



Welcome

Hinchingbrooke Sixth Form

Excellence in Everything

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Welcome

We are delighted that you are considering Hinchingsbrooke Sixth Form for your post-16 education!

We are the largest Sixth Form in Huntingdonshire, drawing students from many schools in the locality who join us alongside the majority of our Year 11 students. Students come to Hinchingsbrooke for numerous reasons. We pride ourselves in offering high quality teaching and learning in a wide range of subjects. We offer all of the traditional A Level subjects you would expect from a large Sixth Form, as well as those which are not available at smaller institutions. For example, you can study French and Spanish at A Level, as well as Computer Science, Music, Music Technology, Drama and Dance. We also offer a number of one-year courses to complement your programme of study, such as the Extended Project Qualification and Mathematical Studies.



Our facilities are simply outstanding. The Sixth Form is based in Hinchingsbrooke House, the stately home which originally belonged to the Montagu family. The House is a beautiful place to study and work and is equipped to support the needs of today's Sixth Form students. Whilst you will study privately in the House and enjoy its gardens, you will benefit from what the rest of the school has to offer. For example, you will have access to a gym and pool, all weather sports facilities, a performing arts centre and first class IT facilities.

The curriculum you will follow stretches beyond your core subjects. In Year 12, you will follow our Enrichment Programme on a Wednesday afternoon. This is your opportunity to broaden your skill-set by following courses such as Sports Leadership, cookery, debating and First Aid Training. Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education is taught once a fortnight and covers everything from financial management to healthy relationships.

We expect all of our students to support the Hinchingsbrooke Community in some way. A large number of our Year 12s and 13s volunteer to support younger learners in a range of subjects. We have a well established House system in the School and we have numerous, high profile student leadership roles for you to aim for. You can also become part of the editorial team for 'Open House', our Sixth Form magazine, or audition for the annual school production.

Every student has a specialist Sixth Form tutor, whose primary role is to oversee your progress and wellbeing, and to help you move onto university, employment or an apprenticeship. This team of tutors is led by a Head of Year and a Student Support Officer. We also have a dedicated Oxbridge/Russell Group mentor, an award-winning Post-16 Careers Counsellor and specialist support for our disadvantaged students. Coupled with your subject specialists, this network of professionals will ensure that you will be happy, safe and successful whilst you are with us.

The following pages provide some further information about the Sixth Form experience and the application process. If you have questions at any time, please contact us at sixthform@hbk.acesmat.uk.

Good luck in Year 11 and we look forward to receiving your application.

Mrs Victoria Rix
Assistant Principal
Head of Sixth Form

Core Curriculum



Programme of study - Your core curriculum

All Sixth Formers must study 3 A Level or Level 3 courses which you will be studying for two years. Some of you will be suited to studying a fourth A level, depending on the profile of your predicted grades. When you are choosing your core subjects, it is important that you consider those that interest you and which you enjoy. Several of the subjects we offer will be new to you (e.g. Psychology, Sociology, Criminology, Politics and Media Studies) and you might feel that you would like to try something which you have never studied before.

Whatever you do, make sure that you have read our [Course Information & Entry Requirements Guide](#) and have an understanding of how the course is taught, is assessed and what its entry requirements are. Make sure you visit the course stand at our Open Evening or contact the Head of Department directly on the email provided in the Course Information Booklet.

If you are considering university as the next step after Sixth Form, be aware that some institutions specify certain subjects. On the other hand, many other universities accept all valid Level 3 courses, and are equally interested in what you will offer as a person. For guidance from the Russell Group of universities, look at the Informed Choices website [click here](#).

At the end of Year 12 you will complete examinations in all of your courses to assess your progress. If you do not pass one of more of these exams (gain a 'U' grade) and your approach to your learning suggests that the your chosen courses are not suitable, we will meet with you to discuss your best progression route. This may involve restarting Year 12 with different options, dropping a subject and picking up a one year course, or guidance on starting at another establishment where you are more likely to succeed.

To help you decide which courses and subjects to take, it may be helpful to talk over your options with your family and friends, your teachers or tutor. You should also look at our curriculum pathways in our Course Information Booklet. This is not prescriptive but gives you a good idea of what subjects you should be studying, given your predicted GCSE grades.

Additional Curriculum



Your programme of study - Your additional curriculum

As well as your core subjects, you will be taking part in Enrichment, on a Wednesday afternoon. This is provided for you to develop your wider interpersonal skills, your mental resilience and your well-being. This year, students pick from a range of activities from Sports Leadership, Cooking for Independence, Martial Arts, Performing Arts, Music and Mentoring. Hinchbrooke is known for its sporting opportunities and teams, so you will have plenty of opportunity to play sport against other schools or against other HBK Sixth Formers.

To help students with the step up to the demands of Sixth Form, we timetable all Year 12 students for registered periods of supervised **Private Study**. You will receive training on how best to use your independent study time and we will provide the resources to help you in this work. All Sixth Formers have an hour of **PSHCE** per fortnight, touching on important topics such as 'Healthy Relationships' and 'Safety and Wellbeing'.

We have a vast array of student leadership roles and there is plenty of opportunity to take on key roles to lead on aspects of student life in the Sixth Form and in the rest of the school. For example, you can apply to become a House Ambassador in year 12 to help the House Captains lead on the school wide House competitions. When you are in Year 13, we encourage you to apply for the Head Student roles, and if successful, you will work closely with key members of senior staff in improving the Sixth Form and the school.

Your Care, Guidance & Support



Your care, guidance and support

Your happiness and wellbeing are important to us and we believe that what sets us apart from many larger institutions is the individual care we provide to our students. You will have a Head of Year and Student Support Officer who are responsible for your wellbeing and progress. Throughout your two years, you will have a dedicated Sixth Form tutor whose role is to provide daily contact and support. In the first six weeks of term you will be attending daily morning tutorials so that you can complete your Induction Programme and manage the step up from GCSE to Sixth Form. Throughout the year, you will have personalised one-to-one meetings with your tutor and a certain times in the year, they will be involved in our intervention programme to make sure that you are on track to succeed.

Your tutor will support and guide you through all aspects of your Sixth Form life, including your transition to higher education, an apprenticeship or employment. More specialist and personalised support is available through the Sixth Form Safeguarding Officer, SEND, our School Counsellor and a School Nurse, who are here to co-ordinate interventions wherever needed.

Making your Application



Making your application

To make your application to join our Sixth Form, please visit [MyChoice16 - Your Online Careers Gateway](#). Your school may already be using this platform for your post-16 choices. If not, you will have to create an account for yourself. If you have any problems accessing MyChoice, please contact us at sixthform@hbk.acesmat.uk

Applications should be in by the **15th January 2024**. Later that month, we will be inviting all students who meet the entry requirements to an interview to discuss their application. We continue to accept applications throughout the year but please be aware that courses fill up quickly.

Following the interview, we will make conditional offers based on the set of predicted grades you submit on your MyChoice application. If your actual grades in the summer are better than what you were predicted, you will have the opportunity to change your sixth form options.

Making an appeal for a place on a Sixth Form course

Please note that in fairness to all of those who apply for places on courses, we strictly uphold our grade entry requirements and it is very rare for a student to be admitted to a course where they have not met the grade entry requirement. If you have not met the grade entry requirement and wish to make an appeal for a place on the course, you may do so by emailing us on (sixthform@hbk.acesmat.uk), making your subject title: (Your name +) Appeal for a place on a Sixth Form course – e.g. *John Smith appeal for a place on the Year 12 Physics course*.

A panel of three senior staff who have not already been involved in discussions about your courses will consider your appeal within 5 working days of receipt of your appeal and we will email you the outcome. **Please note that being close to a grade boundary (e.g. achieving a high grade 6 when the entry requirement was a Grade 7) and being very keen to do a subject would not be considered grounds for appeal. There will have to be exceptional circumstances that affected your performance that are likely to be unique to you, such as hospitalisation for an extended period of time or bereavement in the run-up to the end of Year 11 examinations.**

Application Timeline 2024

