting activities that can take place on the College campus. For sports requiring specialist sports fields or other facilities we will continue to provide free transport to other high quality venues around the town.

There are regular Wednesday afternoon matches for our teams in all the major sports and the College enters teams for local and national competitions in many other fields, including Cross Country, Swimming and Volleyball. Our successful teams also take part in the British Colleges Championships with regional events followed by National Finals held at the University of Bath.

An Annual Sports Award helps us to celebrate the tremendous contributions and achievements of our individual sportsmen and women and our successful teams.
STUDENT PROFILE

"College offered me the chance to keep up my fitness levels, alongside my academic studies"

Ellie, who joined us from Ipswich School and is now progressing to study Agriculture at The University of Essex having achieved excellent grades, including A grades in Geography, Biology and Environmental Science.
WHAT ARE THE CLASS SIZES?

The average class size at the College remains at a level of 17 students. This can, of course, vary a little from class to class, but it is extremely rare for any individual group to be less than 12 or more than 21 and nearly all groups are between 15 and 20 in size.

WHAT WILL THE TEACHERS BE LIKE?

Because the College focuses upon the delivery of courses such as A-Level and the International Baccalaureate for 16-19 year olds, we have been able to build up a team who are specialists and able to concentrate exclusively upon these focus areas. For example, an A-Level teacher in any of our departments may be working just with this one qualification type and age group, alongside a team of other professionals, who are also focussed solely upon that goal. Across all of our departments, it is highly likely that the team will include staff responsible for examining and moderation as part of our work with exam boards or the International Baccalaureate Organisation, or even staff who are responsible for textbook writing and staff training.

WHERE WILL I WORK AND SOCIALISE?

You will find that, when not in timetabled lessons, our students are free to use virtually the whole site. There are plenty of independent study facilities including the Library and the Pavilion Study Area and a significant number of other general or specialist study facilities throughout the College. This includes plenty of ‘drop in’ areas for computers and a Wi-Fi system if you wish to bring your own tablet or laptop. In addition, the College also has comfortable social areas (including the social area of the new Pavilion) which offer more relaxed accommodation where students can meet and chat, alongside quieter areas for pair or group work. The Library is well stocked with physical and online resources selected to meet students’ requirements and is a pleasant working environment for private study. A Chartered Librarian leads the team of helpful and experienced staff.
WHERE WILL MY LESSONS TAKE PLACE?

The College site is situated just inside the Roman wall. The important heritage of the site has been preserved whilst still delivering superb facilities for our students. The College has a range of specialist teaching facilities specifically geared towards the provision of one of the broadest ranges of A-Level provision in the country. As an example, the main South Site building has specialist facilities for Science, Maths, Art, Performance, etc. The Mid-Site area provides us with sporting facilities, including a state of the art sports hall, fitness room, all-weather pitch and lecture theatres, as well as a restaurant and thirty-three teaching rooms. A key feature of the Mid-Site building is concern for the environment and energy efficiency. Recycling facilities are a high priority. Around the Mid-Site is the Pavilion study and social area, the ICT Centre, which provides a suite of eight ICT rooms and the new Language Centre, which includes six teaching rooms for languages.

WHAT ARE THE FINANCIAL COSTS OF COLLEGE LIFE?

There are no fees for College enrolments, but as with any school or college, there are a number of other costs that need to be considered:

(The figures below represent the current levels of charge and may be amended slightly for 2017).

Stationery is not provided but textbooks, relevant equipment and apparatus are loaned for the duration of College courses without charge.

A learning resource/information technology/insurance contribution of £50 is requested, £25 of which is refundable upon return of books and other resources on completion of the student’s course.

Parents/Carers are also invited to donate £10 to the College Fund for one year or £15 for two/three years. This fund is used throughout the year to support student facilities and activities at the College.

Please consult individual subject information sheets on the College website for details of any additional expenses that may be involved when studying particular subjects.

WHERE WILL I EAT LUNCH?

The College has an in-house catering service and our staff provide very good value for money freshly produced, healthy and safe food for students, staff and visitors to the College.

We are committed to using, wherever possible, fresh, locally sourced produce, buying low salt and low fat content ingredients, baking rather than frying and reducing fat, sugar and salt in our prepared dishes.

We offer an all-day breakfast, vegetarian and meat main courses plus a homemade selection of salads. Freshly baked and filled rolls are also available filled to the customer’s own requirements. We also offer a selection of hot and cold snacks, including filled jacket potatoes and toasted paninis.

A group of volunteer staff and students also run “The Russ Foundation Shop” – with all profits going towards the Russ Foundation Community in southern India – a community the College actively supports on an ongoing basis.

IS THERE FINANCIAL SUPPORT AVAILABLE?

The College receives Government funding to support both a Bursary Award and a contribution to food costs scheme for eligible students from families on low incomes receiving a means tested state benefit. A Discretionary Award Scheme for students in extreme financial hardship is also operated. Evidence of family financial circumstances will be required to access these funds. Further details will be published online for Induction 2017.

Students may also be eligible for some support towards travel costs to attend HE and employment interviews. (See ‘How will I travel to College’ for further details regarding transport costs and support)
STUDENT PROFILE

I enjoy my academic studies, but the College has also given me the opportunity to develop my basketball skills and I was proud to be elected Chair of The Student Council.”

Odira, who joined us from The Anglo European School and plans to complete his A Level studies in 2017.
WILL I BE ABLE TO LEARN OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM?

Yes. You will need to undertake a good deal of independent learning and study to succeed at AS /A-Level and the IB Diploma. Students have a number of opportunities to become involved with learning outside the classroom activities. In addition to a range of outside speakers, use of the onsite research facilities and practical workshops, academic departments are encouraged to make use of the whole College site as part of their schemes of work. Recent activities have included students using their mobile phones to measure optic flow in Psychology, the “Modern Foreign Languages Got Talent” show and the recording of spontaneous conversations in the refectory for English Language.

Departments are also encouraged to engage with the local area and businesses, with a wide range of learning taking place within Colchester itself; these have included: the Sociology taster day at The University of Essex, the Environmental Studies department’s use of our town centre location to study traffic and pollution, English students writing creatively about locations in the town and the Biology Department fieldwork day at Colchester Zoo. We also aim to promote work-based learning, giving guidance on applying for and undertaking placements for students of all abilities and interests, such as in the field of Health and Social care and Medicine.

There are a range of trips and visits, some connected specifically to the curriculum and others aimed at broadening students’ experiences. These include the Stratford Shakespeare weekend, the India & Peru Expeditions, Duke of Edinburgh’s Gold Award, departmental visits to Arran, Arizona and New York and many more besides.

We are constantly reviewing and improving our learning outside the classroom, seeking feedback from students and parents. As one student explained about The India Expedition: “It was the most incredible experience of my life, helped me develop as an individual and was an invaluable trip. It completely changed my perspective on things and has made me a much more driven, positive (and hopefully understanding) person as a result.”

As another commented about the Iceland trip: “It was a really rewarding experience, learnt a lot about a different country, met some lovely people, saw some incredible scenery and developed as a person. The trip was so well run and it felt like everything had been organised very thoroughly. We had classroom-type sessions in the evenings sometimes which helped us apply the knowledge we’d been given during the day and really helped me in the exam, but we were also allowed to have free time which we used to explore the area.”

One student said about the Cambridge University Maths Taster Day: “It really showed me that Maths was what I wanted to do at University, and that there are so many areas of Maths that I still don’t know about yet, which I can research. The talks were entertaining and interesting, and showed that Maths isn’t boring or predictable, it can also be exciting and engaging.”

Most students will have opportunities to participate in residential field trips and day or part day visits. For example, there are annual field trips organised by the Biology, Environmental Studies, Geography, Geology, Art, Music, Drama, Art History, Sociology and English Departments. The Modern Languages Department regularly offers Spanish Exchange visits. In addition, there are many other field trips and visits open to all students. In recent years, groups have visited Arizona, Hawaii, France, Ecuador, India, Belgium and Germany. All departments build visits into their programmes of study and there are many more general opportunities for theatre, sport, dance and music trips. These do involve students making a financial contribution, but for families receiving benefits and those with difficult financial circumstances a subsidy from the College may well be available. Students requiring financial support should contact their Senior Tutor for further information.

In addition, as another said on return from a farm trip – “This trip was really good at aiding my knowledge of agriculture and helped me develop on the information I had already been told in the classroom. The tour we had was insightful and taught me things I wouldn’t have learnt otherwise”.

The College aims, where reasonably practical, to enable those with financial hardship or accessibility matters to participate in learning outside the classroom and students should, in the first place, discuss any difficulties or concerns with their Personal or Senior Tutor.
COLLEGE SUPPORT

WILL I HAVE MY OWN PERSONAL TUTOR?
Yes. You will be allocated a Personal Tutor group and you will see your Personal Tutor every day. When you enrol at the College in late August, you will join a tutor group of about 26 students. There will be group activities but there is also a considerable amount of time spent with Personal Tutors on a one-to-one basis. Your Personal Tutor, who is responsible for your group, will guide and advise you and help you to settle down quickly and enjoy your time with us.

Your Personal Tutor helps you to plan your programme of study and is responsible for your welfare throughout your time at the College. Regular individual reviews of progress are a key element of this support. Your Personal Tutor also ensures that you receive the necessary specialist advice, when the time comes for you to consider your second year programme of study, career choices and applications for places in higher education or employment.

Normally students have the same Personal Tutor throughout their time at the College. Tutor Groups are organised into nine divisions, each of which is led by a Senior Tutor. If any problems arise or you need advice, both your Personal Tutor and your Senior Tutor are available to help you. At times, some students may also seek confidential advice from the Student Health Worker and the College Counsellors who are on site every day at the College.

Those following the Advanced Foundation or the IB Diploma programmes will be catered for in specialist tutor groups made up only of students following these programmes. The College Careers Department will provide important support for individual students. The College also has its own counselling team and health workers and can help you gain access to outside support services where appropriate.

WHAT IF I NEED EXTRA HELP AND SUPPORT?
Some subjects offer support classes for both AS and A2 students. In addition, the Learning Support Department offer ‘Academic Access Workshops’ to all students who could benefit from some extra help either in a workshop (with a maximum of 6 students) or on a one-to-one basis. Workshops are student driven and areas covered could include essay planning, proofing, literacy skills, exam revision, research skills and note taking. Students with learning difficulties can be assessed at College. Reports will be updated and arrangements for exams put in place as necessary. Other possible support includes the provision of equipment where appropriate, academic mentoring and one-to-one support.

If you need to find out more please contact Sarah Prince, our Director of Learning Support.

WHERE DO STUDENTS MOVE ONTO AFTER COLLEGE?
Approximately 1100 of our second year students, upon completing programmes of study at the College, proceed to study at a university or medical school each year. This includes several hundred students who, each year, achieve places on prestige degree courses such as Architecture, Economics, Engineering, English, History, Law, Maths, Medicine and Sciences and gain places at Cambridge and Oxford or other top ‘Russell Group’ universities or medical schools. There are other students who successfully achieve places on more specialist or vocationally focused degree course areas including: Computing, Creative Arts, Education, Environmental Science, Finance, Management Science, Media, Nursing and Performing Arts.
WILL I GET HELP MOVING ON TO UNIVERSITY OR EMPLOYMENT?

Yes. There is considerable help and support for each individual student. For most students, the two years seem to pass quickly and there is much to consider during this time. Our students benefit from a rolling programme of support for university and employment applications, including higher education fairs, drop-in support and general tutorials. There is specific support for different groups of students such as aspirant teachers through the Pre-Teaching programme and medics through the Pre-Clinical programme or those seeking to apply to Oxbridge or other Russell Group universities or even to organise a gap year.

The College has links and relationships with a wide range of universities in the UK, including Emmanuel College and Christchurch College Cambridge, Hertford College Oxford as well as most universities within a 100-mile radius of the College. We are pleased to have particularly strong links with The University of Essex and we work with them, for example, to deliver conferences, extension facilities and support to our Extended Project Programme.

The College Careers Department organise a range of events throughout the year to help students decide upon their future options for careers and further study. As an example, they oversee the “Three Day Programme” of careers events that takes place in June, towards the end of a student’s first year of study. There are also activities throughout the year such as briefings for students and parents about Oxbridge entry and higher education finance.

The “Three Day Programme” involves students taking part in a structured programme of sessions to help them develop their career and academic aspirations. Sessions, mainly provided by specialists, include guidance regarding progression onto second year study in all subject areas. Presentations, workshops and activities involve a huge range of visiting speakers. These include professionals talking about their career paths and advice ranging from Banking, Finance and Accountancy to Engineering, Computing, Fashion, Media, Sport, Law, Food, Hotel Management, Journalism, Physiotherapy and The Armed Forces.

A key part of the event is input from a huge number of representatives from Higher Education providers – which can come from as near as The University of Essex and as far as Harvard! To give an idea of the scale of the event, there are usually 24 sessions purely devoted to the completion of a university application ‘Personal Statement’, delivered by representatives from seven different universities. In total, over the three days, the overall number of sessions available to students reaches approximately 700.

WILL I GET HELP IN AIMING FOR ASPIRATIONAL COURSES OR CAREERS?

Yes. The College recognises that all of its students, with varying individual circumstances, talents and potential will, at times, require additional and specific one-to-one support. A range of specialist programmes and activities are provided to suit each individual student; this includes guidance for those students with very high academic potential and aspirations, and those who are likely to be pursuing applications for the most competitive academic courses. This will involve those applying for places at Oxford, Cambridge and other ‘Russell Group’ universities and for the most competitive degree courses in the fields of Law, Medicine, Veterinary Medicine, Dentistry, Physiotherapy, Architecture, Mathematics, Science, Engineering, English, History and Languages.

Support available to students with high academic aspirations will also include:

• One-to-one academic mentoring from a senior or specialist member of staff.
• Individual guidance regarding all aspects of the university application process, with specialist programmes for potential applicants for Oxbridge and ‘Medics’.
• Specialist advice regarding university admissions requirements, and a carefully tailored programme of study with regular target setting and reviews.
• Formal guidance and preparation for university interviews, including practice sessions.
• Support to help students in preparation for relevant university entrance exams or ‘extra tests’ including STEP, BMAT, UKCAT, LNAT and the range of Oxford ‘Subject Tests’.
• The opportunity to pursue an individual ‘university style’ Extended Project Qualification (EPQ), in an area of particular academic interest for degree level study, often with full support from an appropriate academic mentor.
• Opportunities for visits, lectures, discussions and support sessions together with specialist careers guidance. This includes opportunities to discuss career choices with university admissions staff and other practising professionals.
• Opportunities to participate in a variety of accelerated specialist one-year academic courses to support and extend an individual student’s academic portfolio relevant to specific progression pathway.
STUDENT PROFILE

Izza who joined us from Colchester Academy and is now progressing to The Royal Holloway University to study Biochemistry, having achieved an excellent AAB in Health, Biology and Chemistry A Levels.
HOW DOES THE COLLEGE WORK WITH PARENTS AND CARERS?

The College seeks to work closely with parents and carers in order to ensure the success and wellbeing of students. Our Parents' Page on the College website is updated periodically and provides information and guidance useful to parents/carers of students currently enrolled at the College, as well as those of students considering making an application. The College also seeks to keep in touch with parents/carers of students and prospective students via email. Parental email addresses are provided by students on their application form and again at enrolment. We would be grateful if parents/carers could ensure that the College is informed of any changes of email address, postal address or other relevant details.

If there are any queries or concerns, especially those linked to a particular student and their progress:

- For all enrolled students, the first point of contact should be the student’s Personal Tutor, who can be contacted via email or the College switchboard on 01206 500700.
- For students yet to enrol, all queries should be directed to the Admissions Team on 01206 500743 or 01206 505595.
- More general queries can often be dealt with by the College General Office Team on 01206 500700.

Details of all forthcoming events can be found in the Principal’s Newsletter which is prepared for students and their parents/carers and aims to provide important information, guidance and advice, review recent activities and highlight a number of forthcoming events and dates.

The College provides regular opportunities for parents/carers to meet with teaching staff, normally in November and July. Students are asked to make appointments on behalf of parents/carers at such events.

HOW DOES THE COLLEGE WORK WITH AND LISTEN TO STUDENTS?

Student activities are organised by the College Council, which consists of an elected student representative from each tutor group as well as members of the College teaching staff. The Council provides a focus for discussion of matters of concern to students. The Council has six main sub-committees: the Social Committee, Arts Committee, Charities Committee, Sports Committee, Environment and Science Committee and Culture Committee. All of these are very involved in encouraging student activities.

The College Council works to:
- organise social events for College students;
- provide good facilities in the student social areas;
- control College Council finance and decide on the use of the money to benefit students;
- represent student views on various College administrative committees;
- promote good relations with the people of Colchester;
- support a range of international, national and local charities.

Events organised by the College Council have included a large range of theatre and concert visits, charity fundraising events and a variety of College sports tournaments. The College Council makes an important contribution to College life and provides students with a number of lively and interesting opportunities, as well as offering the chance for students to take on posts of real responsibility. New ideas are always welcome.
STUDENT PROFILE

“At first I wasn’t sure which route to take and I was really pleased to be able to pursue such a wide range of courses before finally deciding to focus upon Business”

WHAT ARE THE VALUES OF THE COLLEGE?

The College is committed to taking account of the diversity of the communities it serves and advancing equality of opportunity for everyone, using positive action where necessary. To this end, the College will:

- Treat students, staff, applicants, parents/carers and members of the wider communities with dignity, respect and fairness.
- Provide an inclusive, personalised learning environment in which students are treated solely on the basis of their merits, abilities and potential and are valued as individuals.
- Be committed to providing a safe and secure environment for all its members and visitors. Students and staff have a right to expect protection from harm. The College will eliminate bullying, victimisation and harassment, including hate speech.
- Value diversity in respect of race, ethnicity or national origin, gender, religion and belief or none, socio-economic background, gender variance, marital status or family circumstances, pregnancy and parenthood, political opinions and affiliations, physical attributes or appearance, disability, sexual orientation and age.
- Educate students and staff on the importance of equality and human rights, fostering good relations between individuals and groups within the College.
- Welcome applications from all students, including those with a disability or learning support needs, providing that students meet the admissions criteria. (In order to help the College to provide students with appropriate support it is helpful if relevant information can be provided at the earliest possible opportunity).

The College has a duty of care under the Children Acts 1989 and 2004. This duty includes ensuring that students have a safe environment and highlights a need to be aware of any possible ‘child abuse’. A child in this context is defined as any young person under the age of eighteen. College also adheres to Government guidance on the Prevent strategy. Prevent is the name of the government’s campaign to stop people becoming extremists or terrorists. All educational establishments must promote values which are opposed to extremism. These “fundamental British values” are:

- Democracy.
- The rule of law.
- Individual liberty.
- Mutual respect for, and tolerance of, those with different faiths and beliefs and for those without faith.

These values are also College values. We promote them in many different ways including: our work on equality and diversity; College elections and student voice; a classroom culture of intellectual curiosity, questioning, freedom of expression, tolerance and respect; and enrichment activities that promote the development of positive character traits, such as resilience, determination, self-esteem, and confidence.
STUDENT PROFILE

Emma, who joined us from Honywood School, to study a wide range of courses, including Geography, Environmental Science, Geology, History and Religious Studies.
COLLEGE APPLICATION PROCESS

HOW DO I MAKE AN APPLICATION?

Applications are made online and can be submitted between 21 October 2016 and 31 January 2017. If you do not have internet access, please telephone the Admissions Office (01206 500743 or 01206 505595).

The application process will take less than ten minutes. It is useful if you have details of your GCSEs and other qualifications and predicted grades to hand before you start.

When you are ready to apply:
- Go to www.colchsfc.ac.uk and follow the instructions on the homepage, this will guide you to our online application form.
- Carefully complete the various sections on the form, giving as much detail as you can. You should apply for just one of the three programmes of study (AS Levels, International Baccalaureate or Advanced Foundation Programme). If you are unsure which to apply for, please do not be concerned, as if your choice later proves unsuitable, this can be changed as part of our interview process.
- The form will ask you for information regarding career and subject choices. These are to help us at your interview, they do not represent a definite commitment on your part and can be added to, amended or discussed further at your interview.
- If you are considering a particular career path such as teaching or medicine, or are aiming for a particular degree course, it is important that you mention this as part of the application or interview process, so that your programme of study can be constructed accordingly.
- Submit your application.
- If you realise that you have made a mistake please do not submit a second application as this can cause confusion. You should telephone or email the Admissions Office and explain the changes that you wish to make.
- Once you have completed and sent your online application form, you should receive an email confirming that your application has been received.

HOW DO I FIND OUT MORE?

If you attend one of our partner or link schools you will be given information on the application process and guidance on course combinations. It is likely that a College Liaison Tutor will visit most of our partner and link schools during years 10 or 11 to provide you with further information.

You will also find our website useful. (www.colchsfc.ac.uk). This contains a range of information, including specific entry criteria for particular courses, as well as course content and exam boards. You will also find lots of details regarding College life in the ‘News’ section. All applications have to be submitted via our website.

In Year 11, you and your family are very welcome to visit one of our Open Evenings, which will be held on 19 and 20 October 2016. This will give you a chance to visit the College, see our range of specialist facilities and meet our staff and students. Over the course of the two evenings, there will be over 200 staff and 400 students available to help you find out more about the College.

If you are interested in finding out more about our International Baccalaureate course, we recommend that, alongside one of our Open Evenings, you also attend the IB Information Evening on 14 November 2016. Here, students and staff will be available to help you examine the IB as an alternative to A-Level study.

No booking is required for either the Open Evenings or the IB Information Evening and full details will be available on our website nearer the time.

If you are unable to attend an Open Evening you may wish to attend one of our smaller ‘Information Mornings’ which take place regularly between November and February. Booking is required for Information Mornings – please contact admissions@colchsfc.ac.uk or 01206 505611 for further details or for help with any other queries.

For those students who receive an offer of a place, there will be further opportunities to discuss their course at Induction and Enrolment, which take place in the summer prior to the start of term.
WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE AN ‘OUT OF AREA’ APPLICANT?

The College Admissions Policy identifies two categories of applicant:

First Priority Applicants
If you attend one of our partner or link schools, or live within the Colchester area, you will be identified as a ‘first priority’ applicant. For such applicants the interview is focused upon ensuring that you are being put onto the most appropriate programme of study. However, the interviewer will only be able to make a firm offer of a place if they have good evidence from your report or a school reference that you are likely to achieve the full entry criteria for your chosen programme of study.

‘Out of Area’ Applicants
If you do not attend one of our partner or link schools, or do not live within the Colchester area, you will be identified as an ‘out of area’ applicant. The College has been significantly oversubscribed for many years, but many places are offered to students in this category every year. We welcome applications from a broad range of students and with the impact of the “demographic dip” we may be able to offer places for the 2017/18 academic year to 70-80% of such applicants.

WHAT HAPPENS ONCE I HAVE SUBMITTED MY APPLICATION?

All applicants who meet the appropriate College admissions criteria will be invited to an interview by post. The majority of interviews take place in College between November 2016 and March 2017.

Please bring your most recent report and a handwritten personal statement to your interview. The personal statement should outline your main achievements (in and out of school) and your current career plans, including any university course ideas. Please see guidelines on the Admissions Department area of the College website.

It is also important that you take the opportunity during the application and interview process to inform us of any educational, learning, personal or domestic issues or concerns that might affect your educational progress. This enables us to ensure that we have appropriate support in place right from the start.

We prefer to interview students on their own, but parents are welcome to attend if there are any special circumstances which make it important that they are present. If there are circumstances that might need particular attention or privacy, please don’t hesitate to contact the Admissions team to discuss this matter prior to interview and we can then ensure that arrangements are made accordingly.

First priority applicants will be clearly informed at the end of their interview if they are to be offered a place and a written offer letter will be completed at this stage. Occasionally, where there is significant uncertainty about likely GCSE results, the interviewer may put the application ‘on hold’ to await a school reference or to review the situation at a second interview.

For “out of area” applicants the interview will also be part of the selection process. Decisions about places for “out of area” applicants are not finalised until the interviewing of first priority applicants is completed in late February/early March. Decision letters are sent to all “out of area” applicants at the same time in mid-March.
WHAT HAPPENS ONCE I AM OFFERED A PLACE?

It is important that, once you have put your plans in place for the following year, you take a step back from the process and focus upon achieving the highest possible grades in your exams.

Your plans can then be revisited once exams are finished at the end of June, when we will invite you in for an Induction Day. This offers you an important opportunity to spend a day at the College and get a real sense of what College life is like, including meeting your Personal Tutor and spending time within various academic departments. As part of this day, you can re-examine, and possibly amend, your choice of courses. In the evening of this Induction day parents or carers will be invited in to meet senior staff and find out more about the College.

After Induction Day, the next significant date is GCSE Results Day. We hope that you are delighted by your results, but if you have made an application and then find that your results need further discussion, please do not hesitate to contact us at that point. Senior staff and other specialists will be on hand to help you.

The Autumn Term will begin with your Enrolment Day at the end of August. At this point and for a week or two afterwards, there may still be the opportunity to adjust your course. It is important to note, however, that once courses have commenced, you will be expected to complete all courses upon which you enrol.

WHAT IF I CAN’T CURRENTLY DECIDE WHICH SCHOOL OR COLLEGE TO GO TO?

We recognise that the North Essex and South Suffolk area offers a good range of opportunities for young people. Many students will have a choice of schools or colleges or employment and training opportunities to choose from. We would recommend that you think carefully about your options and work closely with every institution that interests you, as well as seeking advice from staff at your current school, independent advisors and your parents/carers. The most important factor is to make the decision that you believe is right for you.

Every year some students will make multiple applications to a number of schools and colleges and eventually decide where to go upon the publication of their GCSE results. We would certainly recommend a multi-application approach if you are at all unsure. Please feel free to take the opportunity to find out more by making an application and please do not be afraid to discuss your options with us. The most important thing is that you find the right course for you.

Attending an Open Evening, Interview and an Induction Day here at the College will play an important role in helping you decide.
YOUR PROGRAMME OF STUDY AT THE COLLEGE

WHAT SORT OF OPPORTUNITIES DOES THE COLLEGE OFFER?

The College offers our students three alternative full-time academic programmes of study.

1. AS/A Levels (For most students this is a two year academic course, which forms a path from school to university or employment)

2. The International Baccalaureate Diploma (For most students this is a two year academic course, which serves as an alternative to A-Level study and forms a path from school to university or employment)

3. Advanced Foundation Programme (This is usually a one-year programme which offers students with academic potential the opportunity to do further work at GCSE level, often with a view to then progressing onto A-Level or BTEC courses in the following year.)

You apply for only one of the academic programmes, although the most appropriate academic programme of study will be discussed at interview and there is flexibility, including after GCSE results have been received.

Within each of the academic programmes of study students are able to choose an individual combination of courses that meets their needs, interests and aspirations, and which offers the best opportunity for success and progression.

As part of their overall education, all students will add a programme focused upon their personal development, including pastoral care alongside support in areas such as preparation for progression (including Higher Education and employment) as well as wider experiences developed through our wide selection of Additional Studies and extra-curricular activity options.

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I AM NOT CERTAIN THAT I WILL GET THE GRADES THAT I NEED FOR MY CHOSEN ACADEMIC PROGRAMME?

Please don’t be afraid to discuss any issues or concerns at interview. Often it will be the case that the individual courses that you choose will be offered to you but subject to you achieving the grades that you need at GCSE. If you then do not achieve the required grades, we will discuss this further with you once GCSE results are published. At this point, for example, some students may switch from AS Level to the AFP course and others may simply change an individual AS Level subject choice.

Where AS Level applicants have ‘just missed’ the grades that they need, it is often possible to make modifications to the courses offered, especially if applicants are happy to be flexible regarding subject choices. (Please note that many individual AS Level courses do need a GCSE grade B or above to have been obtained in Mathematics or English or other predominantly written subjects).

Where students have not achieved C or better grades in a key GCSE subject such as Mathematics or English or have achieved a more modest overall GCSE score (but which exceeds the entry criteria for the AFP Programme), it may be possible to take a combination of AS Levels and one or more GCSEs.

There will be some students who, when GCSE results are published, find they are not qualified for their chosen programme, or for alternatives here at College. We therefore urge all applicants to hold open other offers of post 16 pathways until the GCSE results are known in late August.
WHAT GRADES WILL I NEED FOR AS LEVELS?

AS level examinations are taken after one year of study and A Level exams are taken at the end of the two year course in each AS/A Level subject. In addition to the general entry criteria for an AS level programme of study (listed elsewhere in this Prospectus) many individual AS Level subjects will require students to have specific GCSE grades in specific subjects and some will expect students to have taken the higher tier of entry at GCSE. Some AS courses will have level of skill requirement as well as specific GCSE grade requirement. Please see the information regarding the requirements for each subject course in later sections of the Prospectus and also look at the subject information provided for each of the AS courses from Subject Information Sheets on the courses section of the College website.

For 2017 entry IGCSE’s are an acceptable alternative equivalent qualification to GCSE.

WILL I NEED TO PASS THE ‘ENGLISH BACCALAUREATE’ TO STUDY AT THE SIXTH FORM COLLEGE?

NO. The “English Baccalaureate” provides an excellent opportunity for school pupils to develop a broad range of GCSE qualifications, all of which are useful in progressing onto college courses and beyond, however, we recognise that a number of students will not have the skills, interest or opportunity to ensure that they pass the full range of subjects required to achieve the English Baccalaureate qualification. For this reason whilst we very much recommend that, wherever appropriate, students give serious consideration to the qualification, we do not formally demand passes in ALL of the subject areas that it demands.

HOW WILL THE COLLEGE VIEW MY 14-16 VOCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS?

Most AS Level and IB assessment is through examination, whilst vocational qualifications are often assessed with a strong element of coursework. For a full 4 AS Level programme of study the College therefore requires 5-7 good (C or better) pass grades at GCSE in core academic subjects as the main entry requirement. If the majority of your programme at school is made up of vocational qualifications it is likely that you will be advised to continue with a vocational progression route at level 3. If you do decide to switch to a general academic programme we will continue to assess your suitability based mostly on your core subject GCSE grades. Pass/Merit and Distinction awards at Level 2 will be given some consideration. Achievements in Level 2 vocational qualifications will normally be treated as the equivalent of one extra GCSE pass. You may need to study more GCSE courses before being able to progress onto AS Levels.
WHAT DOES RECENT GOVERNMENT REFORM OF A-LEVELS MEAN FOR MY PROGRAMME OF STUDY?

Government reforms to AS and A Levels started in 2015. The government is implementing a range of reforms for AS and A Level subjects over the 2015 – 19 period, with the first teaching of the ‘first wave’ of reformed AS and A Level subjects’ starting in September 2015, and all other reformed AS/A courses starting in September 2016 or September 2017. Therefore, for September 2017 ‘start’, all AS Level courses are reformed.

As part of college policy, all reformed AS/A level subjects will involve students taking the new AS Level examinations towards the end of their first year. Marks and grades at AS Level will not, however, count towards the final marks and grades at A Level. A level marks and grades will be determined in the end of course exams and assessments taken at the end of the second year of study.

AS grades will be known to universities when students apply in the fourth term of study. AS grades achieved cannot be ‘declined’ but students can choose to re-sit the AS in June of the second year INB – the opportunity to do re-sits at AS in January was removed by the Government from 2014 – all AS re-sits are now taken in the summer exam series in the second year of study).

Some element of coursework and/or controlled assessments will still operate in some AS/A2 subjects – but the overall level of such assessment has been reduced and is now mostly confined to practical and expressive subjects. Assessment for AS and A Levels has become more exam orientated.

All AS and A Level exams are required to include ‘stretch and challenge’ questions to allow the most able students to maximise their potential. A level assessments in all subjects cover both years of work and all AS topics are within the A Level syllabus.

An A* grade is awarded to students who achieve an average score of 90% or more in the A level exams.

At the time of going to print, with regards to some ‘2017 reform subjects’, the relevant government agency (OFQUAL) and the awarding bodies are still finalising the final details of their new specifications. Some departments at college are, therefore, not yet in a position to finalise their decisions regarding which awarding body they will use for their subject in the 2017-19 cycle. Decisions will be made by the spring and the details will be communicated on the College website as they emerge and there will be clarity by the Induction Days in June.

Applicants should be assured that the College, as a very successful centre that specializes in AS/A Level study and benefits from close links with examination boards and other professional bodies, is very well placed to successfully adapt to the national changes to the AS and A level systems as they arise.

HOW MANY AS LEVEL COURSES WILL I TAKE IN MY FIRST YEAR?

Most students will study four AS levels in their first year - although a significant number will choose to study five:

5 AS Levels
This programme is suitable for those with a very strong set of GCSE results (8 or 9 A*-B grades). It is a good programme for those wishing to apply for the most competitive places at university.

Most students opting for this demanding set of courses will be part of our Academic Aspiration Programme, for example many students with medical career aspirations will take Health & Social Care as part of our Pre-Clinical Programme.

Students choosing to study a demanding 5 AS course programme in the first year are expected to complete all 5 courses at the end of the academic year.

4 AS Levels + a 5th academic choice
This programme is suitable for those with a relatively strong set of GCSE results (e.g. 7 A*-C grades). For example, alongside four AS Levels, an additional GCSE option could be taken by those who wish to take up a new foreign language, such as Spanish or Italian, or re-sit a key subject.

We normally require students to have a minimum C or better passes in English or English Language and Mathematics (although many individual courses may require higher grades) and to have a good profile of GCSE passes;

4 AS Levels
This programme is suitable for those with a relatively good profile of GCSE results (i.e. at least 5 A*-C grades). This programme can often be combined with selections from the Additional Studies Programme.

Students will normally complete two years of study, moving from AS to A Level in Year 2. Progression to Year 2 is dependent upon good attendance, satisfactory reports and pass grades in the AS Level subjects.
**WHAT WILL MY FIRST YEAR “AS LEVEL” PROGRAMME OF STUDY LOOK LIKE?**

In the first year most AS Level students will take four AS Level subjects (or equivalent certificates) from the list below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AS LEVELS (unless marked * which indicates an Applied General Certificate level course – which is equivalent to an AS Level eg: BTEC Certificate)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>There are normally 7 periods per week per subject</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

- Accounting
- Applied Science*
- Archaeology
- Art (Fine Art)
- Art History
- Biology
- Business
- Business – Applied*
- Chemistry
- Classical Civilisation
- Computing
- Dance
- Drama & Theatre Studies
- Economics
- Electronics
- English Language & Literature
- English Language
- English Literature
- Environmental Science
- Film Studies
- Food Science & Nutrition*
- French
- Geography
- Geology (Earth Science)
- German
- Graphical Communication (Art)
- Health and Social Care*
- History (option of 3 alternative time periods)
- ICT*
- Italian
- Law
- Law – Applied*
- Mathematics
- Mathematics – Further
- Statistics
- Media Studies
- Music
- Music Technology
- Music Technology (Production)*
- Performing Arts *
- Philosophy
- Photography (Art)
- Physics
- Politics
- Pre-Clinical (Health & Social Care)*
- Product Design (Resistant Materials)
- Psychology
- Religious Studies
- Sociology
- Spanish
- Sport and Physical Education
- Textiles (Art)

*NB:* Further specialist subject/academic options are likely to be available in your second year, including opportunities to choose AS Sculpture, Criminology, Extended Project Qualification or Financial Diploma.

And will also then add a further ‘fifth’ option, to extend your skills and interests and to enhance your C.V (and for fun)

This could be a more academic and ‘certificated’ course, from the options below:

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<tr>
<td>An extra AS Level (7 periods)</td>
<td>Principals of Coaching Sport (2 periods)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Core Mathematics (4 periods)</td>
<td>Leadership through Rugby Union (3 periods)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial Studies Certificate (1 period)</td>
<td>Pre-Clinical/Health &amp; Social Care* (4 periods)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>GCSE Spanish for good linguists (6 periods)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>GCSE Italian for good linguists (6 periods)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A GCSE ‘re-sit’ in a key subject: English Language (6 periods) or Mathematics (2-5 periods)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Or, if preferred, an Additional Study Course (‘as well as’, if you would like):

- One or more choices from approximately 70 Additional Study course options, including one from a series of sports, performing arts, foreign languages, Debating, Creative Writing or Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award …… These are normally between 1 and 4 lessons per week. Full details of the wider range of options are included in our ‘Additional Studies Booklet’.

And, as for all students, there will also be a daily Tutorial/Registration period and a programme of pastoral support, personal development and wider education.

And, if desired, more occasional and optional activities which include:

- Clubs, societies and extra-curricular activities
- Field trips, visits and expeditions
- Specialist higher education and employment support e.g. for those considering medicine, teaching, Oxbridge etc.
- Radio Station
- College Council (Student Body) roles
- College Ambassadors

www.colchsfc.ac.uk
Accounting
Accounting is a practical, problem solving course designed as an ideal introduction to the world of finance. As well as covering the fundamentals of record-keeping, the course comprises the purposes, techniques and consequences of effective financial accounting. We explore how it helps to monitor and plan successful business operations, together with studying management accounting techniques which aid business management and decision-making.

Entry Qualifications
No previous study is expected. A minimum grade B (or 5) in GCSE Mathematics is required as well as a further grade B in a logical/systematic subject (GCSE Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Computing, Statistics or Further Mathematics). Also required is a grade C (or 4) or above in GCSE English, English Language or English Literature, as well as a grade B (or 5) or above in at least one predominantly written based GCSE subject (from English, English Language, English Literature, History, Religious Studies or Sociology).

Applied Science (AQA Level 3 Certificate)
This broadly-based science course includes study of applied aspects of Biology, Chemistry and Physics and is aimed at students who want or are suited to a more applied science qualification. The course focuses on how science can be applied in the workplace and involves practical and theory work. It will prove useful to students who wish to pursue a science-related career. As well as sitting examinations, the students will produce a substantial amount of coursework so a commitment to working independently and meeting deadlines is required.

Entry Qualifications
2 GCSE’s grade C (or 4) or above in single subject sciences or Core Science and Additional Science (or Core Science and Additional Applied Science). GCSE Mathematics and English or English Language grades also both need to be at C (or 4) or above.

Archaeology
Are you interested in the past and want to find out about past civilisations like Ancient Egypt and the Roman Empire? Do you wonder about how the dead were disposed of in Ancient Britain and how they confronted their fear of death? Have you ever thought about why Stonehenge was built? In Archaeology we aim to recreate the past through a study of the material remains. It is the perfect subject to bridge Humanities and science with a strong emphasis on examining the techniques archaeologists use today to explore the past.

Entry Qualifications
No previous study is required but a strong interest in historical and archaeological matters, a willingness to undertake research and practical work, and good written skills are important.
A minimum grade C (or 4) in GCSE English Language is required, as well as a grade B (or 5) or above in at least one predominantly written based GCSE subject (from English, English Language, English Literature, History, Religious Studies or Sociology).

Art (Fine Art)
This is a broad, practical course which introduces students to a wide range of materials and techniques within painting, printmaking, sculpture and Fine Art practices.
Students are encouraged to think independently and use their practical art skills to create a personal response to the world around them. The course enables students to extend their skills through guided and independent practical work complemented with research into the work of other artists.

Entry Qualifications
A grade C in GCSE Art, Textiles or Graphics is required. If these subjects have not been studied to GCSE level students can either request an ‘entry assessment task’ from the Admissions Office (please email: admissions@colchsf.ac.uk), or can consider an art related Additional Study in the first year at College with the aim of starting AS Art in year 2. AS Fine Art can be combined with other Art and Design subjects (eg: Photography, Textiles, Art History or Graphical Communications).

Art History (Art Validated)
This is an exciting course that looks at a wide variety of works of art from different times and cultures. We focus on the theme of the human form in art throughout history up to the present day. Students write up their work in a scrapbook format in critical studies books. It is not necessary to be good at drawing and painting to do this course as, although illustrations must be included, they are mainly printed out. You must enjoy looking at art and visiting art galleries, be prepared to write essays, do lots of independent research and learn how to present your work in a visually interesting way.

Entry Qualifications
A minimum grade C (or 4) in GCSE English or English Language but grade B (or 5) or above is preferred and a grade B (or 5) or above in a predominantly written based GCSE subject (from English, English Language, English Literature, History, Religious Studies or Sociology) is necessary.

Biology
Biology is one of the most popular A Level subjects in the country, attracting students studying a wide range of other subjects. It will give you the skills to make connections and associations with all living things. Like all sciences, Biology is a practical subject. Throughout the course you will carry out practical activities which will give you the skills and confidence needed to investigate the way living things behave and work. It will also ensure that if you choose to study a Biology-based subject at University, you will have the practical skills needed to carry out successful experiments in your degree. But, whatever field you will eventually work in, you will find Biology a very rewarding and challenging course which will develop many of the skills essential for a successful career. This fascinating course is scientifically and intellectually rigorous, stimulating concern and respect for all life, developing investigative skills and increasing understanding of biological principles.

Entry Qualifications
GCSE grade B or above in both Core Science and Additional Science or Biology, and GCSE grade B (or 6) or above in Mathematics, and GCSE grade C (or 4) or above in English or English Language.
Business

This course is designed to provide students with a critical understanding of the internal functions of business organisations and how the external environment can affect the decision making of a business. It includes new business start-ups and small and medium sized enterprises and the issues that surround the process of planning a new business. Types of business organisations, the markets in which they operate and their various stakeholders will also be covered. Analytical techniques will be studied to develop appropriate business strategies using and analysing a range of decision-making models and investment appraisal methods used by businesses. We explore how the business world never stands still so businesses must adapt to succeed in a dynamic external environment where there are continuous opportunities and threats to businesses of all sizes.

The course is delivered through a variety of teacher-led discussions, case studies, videos, textbooks and student-centred activities. Final assessment will be by three external examinations.

Entry Qualifications

Previous study is not expected but GCSE English Language and Mathematics grades are required, with a minimum B (or 5) grade in one and a C (or 4) in the other. Also required is a grade B (or 5) or above in at least one predominantly written based GCSE subject (from English, English Language, English Literature, History, Religious Studies or Sociology).

Please note: students are not permitted to take both AS Business and AS Economics in their first year. However, it is possible to take AS Economics in Year 1 then also take A Level Business Studies in Year 2 as an accelerated one year course alongside A Level Economics.

Applied Business (AQA Level 3 Certificate)

This alternative course has two units that are externally assessed coursework units, and one which is externally tested. Coursework units are prepared using ICT, so students opting for this course should enjoy doing coursework and require good ICT skills to be successful.

Entry Qualifications

Previous study of Business is not expected but grade C (or 4) or above in GCSE English Language and Mathematics is the minimum requirement.

Chemistry

This is an interesting but demanding subject involving a range of skills including mathematical calculations and practical work. We currently offer OCR B Salters AS Level Chemistry which is taught in an applied way linking the content to real situations. Practical work will be a key component of the course and one of the exams will be on practical work.

Entry Qualifications

The course requires at least GCSE grade B (or 6) in GCSE Mathematics, and a grade B or above in GCSE Chemistry (or in both Core and Additional Science).

Classical Civilisation

The course is a broad-based study of many different aspects of Greek and Roman society. Students study the literature, art, archaeology and history of ancient Greece and Rome. All sources are studied in translation.

Entry Qualifications

No previous knowledge of the classical world is needed but a minimum grade C (or 4) in GCSE English Language is required, as well as a grade B (or 5) or above in two predominantly written based GCSE subjects (from English, English Language, English Literature, History, Religious Studies or Sociology).

Computing

This is a varied course in which students study a range of topics from the workings of a processor and logical circuit design, to different types of software and programming, as well as how data is stored and transmitted across networks. The practical work initially covers basic programming skills and quickly progresses onto the use of graphical programming in preparation for the A Level project.

Entry Qualifications

Students are expected to have achieved a grade B (or 5) in both GCSE Mathematics and GCSE Core and Additional Science (or B, B from single subject sciences or B, C in triple science) and a grade C (or 4) in English or English Language. If ICT or Computer Science has been taken at GCSE or equivalent a grade C will be required. For those taking vocational Level 2 ICT qualifications a Merit or above is required.

Criminology (for second year students who have successfully completed AS Psychology and continued to A Level)

Criminology is the study of criminal behaviour. It looks at the causes of crime in individuals and in society, and considers how it can be prevented or controlled. It is an interdisciplinary subject, drawing on elements of Sociology, Psychology, Law and Social Anthropology. The WJEC Level 3 Award in Criminology is assessed through controlled assessment and exam and involves applying knowledge to real life situations and scenarios. In Unit 1 you will study different types of crimes and learn to use theories of criminality to analyse criminal situations. In Unit 2 you will look at perceptions and realities of crime, including how crime is represented in the media.
Dance

Choreography, Anatomy and Physiology, Performance and Dance Appreciation are all central to the study of AS/A Level Dance. The course is broadly based and encourages students to explore the boundaries of dance evenly through both practical and theoretical work. Students will study one compulsory and one optional area of study alongside a reflection and understanding of their own choreographic and performance practice.

Students will also choreograph and perform a solo and perform in a duet/trio piece jointly choreographed with their tutor.

Entry Qualifications

Previous study at GCSE is not essential although, it must be noted that GCSE is a natural progression into AS study. It is expected that all students will have considerable experience of practical Ballet and/or Contemporary Dance. A grade C (or 4) or above in GCSE English or English Language, and English Literature is required. All prospective students will be expected to attend an informal practical assessment following Induction.

Drama and Theatre Studies

The prime aim of this wide-ranging course is to promote a deeper knowledge and understanding of all aspects of drama and theatre. Students are encouraged to approach the syllabus through practical experience. Assessment is through a practical examination including a piece of written coursework and one written examination paper.

Entry Qualifications

Previous study at GCSE is not necessary, but if taken a grade B or above is expected. If the grade isn’t achieved we would look at the student’s performance in the informal practical assessment. Grades C (or 4) in English (or English Language) and in English Literature are required. It is recommended that students choosing to study AS Drama and Theatre studies also study AS English Literature. An enthusiasm for reading plays, going to see live theatre productions, performing and a commitment to writing about these experiences is essential. All prospective students will be expected to attend and pass an informal practical assessment and a brief written task following Induction.

Economics

Economics looks at how societies deal with scarcity of resources and the role of government in dealing with the economic problems that stem from this. Microeconomics considers the rationale behind the behaviour of consumers and firms, whilst macroeconomics investigates issues such as inflation, unemployment and international trade. Students will apply economic theories and concepts to current issues such as austerity, the EU financial crisis, financial markets, global warming, globalisation and the growing inequality in modern economies.

Entry Qualifications

No previous study is necessary. A minimum Grade B (or 5) in GCSE Mathematics and a minimum grade C (or 4) in English Language is required, as well as a grade B (or 5) or above in at least one predominantly written based GCSE subject (from English, English Language, English Literature, History, Religious Studies or Sociology).

Electronics

A study of Electronics will be of interest to many students and of great benefit to any student considering a future in Technology, Engineering or Science. Higher Education and career opportunities in Electronics are plentiful as there is a national shortage of people with design ability in the Electronics/Communication industry. This is especially true today as we live in ‘the digital age’. The aim of the course is to give students the knowledge and skills to be able to design, build, test and analyse electronic circuits that perform a useful function. The course is a mixture of theory and practical work and the College has a well-equipped Electronics laboratory with a wide range of industrial standard electronics test equipment. The theory is predominantly based around digital electronics including the programming of microcontrollers and analogue electronics. Assessment is through a combination of examination and practical coursework.

Entry Qualifications

No previous study of Electronics is necessary. Grade B (or 5) in GCSE Mathematics is required as well as a grade B in both GCSE Core and Additional Science (or 2 Bs in single subject sciences which must include Physics).
English Language and Literature

Discover a unique approach to English with Language and Literature. Combine your study of novels, poems and plays with blogs, interviews, travel writing and screenplays. Write stories alongside essays. Read critically and think creatively to broaden your study and explore a new way of thinking about English.

Entry Qualifications
Ideally, you should have an interest in reading and writing critically and creatively. Grades C (or 4) or above in GCSE English Language and GCSE English Literature are required.

Environmental Science

This science-based subject is for those who have a genuine interest in environmental issues connecting the natural world with human activities and development. Scientific study of the environment connects the fields of Biology, Geography, Geology, Chemistry, Physics and Law and applies the concepts to past and current issues, many of which threaten our very existence. Fieldwork and practical activities are an integral part of the course and allow students to develop their understanding and skills. Topics covered include fundamentals of ecological understanding; the threats to the natural world; conservation of species, habitats and global systems; human interaction and reliability on the atmosphere, hydrosphere and lithosphere; and environmental issues surrounding mining, agriculture, forestry, energy generation and sustainability.

Entry Qualifications
Students will be expected to have achieved GCSE grade B or better in both Core and Additional Science (or two single subject sciences), together with passes at grade C (or 4) or above in GCSE English or English Language, and GCSE Mathematics.

Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)
The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) allows students the opportunity to explore a further aspect of a subject they are studying or a topic of personal interest. They will produce an extended piece of writing or an artefact, for example art work or a computer programme. Students are also required to complete a production log tracking the development of the project and their skills development. The EPQ course normally commences in the summer term of year 1, following AS examinations and work is submitted in the second year of study. The qualification is worth half an A Level at A Level standard and attracts UCAS points.

Entry Qualifications
Minimum grade C (or 4) in GCSE English Language is required, as well as a grade B (or 5) or above in at least one predominantly written based GCSE subject (from English, English Language, English Literature, History, Religious Studies or Sociology).

English Language

Are you a tweeter, a blogger or a vlogger? Do men and women speak differently? Are we judged by the way we sound? Investigate the world of written and spoken language on this course – from how children learn to speak to how English has gone global. Join us and learn about that most powerful weapon – language.

Entry Qualifications
A real enthusiasm for the language we speak, write and experience every day. A grade C (or 4) or above in GCSE English Language and GCSE English Literature are required.

English Literature

Are you ready to explore thought provoking novels, inspiring poetry and challenging drama? Extend your horizons by engaging with Literature from all ages. If you are a keen reader and enjoy discussion: join us, join the debate and study AS/A Level Literature.

Entry Qualifications
Students should enjoy reading and writing and should have a grade C (or 4) or above in GCSE English Language and GCSE English Literature. If GCSE English has been taken a grade B (or 5) is desirable, but a grade C (or 4) may be acceptable.

Film Studies

This course offers the opportunity to study a range of film genres and styles from different periods and countries including early and contemporary Hollywood and British cinema, European and documentary film making. Central to this study is the detailed analysis of the language of film – identifying the way in which film makers construct meaning for the audience through the use of a range of techniques including editing, setting, lighting, shots and sound. In addition to looking at film as an art form, the course also includes the study of the wider contexts of the film industry looking at issues of funding and marketing. During the year several films are screened in class and studied in detail, supported by extracts from a range of films covering different periods of film history. The course is assessed through coursework and examination. The coursework consists of an essay based piece and some creative work. The exam is essay based.

Entry Qualifications
Minimum grade C (or 4) in GCSE English Language is required, as well as a grade B (or 5) or above in at least one predominantly written based GCSE subject (from English, English Language, English Literature, History, Religious Studies or Sociology).
**Food Science and Nutrition (WJEC Level 3 Certificate)**

This is an exciting new course which will allow students to gain a wealth of knowledge about Food Science and Nutrition. Learners will have the opportunity to learn about the relationship between the human body and food as well as practical skills about cooking and preparing food.

This course will be of particular interest to students interested in following further education courses or careers in the food industry. An understanding of food science and nutrition is relevant to many industries and job roles. Care providers, nutritionists, sport and fitness coaches, hotels and restaurants, food manufacturers and government agencies are examples of the many employment opportunities in the field of food science and nutrition.

This course is based on applied learning and experiences in contexts linked to food science and nutrition. It is designed to give learners knowledge, understanding and skills that can be used in employment or as a basis for further study.

**Entry Qualifications**

GCSE English Language grade C (or 4) or above and GCSE or above in GCSE Biology and Nutrition (WJEC Core and Additional Science) and, if taken, grade C or above in GCSE Food Technology or a related food based GCSE subject. Students who have good food skills, enthusiasm and demonstrate a good level of interest, but have not studied ‘food’ before may be considered.

Good practical ‘food’ skills are essential.

Students will be expected to provide materials for practical work, will need good practical skills, will need to be organised and self-motivated and have the ability to work independently.

**French**

This course will help students to build upon the skills gained at GCSE. The AS course will help students to learn about the mechanics of the language, and to find out more about topics based on themes such as social issues, politics and history. By the end of the year students will have acquired extensive knowledge of one ‘work’ such as film or novel. Students will explore the social and cultural context of the language via texts drawn from textbooks, magazines, newspapers and relevant websites. There may be an opportunity for students to take part in a French trip in order to practise their language skills in an authentic context. The examinations cover the four language skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing.

**Entry Qualifications**

Previous study is essential with a minimum of Grade B in GCSE French required.

**Geology (Earth Science)**

This science course has aspects of and links to Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Geography and Environmental Science. Topics covered include plate tectonic theory, earthquakes, volcanoes and the formation of sedimentary, igneous and metamorphic rocks. Fieldwork is an essential part of the course and is very important to aid understanding of geology. We hope to be in a position to offer some day or residential trips which could include a study of the cliffs at Cudmore Grove on Mersea Island and a residential trip to the Isle of Arran in Scotland. Optional field trips on offer do vary from year to year and may include Iceland, southern Italy or Arizona to study tectonic landforms, sedimentary rocks and erosion processes.

**Entry Qualifications**

No previous study is required. Students must have achieved a grade C (or 4) or above in GCSE Mathematics and grade B or above in two GCSE Science courses. (If triple science is taken BCC or above would be required) and a grade C (or 4) in English Language, or English Literature, or English.

**Geography**

This is a varied and contemporary course which studies human and physical processes as part of both the AS and A level course. Content embraces the study of coastal landscapes, tectonic hazards and Earth’s life support systems, which includes the water and carbon cycles both of which are vital to the planet. As well as this, human topics include a choice between trade or migration and the governance of human rights or sovereignty on a global scale, as well as studying how places change. Compulsory fieldwork forms an integral part of both the AS and A level course with a piece of coursework being produced as part of the A level. There are also optional residential visits to destinations such as Sri Lanka, Italy, Iceland and Arizona.

**Entry Qualifications**

Minimum grade C in GCSE Geography and a minimum of grade C (or 4) in GCSE English Language and GCSE Mathematics, as well as a grade B (or 5) or above in at least one predominantly written based GCSE subject (from English, English Language, English Literature, History, Religious Studies or Sociology).

**German**

This course will help students to build upon the skills gained at GCSE. Students will not only continue to develop their knowledge of German grammar, but will also work to improve their vocabulary and oral skills. At AS, students will find out more about topics based on themes such as social issues, politics and history. By the end of the year students will have acquired extensive knowledge of one ‘work’ such as a film or novel. Students will explore the social and cultural context of the language via text drawn from textbooks, magazines, newspapers and relevant websites. There may also be an opportunity to go on a residential trip or exchange to gain first-hand experience of the country’s society and lifestyle. The examinations at the end of the course test all aspects of students’ communication skills in German.

**Entry Qualifications**

Previous study is essential and a minimum of a GCSE grade B in GCSE German is required.
Graphical Communications (Art Validated)

Graphical Communications is a practical subject that develops the ability to appreciate the commercial visual world and to respond to it in a personal and creative way. Students will be studying the subject of visual communication using a range of graphic techniques, including print, sketching, presentation drawing and extensive use of CAD (Computer Aided Design). On the course students learn how to express ideas confidently in a visual form and understand how their work fits into the history of art and ideas. AS Graphical Communications can be combined with other Art and Design subjects and can also be taken with AS Product Design (Resistant Materials).

Entry Qualifications
Minimum Grade C in GCSE Art, Textiles or Graphics is required. If these subjects have not been studied to GCSE level students can request an ‘entry assessment task’ from the Admissions Office (please email: admissions@colchsfc.ac.uk).

Health and Social Care (BTEC Level 3 Certificate)

BTEC Health and Social Care is an applied course and is therefore particularly aimed at students with an interest in health and social care occupations. Units in the first year cover issues such as Human Lifespan and Development and Meeting Individual Care Needs. There is a mixture of portfolio and exam based work so students need to be committed to carrying out research and working independently.

Entry Qualifications
Grade C (or 4) in GCSE English or English Language, good written skills and an interest in people and how they develop.

Pre-Clinical

Pre-Clinical is a vocational support programme aimed at any student hoping to follow a medically related career (Medicine, Dentistry, Physiotherapy etc.). It includes study, in an accelerated manner, of BTEC Level 3 Health and Social Care Certificate. The units studied cover issues such as Human Lifespan and Development and Meeting Individual Care Needs. Students need to be committed to carrying out research and working independently. It provides an opportunity for personal development and is potentially a very valuable addition to the academic programme.

Entry Qualifications
Students pursuing a medical career will need high grades in GCSE sciences (A or A* grades) and Mathematics, as well as a minimum grade B (or 5) or above in at least one predominantly written subject (from English, English Language, English Literature, History, Religious Studies or Sociology). It is also essential that AS Biology and AS Chemistry are two of the AS levels studied alongside Pre-Clinical.

ICT (BTEC Level 3 Certificate)

This is an ideal course for students who wish to gain a high level of knowledge and practical competence in Information Technology. The content of this course will equip students with the skills needed for many careers in the modern world. Students will study the fundamentals of information technology, including: ethics, legislation, cyber security, networks, cloud technology and general application in a business environment. The second year will provide students with design and development skills, a thorough understanding of data management and the opportunity to put some of these concepts into practice in the form of an IT project.

The course will require students to study for a number of examinations as well as practically assessed modules. Previous GCSE study of Computing or ICT will be beneficial but not necessary. However, students will be expected to engage in both theory and practical lessons and have a keen interest in technology.

Entry Qualifications
Students are expected to have obtained a minimum of Grade C (or 4) or above in GCSE Mathematics and English or English Language and also a minimum of grade C in two GCSE sciences. If students have studied an ICT related, non-GCSE, qualification, a Merit or above grade would be expected. If GCSE Computing or ICT has been studied, a minimum of grade C is required.

History

Students choose to study one of three alternate time periods: Medieval Europe and England from the 8th to the 13th centuries or Early Modern Europe and England from the 15th to the 17th Century or Modern 19th and 20th Century British and World History (with a special study from an earlier time period). All the options have coursework in Year 2. Students do not need to have studied a specific time period at GCSE History.

Entry Qualifications
Minimum Grade C in GCSE History and English Language is required, as well as a grade B (or 5) or above in at least one predominantly written based GCSE subject (from English, English Language, English Literature, History, Religious Studies or Sociology). Good writing skills and an interest in reading are essential to success.
Italian
Students are expected to achieve a good level of fluency, written expression and comprehension in Italian through the study of contemporary topics and works (literature or film), as well as the language itself. All students have the chance to join our trip to Italy and have contact with visiting Italian students, as well as taking part in cultural activities. Italian is also available to beginners as a one-year GCSE course leading to a possible AS or A Level in year 2. The examinations test the whole range of language skills including speaking, listening, reading and writing.

Entry Qualifications
The AS course is open to students with grade B or above in GCSE Italian, and also to those with no formal qualification but who have significant skills and a background in the language through family or other connections with Italy.

Law
The course is academic and will provide an insight into the organisation and working of the English Legal System together with a knowledge and evaluation of criminal law in the second year.

Entry Qualifications
No previous study is expected, but a minimum grade C (or 4) in GCSE English Language, as well as at least two GCSEs at grade B (or 5) or above in predominantly written based GCSE subjects (from English, English Language, English Literature, History, Religious Studies or Sociology).

Applied Law (BTEC Level 3 Certificate)
The course will focus upon the foundations of the legal system and where the law originates from, the roles of legal personnel; how to solve legal disputes and aspects of liability. In the second year the focus will be on criminal and civil liability.

Entry Qualifications
At least 5 A*-C grades at GCSE including a minimum of a grade C (or 4) in English Language and a further grade C (or 4) in a predominantly written based GCSE subject (from History, English Literature, Religious Studies or Sociology), or a Merit grade or above in a predominantly written based GCSE-equivalent course.

Mathematics
A level Maths is a qualification that is highly prized by employers and universities alike and it offers excellent support to a wide range of other subjects as well as being an interesting subject in its own right. You will build on work you have studied at GCSE and develop an understanding of new concepts and techniques for solving a variety of abstract mathematical problems as well as those with real world applications. The content includes work on pure maths (with a focus on advanced algebra and trigonometry) and statistics.

Entry Qualifications
A grade A* (or grades 8 or 9) in GCSE Mathematics is the normal requirement for those taking AS Further Mathematics. Students who achieve a grade A (or 7), but would still like to take the course, you may sit a test at Enrolment. The test will check whether students’ mastery of the more demanding algebra and trigonometry elements of the GCSE syllabus is sufficiently strong to cope with the demands of AS Further Mathematics.

Further Mathematics
Further Mathematics is an excellent course for very strong maths students who are hoping to go on to a competitive degree course with significant mathematical content such as physics, engineering or mathematics itself. Students study pure mathematics, mechanics and statistics to a greater depth than those studying the A level Mathematics course alone and may have the opportunity to look at decision mathematics, a third applied area of the subject. Further mathematics students study the course in addition to mathematics.

Entry Qualifications
A grade A* (or grades 8 or 9) in GCSE Mathematics is the normal requirement for those taking AS Further Mathematics. Students who achieve a grade A (or 7), but would still like to take the course, you may sit a test at Enrolment. The test will check whether students’ mastery of the more demanding algebra and trigonometry elements of the GCSE syllabus is sufficiently strong to cope with the demands of AS Further Mathematics.

Further Mathematics
Further Mathematics is an excellent course for very strong maths students who are hoping to go on to a competitive degree course with significant mathematical content such as physics, engineering or mathematics itself. Students study pure mathematics, mechanics and statistics to a greater depth than those studying the A level Mathematics course alone and may have the opportunity to look at decision mathematics, a third applied area of the subject. Further mathematics students study the course in addition to mathematics.

Entry Qualifications
A grade A* (or grades 8 or 9) in GCSE Mathematics is the normal requirement for those taking AS Further Mathematics. Students who achieve a grade A (or 7), but would still like to take the course, you may sit a test at Enrolment. The test will check whether students’ mastery of the more demanding algebra and trigonometry elements of the GCSE syllabus is sufficiently strong to cope with the demands of AS Further Mathematics.

Entry Qualifications
A grade A* (or grades 8 or 9) in GCSE Mathematics is the normal requirement for those taking AS Further Mathematics. Students who achieve a grade A (or 7), but would still like to take the course, you may sit a test at Enrolment. The test will check whether students’ mastery of the more demanding algebra and trigonometry elements of the GCSE syllabus is sufficiently strong to cope with the demands of AS Further Mathematics.
Statistics

This course is an alternative to AS/A Level Mathematics. The course concentrates entirely on statistical methods and shows students how to collect, analyse and summarise data in order to arrive at conclusions. Topics covered in the first year, leading to the AS exam, include probability theory, sampling techniques and correlation. Statistics is a particularly useful complement to other subjects which use statistical techniques such as Biology, Psychology, Geography, Sociology, Economics and Business Studies. The study of statistics is an important element for many jobs in Science, Finance and Management. Those students choosing to continue to A Level will study many of the AS topics in greater depth as well as some new methods.

Entry Qualifications

Grade B (or 6) or above in GCSE Mathematics or, if GCSE Statistics has also been taken, Grade B or above in GCSE Statistics and grade C (or 5) or above in GCSE Mathematics at the Higher tier.

Students with a grade C (or 5) at the higher tier of GCSE Mathematics (and without a B or above in GCSE Statistics) will be considered if they pass a statistics test at Enrolment. This is based on statistical concepts within the GCSE Mathematics syllabus. All students must also have a grade C (or 4) or above in GCSE English (Language or Literature).

Media Studies

This course offers the opportunity to analyse a range of media texts through essays, discussion and reports. There will also be the chance to develop some production skills. An AS in Media Studies provides the opportunity to study a range of arts and could include film, news, magazines, radio, advertising, websites and video games. Production skills will be developed through the creation of a coursework piece such as an advertising campaign for a charity.

The course is assessed through one coursework unit and one written examination.

Entry Qualifications

No previous study is expected but a grade C (or 4) in GCSE English or English Language is required. If taken, GCSE Media Studies grade C or above is required.

This course cannot be taken with AS Film Studies in year 1.

Music

The course consists of three elements: performing, composing and listening. An enthusiasm for practical music making and a willingness to improve playing standards to a high level are needed. Students will be expected to participate in a range of ensemble practical work. Instrumental tuition is part of the Additional studies programme for Music students.

Entry Qualifications

Previous GCSE Music study is not essential but a standard of grade 5 Music Theory and grade 5/6 practical on an instrument or voice is required. If taken, GCSE Music grade C is required. A grade C (or 4) or above in GCSE English is also required. A short assessment test will be given to students at Induction and, if necessary, students will be asked to prepare a practical performance piece.

Music Technology

This is a specialised music course involving sequencing, recording, composing and the theory of Music Technology. An interest in work involving the use of technology and a willingness to listen to a wide range of music are important. The course follows on from work in GCSE Music, but can be taken by those students who have an interest in music technology. A short assessment test will be given to students at Induction.

Entry Qualifications

Students could also be taking AS level Music although this is not a requirement. Previous study of GCSE Music is not essential but fluent music reading skills are required and a Grade 5 Music Theory qualification is preferred. If taken GCSE Music grade C is required.

This course cannot be combined with the BTEC Music Technology (Production) course.

Music Technology (Production) (BTEC Level 3 Certificate)

This one year course will consist of three units: Music Production Techniques, Sequencing Systems and Techniques and Synthesis and Sampling. An interest in a course involving the use of technology and a willingness to listen to a wide range of music are important.

Entry Qualifications

The course will be open to Year One students (it will also be available to Year Two students taking A Level Music). It will not be permitted to take this course alongside AS Music or AS Music Technology or A Level Music Technology. Previous study of GCSE Music is not essential; however, if taken a minimum of grade C is required. A minimum grade C in GCSE English or English Language is required as well as a grade C, (or Merit) or above in a predominantly written or coursework based GCSE (or Level 2) subject. Good Music and ICT software skills are necessary.
Performing Arts (BTEC Level 3 Certificate)

This is a one year course, after which successful students could then progress to the Level 3 Extended Certificate in Performing Arts in their second year. The course integrates the three art forms of dance, drama and music and is particularly suitable for students who wish to progress to a career in the performing arts. It balances vocational and academic elements. The course will also interest students who are interested in developing skills and learning about the performing arts sector alongside other fields of study, with a view to progressing to a wide range of higher education courses.

Both courses work well alongside other AS/A levels, including other Performing Arts subjects. The Certificate comprises two units; Investigating Practitioners’ Work (externally assessed) and the second which is Developing Skills and Techniques for Live Performance (internally assessed)

Students will be expected to perform regularly to audiences and complete written assignments and log books for formal assessment. A commitment to performances and rehearsals within and outside of College hours is important, as is the requirement to see professional productions regularly and take part in workshops offered.

Entry Qualifications

Students should show strong practical skills in at least two of the three performing arts forms of drama, dance and music and be prepared to develop skills in the third. At least grade C (or 4) in both English Language and English Literature at GCSE level will be expected, and a BTEC Level 2 or GCSE grade C in a performing arts subject. If only one of the above English GCSEs is taken, the grade should be a B (or 5). Potential students will be expected to attend a workshop audition, held shortly after an Induction day.

Philosophy

Studying Philosophy enables students to explore far reaching questions about what we can know, ethics, the mind, and the existence of God. Philosophy encourages students to construct, analyse, and evaluate arguments, developing important skills which can be applied far beyond the subject. These skills include clear writing, analysis, critical evaluation and reasoning.

Entry Qualifications

No previous study is expected but as the course involves close critical understanding of philosophical texts. A high degree of confidence in English language skills is essential.

A grade C (or 4) in GCSE English Language is required, although a grade B (or 5) is preferred. Also required are grades B (or 5) or above in at least two predominantly written based GCSE subjects (from English, English Language, English Literature, History, Religious Studies or Sociology).

Photography (Art validated)

This is a demanding subject and therefore a genuine personal interest in photography is essential. Ideally, students will have completed a Photography or Art GCSE course, although those with relevant creative skills and interest can be considered. It is a practical Art-based course that allows students to extend their skills in practical and theoretical photography and experiment with different darkroom and digital techniques.

Entry Qualifications

GCSE Art or Photography at grade C or above is expected. If these subjects have not been studied to GCSE level students can request an ‘entry assessment task’ from the Admissions Office (please email: admissions@colchsfc.ac.uk).

Physics

Physics is concerned with the way the universe is organised and the laws that govern its physical behaviour. It covers topics such as the structure and behaviour of matter and energy in its many forms. Much of the work is mathematical in content. We to offer the OCR B syllabus Physics course. This ‘Advancing Physics’ course has been developed by OCR in conjunction with the Institute of Physics. It offers a mix of traditional physics and some more contemporary aspects such as imaging, communication and quantum physics.

Entry Qualifications

The course requires GCSE grade A (or 7) or above in Mathematics and either a grade B or above in GCSE Physics or grade B or above in both GCSE Core and Additional Science. All students are expected to take the AS Level Mathematics course to complement their studies in Physics.

Politics

The main focus is on the British political system. Students will study the Government in the UK unit including Parliament, the Prime Minister, and the Courts. Areas of study also include Political Participation in the UK including the main political parties, pressure groups and elections. Further topics include Political Ideas and either Global Politics or the Government and Politics of the USA. Good written skills are important.

Entry Qualifications

No previous study is necessary, but a good interest in current affairs is expected. A minimum grade C (or 4) in GCSE English Language is required, as well as a grade B (or 5) or above in at least one predominantly written based GCSE subject (from English, English Language, English Literature, History, Religious Studies or Sociology).
Product Design (Resistant Materials)

The course is comprised of a three part coursework portfolio which covers Product Investigation, Product Design and Product Manufacture in three discreet areas. The portfolio is intended to develop the student's skills in examining product performance, materials and components, product manufacture, design and quality issues. There is also a written exam on the knowledge of materials and manufacturing processes. In the second year there is the opportunity for the student to solve a problem of their own choice and manufacture a working prototype. The course is particularly suited to those intending to study or work in Engineering, Product Design or Industrial Design.

Entry Qualifications
Entry level requirements are GCSE grade B (or 5) or above in Mathematics and Physics (or two sciences), as well as a grade C (or 4) or better in English or English Language. If Resistant Materials or CDT has been taken at GCSE, a minimum grade B must have been attained. The course can be taken with Graphical Communications.

Psychology

Psychology involves the study of mind and behaviour. Topics covered include Psychopathology, Attachment, Social Influence and Memory.

This course requires good use of written English, an understanding of scientific method, an interest in biological content and good mathematical skills. It is a subject with a great deal of content so students need to be prepared to work hard.

Entry Qualifications
This course requires a minimum grade C (or 4) in GCSE English Language or English. A minimum of a C (or 4) is also required in GCSE Mathematics and 2 Sciences (either Core and Additional Science or 2 C grades or above from Biology and either Physics or Chemistry). A grade B in GCSE Biology is preferable. In addition a minimum grade B (or 5 or above) is needed in at least one predominantly written based GCSE subject (from English, English Language, English Literature, History, Religious Studies or Sociology).

Sculpture (an extra course option for Year 2 Fine Art students)

This course is designed for second years taking A Level Fine Art, Textiles or Graphical Communication students who would like to develop their 3D making skills. It is a good option for those students who are possibly going to apply for an Art and Design related degree course or Foundation Diploma. Students will initially explore a set theme developing their visual research within a variety of 3D sculptural media. Following this introduction they will develop ideas creating a body of work that will add breadth to their portfolio while fulfilling the AS Assessment Criteria. The course will be delivered as a double option (four periods).

Sociology

Sociology is the study of society. It explains how society works and how it affects people’s behaviour. Sociologists look at how people live, how they interact with each other, and how they are affected by social institutions. The course will allow you to explore different theories and research methods which will help you to understand society. It will do this by looking at areas such as: families and households, education, crime and deviance, research methods and beliefs in society. The course requires strong written skills as there is a significant level of essay writing in the assessments.

Entry Qualifications
No previous study is necessary but a minimum grade C (or 4) in GCSE English Language is required, as well as a minimum grade B (or 5 or above) in at least one predominantly written based GCSE subject (from English, English Language, English Literature, History, Religious Studies or Sociology).

Religious Studies

This is a wide-ranging course involving the study of Philosophy of Religion, Ethics and Christianity. In Philosophy of Religion, students consider arguments which attempt to prove God exists and arguments which suggest there is no God. Within the Ethics section students consider a number of ethical theories. The Christianity section looks at the beliefs and practices of this religion. The course develops skills which will enable students to think independently. It is suitable for students who profess any religion or none; but it is a requirement that students should be able, rationally and objectively, to analyse and evaluate religious ideas and concepts.

Entry Qualifications
No previous study is required but students must enjoy reading, thinking and writing essays. Consequently a good level of ability in English Language skills is required, including Grade C (or 4) or above at GCSE English or English Language.

Entry Qualifications
No previous study is required but students must enjoy reading, thinking and writing essays. Consequently a good level of ability in English Language skills is required, including Grade C (or 4) or above at GCSE English or English Language.
Spanish

This course will help students to build upon the skills gained at GCSE. The AS course helps students to learn about the mechanics of the language, and to find out more about topics based on themes such as social issues, politics and history. By the end of the year students will have acquired extensive knowledge of one ‘work’ such as a film or novel, and will be able to express their own views on a range of issues. Students will explore the social and cultural context of the language via texts drawn from textbooks, magazines, newspapers, and relevant websites. The Spanish department was recently identified as one of the top three Spanish language teaching centres in England and Wales by the Spanish Embassy in London. The award recognises that the course offers students much more than just the acquisition of improved language skills, by adding a range of opportunities to gain real insight into modern Spanish and South American lifestyle, current affairs and culture. The College organises regular educational visits to Spanish-speaking countries. The examinations cover the four language skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing.

Entry Qualifications
Previous study at GCSE or equivalent is essential and normally a minimum of a grade B in GCSE Spanish is required. NB: GCSE Spanish is also available.

Sport and Physical Education

This involves a multi-disciplinary modular approach to the participation in and the study of Sport and Physical Education. 70% of the final assessment is based on the theoretical study of anatomy, physiology, psychology, and socio-cultural aspects of Sport which will be examined via a written examination paper.

Coursework: At AS Level the 30% coursework relates to a critical reflection of performance in a chosen sport as a performer or coach. There will be a practical and written component. The sport chosen must be taken from the approved AQA list of activities (includes a selection of disability sports).

Entry Qualifications
A good level of sports experience and ability in at least one of the AQA accepted practical activity is expected (video evidence may be requested early on). Previous study of GCSE Physical Education is not necessary but if taken, a grade B is required. In addition a grade C in Core and Additional Science or Biology is a requirement. A minimum grade B (or 5) or above is also needed in at least one predominantly written based GCSE subject (from English, English Language, English Literature, History, Religious Studies or Sociology).

Textiles (Art validated)

This is an exciting practical course for those wishing to follow an art-based approach to textiles and design. Students will be introduced to a wide range of textile processes related to fabric construction, surface pattern and fashion. The emphasis will be on building and developing skills so you will need to have a skill or interest in textiles and be prepared to use drawing as a starting point for designs. There will be opportunities for working with both traditional and new technologies. The study of images, artefacts and resources relating to a range of art and design and textiles from both recent and historical sources will act as a starting point and underpin much of the work carried out.

Entry Qualifications
Although previous study is not essential, a real interest and enthusiasm is important. Students are expected to have some practical experience of working with textiles. A grade C in GCSE Art or Textiles is the minimum requirement. If these subjects have not been studied to GCSE level students can request an ‘entry assessment task’ from the Admissions Office (please email: admissions@colchsfc.ac.uk).
WHAT DOES THE OPPORTUNITY TO TAKE A ‘FIFTH CHOICE’ MEAN?

Most students will take four AS Levels in their first year, but we also offer all students the opportunity to take a ‘fifth choice’ alongside their AS Level options. These courses are designed to extend students’ skills, especially in areas of interest or expertise and help them to build a broader CV. Some will be formally academic, others pursued for fun. Many of these choices will be obvious ones for students who are already focussed upon a particular area of employment or further study, but others may enable students to try something different and unrelated to their core programme. This might involve, for example, the opportunity for language students to tackle a further language at GCSE Level or for students to develop their knowledge of practical finance. Students interested in sport may choose to develop their coaching skills.

This ‘fifth choice’ will operate in very different ways for different students, depending upon their needs and capabilities. Some students may choose to take a full fifth AS Level, for example, in an area such as Further Maths for strong mathematicians or Health and Social Care for those with aspirations in areas such as medicine. Others may decide to focus fully upon their core course of 4 AS Levels and add a slightly less demanding course such as Financial Studies or Ceramics.

Many will draw upon the huge range of activities offered as part of the additional studies programme and decide to join a club or society, serve on a student committee or develop their skills in areas such as debating, chess or sign language.

The following two GCSE Language subjects or Core Mathematics are options that can be chosen as 5th Academic courses for AS Level students.

GCSE Italian
A one-year accelerated course for complete beginners in the language but who have significant interest and linguistic ability. This course is suitable for students with a proven aptitude and interest in languages and is particularly appropriate for students who have already gained a B or above at GCSE level in a foreign language or who have a strong alternative background in foreign language learning. It may be possible for some students who have not had the opportunity to study a GCSE foreign language to do this course, but it must be emphasised that a very high degree of commitment is required as grammar and vocabulary will need to be learnt on a daily basis. The course is taught in six periods per week. AS Italian will be available in Year 2 to those students who achieve a grade B or better pass.

GCSE Spanish
A one-year accelerated course for complete beginners in the language but who have significant interest and linguistic ability. This course is suitable for students with a proven aptitude and interest in languages and is particularly appropriate for students who have already gained a B or above at GCSE level in a foreign language or who have a strong alternative background in foreign language learning. It may be possible for some students who have not had the opportunity to study a GCSE foreign language to do this course, but it must be emphasised that a very high degree of commitment is required as grammar and vocabulary will need to be learnt on a daily basis. The course is taught in six periods per week. AS Spanish will be available in Year 2 to those students who achieve a grade B or better pass.

Core Mathematics
Level 3 Mathematical Studies (Core Maths) is a new qualification designed for students who have achieved a grade C or above in GCSE Mathematics. It helps to further develop students’ mathematical skills and thinking and supports courses such as AS/A-level Psychology, Sciences, Geography Business or Economics. Core Maths is a brand new course which is intended for students who are keen to extend their GCSE Maths skills for future study or work, but aren’t planning on taking Mathematics at AS or A Level. At the end of the one-year course, you will receive a Level 3 Certificate in Mathematics Studies (equivalent to AS Level study). Studying Mathematics in context through Core Maths will equip you with a number of transferable skills recognised by universities and employers alike.
Programme 2
The International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme

WHAT IS THE INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE DIPLOMA PROGRAMME (IB)?

The IB programme is a comprehensive two-year programme of study with the main examinations being taken in May of the second year. Although students have some choice of subjects they must take six subjects from at least five different subject ‘families’. Students have to take English, a modern foreign language, a science subject, a humanities subject and Mathematical Studies (a Standard Level course). Students will also take a sixth subject which can be a creative option such as Art, Music or Theatre or they can elect to take a second subject from one of three other subject ‘families’ e.g. a second science or humanity or foreign language.

The breadth of the education within the IB Diploma is not only the result of studying six subjects, but students are also required to complete three additional activities as part of their programme: The Theory of Knowledge course, a 4,000 word extended essay and at least 150 hours of pursuits including creative, activity and service based projects (C.A.S). There will be opportunities for many of these activities to be undertaken within the College’s Additional Studies programme. However involvement in mainly out of College organisations and activities will provide equally valid C.A.S. experiences.

WHY DO STUDENTS TAKE IB INSTEAD OF A-LEVELS?

The IB Diploma programme will be of interest to those students who want to maintain a very broad range of subjects and who have an interest in global issues. It is designed for well organised students with balanced GCSE qualifications. It is highly regarded by employers and higher education, not only in the UK but also throughout the world.

WHICH SUBJECTS CAN I CHOOSE?

Students will study six subjects (which must include one from each of five ‘groups’), which can be made up of either three at Higher Level and three at Standard Level, or four at Higher Level and two at Standard Level.

Group 1 – English – Higher or Standard Level options

Group 2 – Modern Foreign Language (MFL – options from French/German/Spanish/Italian) Students must select at least one language from this list and may, if desired, choose a second language. Students select the language based on their language proficiency – students who do not have a language qualification will normally choose either Spanish or Italian ab initio (beginner’s course) – Higher or Standard Level options

Group 3 – Individuals and societies – Higher or Standard Level options

• Geography • History • Philosophy • Psychology

Group 4 – Experimental sciences – Higher or Standard Level options

• Biology • Chemistry • Physics

• Environmental systems and societies

Group 5 – Mathematics – A Standard Level course

• Mathematical studies

There is also:

Group 6 – The Arts or an Elective – Higher or Standard Level options

• Music • Theatre • Visual Arts

Please note that one choice from each of Group 1 to 5 options is compulsory. However the sixth choice can either be from Group 6 or a second choice from Group 2 or 3 or 4.

WHAT GRADES WILL I NEED FOR IB?

The entry requirements for the IB Diploma are broadly the same as for a 4AS programme. However, students will normally need to have C or above passes in English or English Language, Maths, Science and in a modern foreign language (where taken). Ab initio Italian or Spanish may be taken by students who have been unable to study a language at school. They will usually need grade B or above in subjects related to those they wish to study at Higher Level.

www.colchsfc.ac.uk
INDIVIDUAL IB COURSE CHOICES:

Biology (Higher and Standard)
These courses combine a study of basic biological topics with a consideration of some recent advances. Topics covered include: cells, chemistry of life, genetics, evolution, biodiversity, ecology and human health and physiology. The course also includes up to 60 hours of practical investigations, some of which will form part of the internal assessment. It is hoped students will acquire a large body of facts and at the same time develop a broad, general understanding of the principles of Biology.

Chemistry (Higher)
This course covers topics familiar from GCSE such as atomic structure, bonding, energetics, rates, periodicity and organic chemistry but in much greater depth. We also study Medicinal Chemistry: A high level of mathematical ability and good problem solving skills are required. The course involves 60 hours of practical work including a 10 hour assessed individual investigation which you plan, carry out and write-up. All science students also take part in a group 4 project on a common topic such as Energy or Colour as part of their programme.

Environmental Systems & Societies (Standard)
This course allows students to understand their relationship with the environment and the significance of changes and decisions they make in their own lives. We study ecosystems, energy, pollution, wildlife conservation and the influence of human populations upon resources. Practical field and laboratory work is an integral part of this linear course and would appeal to any student wishing to develop their ecological knowledge, as well as those who wish for a more applied science within their IB portfolio (useful additions to Biology and Chemistry). Compulsory local fieldwork in the Summer Term enables individuals to complete a major part of their assessed portfolio work. The course can be either a ‘Science’ or ‘Humanities’ choice within the IB Diploma Programme.

French (Higher and Standard)
These courses are for students who have already successfully studied this language at GCSE. We aim to enable students to use their knowledge of German to be able to communicate effectively and confidently in a variety of situations. Students will be expected to answer questions on texts, take part in oral activities, and produce written work with a high degree of accuracy. At Higher level, students will need to study two works of literature. To take the subject at Higher Level, a grade A is the minimum requirement. Grade B is the minimum requirement for the Standard Level course.

Geography (Higher and Standard)
The aim of these courses is to enable students to develop an understanding of the interrelationship between people, places and the environment. Students will gain an appreciation of the relevance of geography through analysis of contemporary world issues and an understanding of the need to plan and manage for present and future generations. Topics covered include population, migration, globalisation, tourism, climatic and tectonic hazards, rivers and/or coasts. There is a short compulsory residential fieldwork trip in spring of the first year, where data is collected for the coursework assessment. In addition there will be opportunities to participate in optional departmentally organised trips to Sri Lanka, Italy, Iceland or the South West USA.

German (Higher and Standard)
These courses are for those who have already successfully studied this language at GCSE. We aim to enable students to use their knowledge of German to be able to communicate effectively and confidently in a variety of situations. Students will be expected to answer questions on texts, take part in oral activities, and produce written work with a high degree of accuracy. At Higher level, students will need to study two works of literature. To take the subject at Higher Level, a grade A is the minimum requirement. Grade B is the minimum requirement for the Standard Level course. There is normally an opportunity to take part in a trip or exchange as part of the experience of the language. Some of the teaching will be along with AS German students.
History (Higher)
Higher Level History is intended for those students wishing to understand the key factors that shaped world history during the 20th century.

Italian (ab initio)
This is a course designed for students with no or little knowledge of Italian. It is open to students who have already studied a different language at GCSE and to students who have not had the opportunity to take a GCSE in a foreign language. In a few cases, it may be appropriate for students who have already studied Italian at GCSE level to join this course. All students who choose this course will need to be willing to learn vocabulary and grammar on a regular basis. The main aim of the course is the acquisition of language skills for use in everyday social situations, and the development of awareness of Italian culture. Language skills will be assessed through oral, reading and writing tasks. All students have the chance to join our trip to Italy and to have contact with Italian students, as well as take part in cultural activities.

Mathematical Studies
This course caters for students with varied backgrounds and abilities. More specifically it is designed to build confidence and encourage an appreciation of mathematics in students who do not anticipate a need for complex mathematics in their future studies. It reinforces the work covered at GCSE and extends it into fresh areas including logic, finance and some calculus. This is the most appropriate option for the majority of students on the IB diploma course. Those with particular skills and interest in Mathematics will also be offered the chance to sit A-Level Mathematics alongside their IB course.

Music (Higher)
This course is designed for the specialist music student with a good background in musical performance and composition, who may pursue music at university or conservatoire level. The ability to read music fluently is required. Students will have some of their music teaching along with AS Music students.

Music (Standard)
This course is designed for the student with a good background in musical performance or composition. The ability to read music fluently is required. Students will have some of their music teaching along with AS Music students.

Philosophy (Higher and Standard)
This course gives students the opportunity to engage with some of the biggest philosophical questions, including ‘What does it mean to be human?’ ‘What is the right way to act?’ ‘Is it ever justifiable to break the law for political ends?’ When addressing these questions students will not only learn about what other philosophers have said but, more importantly, analyse and attempt to solve the problems for themselves.

Psychology (Higher and Standard)
Psychology the scientific study of behaviour and mental processes, and tries to explain behaviour at different levels, including biological, cognitive and cultural influences on behaviour. Topics included in the course are memory, social relationships, and the interaction between biological processes and behaviour and understanding mental health issues.

Spanish (ab initio)
This is a course designed for students with no or little previous knowledge of the language. It is open to students who have already studied a different language at GCSE and to students who have not had the opportunity to take a GCSE in a foreign language. In a few cases, it may be appropriate for students who have already studied Spanish at GCSE level to join this course. All students who choose this course will need to be willing to learn vocabulary and grammar on a regular basis. The main aim of the course is the acquisition of language skills for use in everyday social situations. Language skills will be assessed through oral, reading and writing tasks. All students have the chance to join our annual trip to Spain, as well as take part in cultural activities such as our film club.

Physics (Higher)
This course offers a traditional approach to the subject and students initially enrol for the higher option. Students need to have a high level of numeracy and will therefore also be offered the chance to sit A-Level Mathematics alongside the IB course. Assessment includes both written papers and practical assignments.
Spanish (Higher and Standard)

Students will have already studied the language successfully at GCSE. The main focus of the course is the acquisition of higher level writing, speaking and reading skills. Students will be expected to answer questions on texts, take part in oral activities, and produce written work with a high degree of accuracy. At Higher level, students will need to study two works of literature. The Spanish department has recently been identified as one of the top three Spanish language teaching centres in England and Wales by the Spanish Embassy in London. The award recognises that the courses offer students much more than just the acquisition of improved language skills by adding a range of opportunities to gain real insight into modern Spanish and South American lifestyle, current affairs and culture. The College organises regular educational visits to Spanish-speaking countries. To take the subject at Higher Level a grade A is normally the minimum grade required. Grade B is the minimum required for the Standard Level course.

Theatre Arts (Higher)

This course looks at the ‘world of theatre’ and ‘theatre in the world’. As well as learning about the ways in which theatrical activity functions, students explore the many diverse ways in which different cultures reflect the world around them through their unique theatre practices. There is no final examination but the course is assessed through 4 pieces of coursework that are completed in the second year of study. The additional assessment at Higher level requires students to engage with theatre theorists and their theories.

Theatre Arts (Standard)

The same course is followed as Higher level but only 3 of the coursework modules are taken. These are also assessed in the second year of study.

Visual Arts (Higher and Standard)

The course will develop students’ practical skills, appreciation of the visual world and ability to respond to it in a personal and creative way. There is a strong written, analytical element to the course as well as practical work so it is essential that students have critical skills and are able to analyse their own work and that of other artists.
Programme 3
The Advanced Foundation Programme (AFP) – available to applicants within area

WHAT IS THE ADVANCED FOUNDATION PROGRAMME (AFP)?

This is a one year programme of study at college which aims to help you to develop the skills you need to become a more independent student with improved study skills.

A key goal of the year is to improve your GCSE profile. Another important element of the course is preparing you to progress from the AFP Programme either to other academic courses such as AS Levels or BTEC or to a vocational course or employment. This is a key part of the Personal Development Tutorial programme.

WHAT GRADES WILL I NEED FOR THE AFP?

To qualify for this programme you need to have CDD in three core academic subjects (English or English Language, Mathematics, Science – the C grade can be in any of these subjects) and at least two other D grades.

When assessing your suitability for a course built around GCSE qualifications such as AFP, one of our primary interests is, of course, to look at your previous GCSE passes. This is because vocational qualifications are often not designed to offer progression to academic courses.

In some exceptional circumstances students who have not been able to take any GCSEs will be able to take this course route.

WHO IS AFP FOR?

The AFP Programme is for students who have achieved some GCSE pass grades (C or 4) but still need passes in a range of key subjects before being able to progress to further study. This will usually include students who have been recommended by their schools as having academic ability and a positive approach to academic study at GCSE, but may have academically underperformed, perhaps because of ill-health or personal circumstances.

The Programme is not normally available to ‘out of area’ applicants or those with little academic interest.

This programme is also appropriate for students who have recently arrived in the UK and for whom English is not their first language. These applicants may need to take an assessment of their English, Mathematics and Science abilities before an offer can be made.

WHAT COURSES WILL MAKE UP MY PROGRAMME OF STUDY?

There are different ways to progress on the AFP Programme:

5 GCSE Subjects

This programme is for students who have achieved 1 or 2 C grade or higher passes at GCSE. You must have a C grade or higher in one of either English or English Language or Mathematics or Science GCSE and D GCSE passes in the other two subjects and D grades in at least two other subjects to indicate your potential to improve to a C.

1 AS Level and 3/4 GCSEs

For some students, who have achieved 3 grade C, or better, GCSE passes, it might be more appropriate to take a course which includes one or two AS Level courses. This is much more likely to be the case if your results include a C grade or higher in English or English Language as this is a firm entry requirement for many AS subjects. If the number of GCSE passes at C grade or higher rises to four or even five, then a second AS Level may well be added.
WHERE CAN I GO AFTER I HAVE FINISHED THE ADVANCED FOUNDATION PROGRAMME?

Many students will find that a good foundation in GCSE is vital for progression onto ‘Level 3’ courses both at College and elsewhere, as well as being demanded by employers and trainers. If you wish to return to college to study AS Levels or IB, you will be asked to re-apply. Individual targets will be set for your entry onto these courses. You will need to achieve more B and C grade passes, have shown a high level of motivation and have had excellent attendance to be accepted onto higher level courses. We will also support you in any application to other colleges for vocational courses, work-based training or employment.

WHICH COURSES ARE OFFERED AS PART OF THE ADVANCED FOUNDATION PROGRAMME?

BTEC Business (Level 2)
GCSE Citizenship
GCSE English Language
GCSE English Literature
IT (Level 2 Certificate)
GCSE Mathematics – (Higher or Foundation Levels)
GCSE Media Studies
GCSE Science

BTEC First Award in Business

In this BTEC Level 2 (First) course, students will develop a knowledge and understanding of Business in a work related context. They will also acquire transferable skills such as communication and problem solving that are considered essential for employers. Units covered include Enterprise in the Business World, Finance for Business, Promoting a Brand and Recruitment Selection and Employment. There is a combination of both internal and external assessment. Successful completion could give students the opportunity to progress on to either AS Level Business or Certificate in Applied Business. No previous study of Business or Economics is required.

GCSE Citizenship

This is a full course where students will develop the skills and knowledge needed to campaign successfully on a range of current affairs and issues important to them. Students will learn about pressure groups, charities, democracy, human rights, how to hold politicians to account, the importance of standing up for your beliefs and so much more! It is a really lively, topical course which increases students’ confidence in their own voice and ability to present a case, represent a charity or pressure group and take responsible action to make a difference. Assessment involves two written exams on the following topics: Active Citizenship, Politics and Participation, Life in Modern Britain and Rights and Responsibilities.

GCSE English Language

Any student who joins the College without a grade C or higher in English Language (or English) will be required to take this course. Students brush up on their basic communication skills and work to improve their reading, writing, speaking and listening. Students write letters, articles, reports, stories and essays, as well as studying a variety of texts from different time periods. Students will usually have the opportunity to attempt the examinations in November and again in the summer if necessary.

GCSE English Literature

This course gives you the chance to study a wide range of poetry, fiction and drama. You will have a variety of opportunities to work in different ways in class including discussion, paired and group work and individual note making. When possible, you will see productions of texts we are studying. Your assessment will be by examination. The course helps you to improve all your communication skills. NB. To take any English AS levels students ideally need both English Language and English Literature grade C or better at GCSE.

IT (Level 2 Certificate)

The course involves practical and theory work. The coursework will be linked to a scenario and students will be expected to design and create software to a specific set of user requirements. The course will include two modules, one introductory module and a project module. The coursework tasks will vary from year to year but will cover various tasks often associated with ICT such as designing digital products, building software applications, planning and managing projects and evaluating the success of software that has been created.
GCSE Mathematics – (Higher or Foundation Levels)
The GCSE Mathematics course is a one year course that provides students with the opportunity to achieve a grade C (or equivalent) at Foundation level. Any students who have not previously achieved a grade C (or 4) or above in Mathematics are required to take this course. In certain circumstances students may follow an accelerated course and take exams in November and/or in January. The course reinforces and builds upon the mathematical knowledge that students have gained at school. Students who have achieved a grade C (or equivalent) already at Higher level may have the opportunity to improve their grade by following a short course at Higher level and taking the exams in November. Students who have a grade E or below at GCSE will follow the EDEXCEL Functional Skills course which will lead to a level 2 qualification.

GCSE Media Studies
The course encourages you to take a closer look at the media and to develop a critical understanding of how it works. The course is assessed by coursework, which includes practical production work, and a final examination on a specific media topic. Production work covers skills such as video editing and desktop publishing.

GCSE Science
This course will be offered as a single award following the AQA B Science specification. The course is primarily offered to allow students who do not have a grade C in a science subject the opportunity to achieve this target. It is not a suitable preparation for AS Level study in Biology, Chemistry or Physics, but is suitable for other AS courses requiring C in Science. The course involves units of Chemistry, Biology and Physics and the analysis and collection of data in assessed coursework.
HOW TO FIND US

For a specific locational map please refer to the ‘How to Find Us’ section of the College website (www.colchsfc.ac.uk)
College Postcode is CO1 1SN (access is via North Hill)

For any further information please see our website at:
http://www.colchsfc.ac.uk

or telephone or write to:
Admissions Co-Ordinator
The Sixth Form College
North Hill
Colchester
CO1 1SN

Telephone 01206 500743 or 01206 505595
Fax 01206 500794
e-mail admissions@colchsfc.ac.uk

This prospectus is available on the College website for those applicants who need a larger format.
KEY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Open Evenings for 2017 entry – 19 and 20 October 2016

Please come along with your parents to collect subject information and talk to our staff and students.


Applications for 2017 entry are invited after the October Open Evenings. All applications are made on-line and should be received before 31 January 2017. Please go to the College website shown below.

The College Induction Days, for all students offered places for 2017 entry, will be held immediately after the GCSE exams finish, on Wednesday 28 June 2017 and Thursday 29 June 2017. All applicants who are made offers will be required to attend on one of these days as a condition of their offer.

PROVISIONAL TERM DATES FOR 2017 – 18

ACADEMIC YEAR

Autumn Term 2017
Tuesday 29 August – Wednesday 20 December

Half Term
Monday 23 October – Friday 27 October

Spring Term 2018
Wednesday 3 January – Thursday 29 March
(Easter Weekend Bank Holidays - Good Friday 30 March and Easter Monday 2 April)

Half Term
Monday 12 February – Friday 16 February

Summer Term
Monday 16 April – Tuesday 17 July
(Bank Holiday Monday 7 May)

Half Term
Monday 28 May – Friday 1 June

Please note that the College term dates differ slightly from those of Essex and Suffolk schools. Students must not take holidays during term time.

Further information from:
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