

ASPIRE & ACHIEVE TOGETHER



SIXTH FORM





Welcome

Our Sixth Form is popular and highly successful. We are forward thinking and our exciting curriculum is complemented by our welcoming and supportive ethos.

Every student is unique and we believe in providing a bespoke learning pathway for each individual based on their abilities, aptitudes and career aspirations.

Our staff are fully committed to ensuring you achieve your personal best and are ready for life after Sixth Form. By matching your curriculum to your needs we will help you succeed and enjoy being part of our Sixth Form community.

At Holcombe Grammar School we believe every Sixth Form student is a role-model and a leader. You will be given privileges but you will be expected to justify those privileges by your commitment to your studies and the contribution you make to the school.

Sixth Form is one of the most rewarding and challenging times of a young person's school career but it is also the time when you will lay the foundations of a successful career and begin to realise your dreams and aspirations. We provide an impressive range of opportunities for our Sixth Form students to contribute to the life of the school and develop their leadership skills through: mentoring younger pupils, leading charity events, running event days for younger students, running a club, taking part in our successful sporting teams or music productions or taking up a role in our Student Prefect Team.

In this way, you will mature and develop as a caring and principled young person.

We know we are educating our young people for a world that is rapidly changing, a world that we expect will be very different by the time you graduate from your future studies. We will provide a unique 21st century learning experience through our promotion of thinking skills; teaching students to think independently, reflectively, critically and creatively to equip them with the skills and habits to succeed in the future.

We look forward to welcoming you into our Sixth Form.



Mr Lee Preston
Principal

Studying for Success

Students have a wide breadth of courses to choose from and will normally study three or four A Levels during their time in the sixth form. A Trust offer which incorporates opportunities to study a wider selection of qualifications in conjunction with The Victory Academy provides a large selection of academic and vocational courses, providing more choice and variety for students attending Holcombe Grammar School.

In addition to A Level study students have the opportunity to study a wide range of additional qualifications, e.g. the Extended Project Qualification and BTECs in vocational courses. During your guidance interview, your option choices will be discussed to ensure you are taking the appropriate courses for your intended aspiration.

The expertise, support and guidance of the teachers at Holcombe enables students to achieve their full potential and confidently apply for University or the world of work after their Sixth Form studies. Students from Holcombe achieve excellent examination results and gain places at top Russell Group universities including Oxford and Cambridge.



“Lessons observed confirm strong subject knowledge as well as high levels of teacher challenge and pupil engagement.”

Ofsted 2018





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Becoming Independent

Being in the Sixth Form is as much about how you learn to manage yourself as it is about what you learn in the classroom.

Students at Holcombe are supported in developing their ability to manage their own time, prioritise their work and to become the independent person they will need to be in order to be successful when they leave the Sixth Form.

With the support of the Head of Sixth Form and the Sixth Form team students develop the skills of: goal setting, time management and self-discipline. These core skills enable students to become truly independent and able to step confidently into the world beyond the Sixth Form.

Sixth Form students at Holcombe benefit from having their own study facilities. In addition, the Sixth Form area benefits from having its own café area, main study centre and separate prefect block with access to food and drinks.

“Nothing is too much for the teachers. If you need extra resources or ideas or help, all you have to do is ask.”

Year 12 Student



Developing Habits of Excellence

As well as developing the skills necessary to be an academically successful student the Sixth Form is also the time when the 'softer' life skills, or 'habits of excellence', are developed and put into practice.

As of 2019, Holcombe Grammar School was accredited as a Thinking School by Thinking Schools at the University of Exeter. This means students are supported to shape their minds, attitudes and habits through a framework of cognitive education.

Students in the Sixth Form have the opportunity to take significant responsibility within the school community and, as such, develop their 'Habits of Excellence'. Known as 'The Holcombe Habits', these dispositions for success include creative thinking, empathy and understanding, questioning and posing problems, persisting and thinking interdependently. These habits are developed both within and outside of the classroom with students being given a range of teamwork, decision making and leadership opportunities.

The School Captains Team take responsibility for organising and running major whole school events such as our annual Charity Days. The House Prefects take charge of organising the students for House events.

The Academic Prefects support their nominated subject through mentoring younger students and supporting the Head of Department.

In addition, Sixth Form students apply for our 'Associate Learning Assistant Programme', which involves successful candidates mentoring younger students during form time. They act as role models through their involvement in year 7 and 8 lessons and assist with revision sessions for our year 9 and 10 students.

Sixth Form students also run extra-curricular clubs and support primary school children at New Horizons Children's Academy, as well as other non-trust primary schools in the local area.

In these ways students develop the all-round skills necessary to be successful in life.







Stepping Stone to the Future

The Sixth Form is your spring board into the real world, whether you choose to go to university, onto an apprenticeship or a full time job, you will be well supported by the Sixth Form team in your decision and applications.

The vast majority of students at Holcombe go onto university. Preparing for university begins almost at the start of your Sixth Form studies with an Aspirations Morning during which you will have the chance to consider and reflect the possible direction you wish to take after the Sixth Form and begin to focus your mind on what you need to achieve during your time in the Sixth Form to enable you to access your ambitions.

Towards the end of year 12 students engage in professional work experience. Many students travel up to London and gain work experience with corporate firms, others successfully gain placements in their chosen field such as: medicine, veterinary science, banking, hospitality and retail. This work placement is an essential element in developing a real sense of your possible future career.

Before the end of year 12 there is then a second Futures Event which allows students to focus either on refining their university choices and beginning their UCAS applications or looking at how to apply for apprenticeships and jobs. No matter which pathway you choose the focus is on what skills and experiences you need to gain in order to successfully apply to either university or the world of work by the end of year 13.

In year 13 students are supported in their UCAS applications and we aspire for all applications to be in by November. Our students attend annual UCAS and apprenticeship fairs. Many students will have received university offers by the end of the Christmas term. Students not applying to university will be assisted by the Sixth Form team with job and apprenticeship applications and references throughout Year 13 to ensure a smooth transition at the end of the Sixth Form.

No matter what your ambitions and aspirations after Sixth Form are, the right processes and people are in place to support you in successfully making that step from the Sixth Form into your future.

“The Sixth Form curriculum provides an appropriate range of courses which is responsive to pupils’ aptitudes and future needs, as evidenced through the high staying-on rates.”

Ofsted 2018



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