

Welcome to Park View Sixth Form

Park View Sixth Form has a long standing reputation for academic success at Advanced level. This has been built upon our belief that post-16 education should embrace cutting edge practice but also be rooted in traditional values: this blend of forward thinking and solid moral foundations is at the heart of all that we do.

Size Matters

Because we are a large Sixth Form, numbering approximately 300, we have the resources available to provide a wide range of courses to meet the needs and aspirations of each individual. At present, we run 21 A-levels and 4 Applied courses, allowing students to either opt for an academic, vocational or blended route through their studies.

Our current offer includes Level 3 courses in:

Applied Science | Art | Biology | Business Studies | Business | Chemistry | Drama | English Language
English Literature | Extended Project | French | Geography | German | Health and Social Care | History
ICT | Mathematics | Further Maths | Media Studies | Music | Physics | Product Design | Psychology
Public Services | Sociology | Spanish.*

(* list correct at time of publication)



Pastoral Care

The Sixth Form is housed in a separate centre to the rest of the school and there is very much a college flavour to its atmosphere. However, we are conscious that young adults live in a very challenging world: whilst they appear to have money, personal freedom, cars and independence, they also have anxiety and stress of a highly competitive environment that tells them that they must be clever, beautiful, wealthy and talented if they are to be valued. This can result in a very real fear of personal and academic failure. For that reason, the level of pastoral care in the Sixth Form is both detailed and personal.

Each student is part of a tutor group and thus has a named mentor with whom they have contact every day. In addition, they will have regular progress meetings on an individual basis at which current academic progress or career plans can be discussed. The tutor system is led by a Learning Coordinator for each year group and a Director of Sixth Form, Mr Finley. Additional support is offered by a non-teaching Guidance Manager, who is available to students throughout the day.

Park View believe it is important to keep parents informed of and involved in student progress. Two parents' evenings in Sixth Form, five key assessments recording development towards targets and a full written annual report are useful sources of information. From September 2010, parental access to real time reporting will also aid them to track attainment, attitudes to learning and attendance. Should any issues arise that need immediate attention, the pastoral staff can be contacted at any time in the school day by telephone or letter and appointments arranged.



“ Ensuring students are healthy, safe and achieving well is at the heart of the school's work

Ofsted

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Link to University

The vast majority of Park View students elect to continue their studies at university. UCAS (University and College Application Service) preparation begins in the spring term of year 12 in earnest. We have links with several leading universities and visits are arranged in subject specific areas.

A programme of Information, Advice and Guidance exists which ranges from guest speakers providing tips on admissions to sessions on Higher Education finance, opportunities for studying abroad, 'gap years' and deferred entry to university. Special arrangements and support are made for students wishing to apply to Oxbridge or for courses in Veterinary, Medicine, Dentistry or Law.

Regardless of whether students intend to enter Higher Education or to seek employment at 18, one to one advice is given to all through personal mentors, dedicated careers specialists and, of course, the Connexions service.



The Sixth Form Centre

Park View Sixth Form is housed in its own purpose built centre away from the main school, allowing students to flourish in their own environment whilst also benefitting from the specialist facilities in the main building when necessary.

It has recently undergone extensive re-development and students now have a large, comfortable common room and a dedicated Study Support room. The latter allows them all day access to 30 networked computers and to the 6th form Guidance Manager who is located in this room. During lesson time, they can also use the Learning Resources Centre, where they can access ICT, Multimedia resources and specialist books, periodicals and journals.



A world of opportunity

Park View has a truly international Sixth Form which works in partnership with universities, the local and international community and external agencies to provide a great choice, different working environments and new friendships.

As a Language College, we particularly promote the benefits of modern language study and offer Advanced level courses in French, German and Spanish. All of our linguists have the opportunity to undertake work experience abroad, giving them a vital taste of the culture of the country whose language they are studying. In a similar vein, our scientists benefit from a link with the Dutch education system and recent additions to the global opportunities offered to the Sixth Form have been a visit to China, a World Challenge expedition to Uganda and an ecological expedition to Honduras, as well as the annual ski trip.



Life outside the classroom

An exciting induction programme is undertaken by all year 12 students during the first week of term in order to help them with the transition to post-16 studies. This is a great way to get to know new friends and to develop team building and decision making skills whilst undertaking activities that stretch thinking and challenge beliefs in new subject fields.

All students in the Sixth Form are encouraged to undertake a period of work experience; indeed for some university courses such as Veterinary it is an essential requirement. The skills developed by students here are extremely valuable and in many cases serve to confirm the intention to follow a particular career path.

An important element of all courses is the opportunity to experience the 'real world'. Visits are arranged to exhibitions in Art, productions in Drama, lectures in Science and financial institutions in Business Studies to name but a few. Opportunities such as these are greatly enjoyed by the students and are often invaluable for consolidating learning undertaken in school. Higher Education and employers, both of whom contribute to the delivery of our curriculum, value the benefit of such enrichment.

In addition to the standard programme students will be able to select from a range of enrichment courses and activities. This may be a Young Enterprise award to develop their understanding of how businesses function or the basics of another language such as in our Language Leaders qualification. Additional qualifications are also available through the Extended Project, YASS, Community Sports Leaders and Young Literacy and Maths leaders.

One of the most popular enrichment activities is the mentoring of younger students in the lower school; the degree of satisfaction obtained by helping a younger pupil to improve spelling or numeracy is often described by students as one of the highlights of their Park View experience.

Charity work is wholeheartedly encouraged by the school. The highlight of the year for many is when the Sixth Form, co-ordinated by the Student Council, raise thousands of pounds for Children in Need.



Financial assistance

Financial assistance is available to Post 16 students through the 16-18 bursary scheme, dependent on household income. Students will be provided with full details of this and other local bursaries when enrolling.

Some courses do require students to attend residential fieldwork courses which are essential components of the syllabus. A voluntary parental contribution is asked for such curricular events but no student is excluded through financial hardship: Mr Finley is happy to discuss this in a personal, confidential way.

Further information can be obtained from our Guidance Manager who can be contacted in the Sixth Form.



Student voice

A Sixth Form Council is elected annually whose role is to discuss issues relating to the development of the Sixth Form and to present the views of the student body.

Elected members discuss a range of issues which are then considered by the school's Senior Leadership Team. The council discuss diverse issues such as ways in which to improve the Sixth Form for students, Sixth Form charity work and how Sixth Form students can be used across the school as role models for younger students.

