

UPLANDS
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Sixth Form Prospectus



Introduction

Welcome to Uplands Community College.

I am delighted that you are considering Uplands for your education after your GCSEs. Our aim is to provide you with high quality teaching whilst preparing you for the next stage in your education or future employment. We want every sixth form student to leave Uplands having achieved their full potential and being fully prepared to follow their chosen course or career path.

Beyond the classroom, we have a distinct focus on developing our young people into confident, articulate adults, ensuring that they understand their responsibilities as members of the local, national and global community. As well as supporting students in securing qualifications they are proud of, every teacher seeks to embed our ethos of Happy, Confident and Successful.

In 2018, we have seen yet another set of excellent sixth form results; with an overall pass rate of 95%, it was pleasing to see a similar 95% of those students wishing to continue into higher education find their place at university. For 2018/19, we are adding to this academic success through an expanding enrichment programme – culminating with a trip to Ecuador in 2020. This is a great time to choose our sixth form.

We are extremely proud that sixth form students from Uplands have been successful in gaining places at highly prestigious universities including Oxford, Cambridge, Bristol, Durham, Warwick, Edinburgh and Kings College London as well as arts colleges and other Russell Group universities. Our students have successfully secured places to study subjects as diverse as Law, Spanish, Business, Aerospace Engineering, Mathematics, Illustration, Architecture, Sport Science and Equestrian Psychology.

We look forward to meeting you and answering any questions you may have. We are confident that Uplands' Sixth Form will provide you with everything you need to be successful in the sixth form.

Mr J. Cunningham
Head of Sixth Form
j.cunningham@uplandsc.com



Success stories

Every year, we are privileged to witness the success of so many of our students – it is the culmination of all their hard work ever since arriving here, at Uplands.

In a year heralding the arrival of significantly tougher A Levels in most subjects, Uplands is very proud of our comprehensive intake's outcomes. A quarter of all entries were awarded the very top grades in their course; we are once again delighted to see so many of our Year 13 successfully gain university places at some of the best colleges in the UK.

“I couldn't be happier with the education, both socially, emotionally and academically that my daughter is getting at Uplands”

(Parent)



Similar success was experienced across the full spectrum of grades, with further students already gaining apprenticeships and employment as a result of all their hard work. We wish all our students nothing but the very best for the next chapter of their lives.

Notable successes in 2018 included:

- Anabel Dyson A*AAB;
- Alexandra Kemp A*AAB;
- Emily Bodenham-Longhurst AABBC;
- William Sweatman AAA;
- Amy Williams-Bone BBB;
- Katie Straw BBB;
- Lucy Spencer BBB;
- Josh Dean ABC;
- Alex Fisher A*ABC;
- Alice McCracken ABC;
- Niamh McCulloch Distinction* ABC;
- Anna Parkinson A Distinction C;
- Jenson Rowley Distinction* Distinction* C.

“The teachers enthusiasm for their given subject is outstanding and this is displayed in all lessons – creating an amazing environment to learn in”

(Parent)

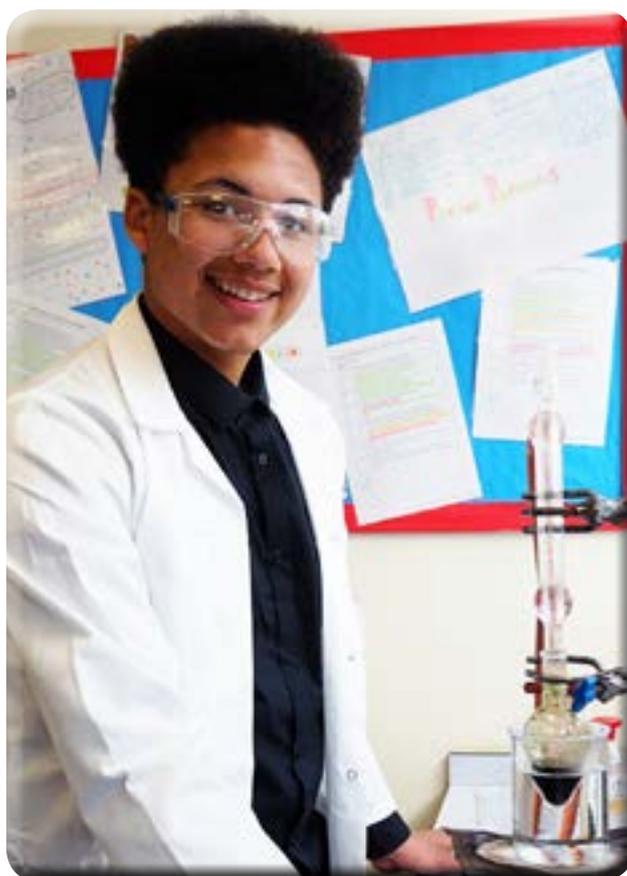
Curriculum

We are very proud of the academic rigour and success of our results and have high expectations of you as you make the transition from GCSEs to A Levels. Working very closely with you, we ensure that your choice of subjects give you the best opportunity to follow your dreams, no matter what they are.

To undertake a programme of study that consists of A Levels only, in addition to five grade 5s at GCSE, students must achieve a minimum of grade 6 in their chosen subject or related subject/s.

The mathematical content of A Levels has increased in complexity and it is vital that strong mathematical skills are proven at GCSE. This is true for the humanities subjects just as much as the sciences. Of course, all academic GCSEs require a high level of literacy skills. We are also able to offer a range of vocational A Levels to enable students with mainly grade 4s at GCSE to follow a course of study that will allow them to be successful.

The vocational A Level courses we are offering in 2018/2019 are Business Studies, ICT, Health and Social Care and Law. However, others such as Drama, Photography, Media Studies, Sport and Applied Science may be offered if there is sufficient interest. Your interview for the sixth form will help you to establish which courses are the most appropriate for you.



“teaching is consistently strong...”
(Ofsted 2017)

Students are expected to undertake the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) in either Year 12 or Year 13, as well as AS Core Mathematics, to further enhance their qualifications and skills set upon completing their time in the sixth form. The EPQ attracts the same UCAS points as an AS Level.

In addition to lessons in your chosen subjects, there are supervised independent study sessions. These are to enable you to complete your work outside of lessons in a fully resourced and staffed environment. We passionately believe that these independent sessions are a key factor in our students' success.

Care, Guidance and Support



As a sixth form student, you will be assigned to a tutor who will support you closely during your time with us. Tutors, together with the Head of Sixth Form will monitor your progress throughout the sixth form and act as a channel of communication between the college and your parents.

Sixth form students are provided with ongoing advice and guidance when deciding on their further education or career paths. During Year 12, study sessions will be undertaken where students participate in CV writing and UCAS application workshops. Students will attend a university/ careers fair, listen to speakers from various institutions and begin the process of researching their chosen path.

Uplands has a well-equipped library and a Sixth Form Centre (SFC), which provide up to date information about the ever changing world of Higher Education and employment and the qualifications you will need. Individual guidance interviews are available for all students and we have a careers advisor with whom interviews can be booked to provide personalised advice. Our large, dedicated, well-equipped sixth form area includes social seating, computers and plenty of place to study during independent learning sessions and social time.

Physical health is important, so all sixth form students have access to the Uplands Sports Centre which includes a modern gym facility, dance studio and indoor sports halls, catering for a wide range of sporting and fitness activities.



We understand that young people occasionally struggle to cope with their studies. Uplands has staff that are mental health first aid trained and in constant contact with a form tutor, an on-site counsellor and we also offer students free yoga sessions to help with the stresses of undertaking an advanced level programme of study.



“From the moment you enter the school you can feel it is a safe haven, from the staff greeting to the way in which the students interact”

(Parent)

Enrichment and Facilities

The courses you choose to study will offer you a wide range of invaluable opportunities. In 2017/8 our sixth form students had many exciting opportunities beyond the classroom including the following:

- A photography trip to London;
- A visit to the Tate Modern;
- A politics trip to the House of Commons;
- A theatre trip to London;
- A geography trip to China.

Your wider interests outside academia are highly valued by employers and universities, therefore it is desirable to participate in community service or charitable work.

Our sixth form students take part in 'Uplands Support'. This is a scheme which enables students to assist with the learning of students in Years 7 to 11.



Sixth form students are given many leadership responsibilities including working with the college's governing body, leading the anti-bullying programme 'Friendly Faces' and participating in the Children's Commissioner's Takeover Challenge where the student leadership team become the Senior Leadership Team for the day.



The school is always striving to find new ways to engage with the pupils to ensure school life is positive and enjoyable (Parent)

The school year ends with the traditional Strawberry tea where staff and the Year 12 students say goodbye to the Year 13s at the end of their examinations. It is a special day where we celebrate the students' time at Uplands and wish them all the best for the future.

Of course, the social side of the sixth form experience is important: the Winter Ball and the Summer Ball are the highlights of Uplands' Sixth Form social calendar.



Inter-school competition and fundraising

Uplands, joins the sixth forms at Uckfield Community College, Heathfield Community College, Hailsham Community College and Beacon in the Wealden Cup.



This inter-school competition includes various activities, the scores of which are added together to form the Wealden Cup.

The events include five-a-side netball and five-a-side football matches as well as the 'University Challenge' quiz.

The chance to compete in such different arenas against local schools is a fantastic opportunity and we look forward to even more activities becoming part of the Wealden Cup, with a "Bake Off" being introduced last year.

"Having two children at the school it is great to see how happy and settled they are from both a friendship and learning perspective"
(Parent)

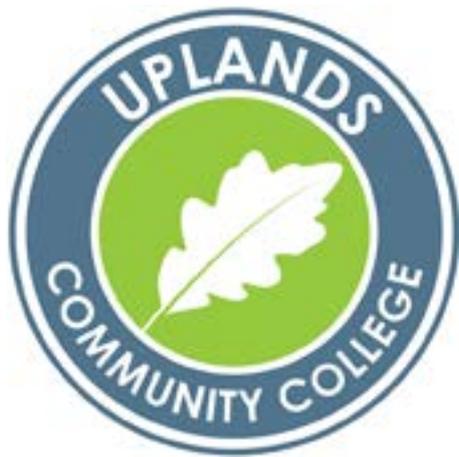
Volunteering and fundraising are a vital part of life in the sixth form and students raise funds each year for Macmillan, Children in Need, and the Rocking Horse Appeal.

In the last academic year we also donated food to the Nourish Food Bank in Tunbridge Wells via our reverse advent calendar and contributed to the "bags of kindness" appeal for the children affected by the Grenfell Tower disaster.

Our sixth form students organised the donations into bags and the sixth form lead students took them to the primary school near Grenfell Tower.

"I am so pleased my children are able to go to Uplands when there are staff who go the extra mile to ensure pupils and parents are happy"
(Parent)





Uplands Community College
Lower High Street
Wadhurst
East Sussex
TN5 6AZ

01892 782135
office@uplandsc.com
www.uplandsc.com