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SIXTH FORM



INTRODUCTION

Plymouth College offers an outstanding Sixth Form education, which opens up a world of opportunities for our students. Academically, our A Level results have been the best for average point score and value-added in the local area. Additionally we offer the Sport Baccalaureate.

As you would expect of an independent school education, there are a wide range of activities beyond the classroom: on the sports fields; in Drama; Music; the Arts; school trips and in after-school clubs. Students also benefit from dedicated careers and UCAS staff to guide them on their career choices beyond school. These experiences, as well as the school's positive ethos, ensure that students receive individual support so that when they ultimately leave the school, they do so with the all-important soft skills, confidence, resilience and knowledge required for life in the modern world.



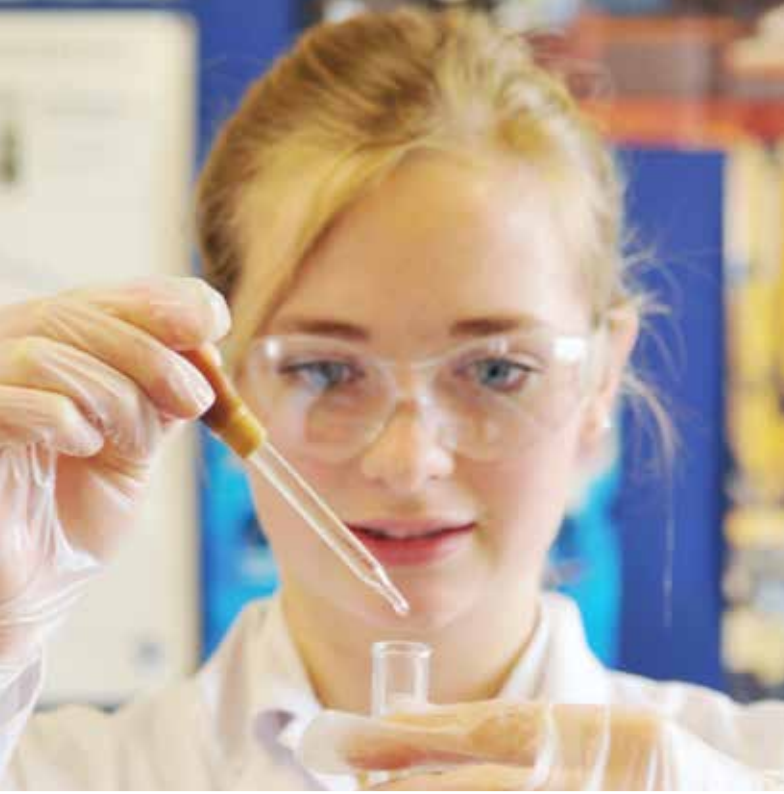


SIXTH FORM

The Plymouth College education journey culminates in the Sixth Form. With choices of A Level and Sports Baccalaureate, the academic options offer something for everyone. Small classes; real-life experiences and independent learning infuse academic studies with a sense of completeness. Hard work is rewarded with a plethora of exciting enrichment and social opportunities.

The Bistro in the Sixth Form Centre is the hub of Sixth Form life and Sixth Formers are encouraged to take on responsibility - whether it's as a prefect; sports captain; CCF officer or leading younger pupils in House activities. Whatever route they take, our Sixth Formers leave the school enthused and inspired for the next stage of their lives.





ACADEMIC

Our A Level programme is rich in scope and content, giving Sixth Form students the opportunity to explore the subjects that inspire and excite them. Typically, students study three subjects for two years. However, if students have the ability and capacity, more subjects can be studied including the university-friendly Extended Project, a qualification giving students the opportunity to research and write about a topic of their choice. The bespoke nature of the A Level programme at Plymouth College allows our students to be flexible in their selection.

Classes are small enough to allow personal attention and individual support but large enough for students to engage in lively debate where they can express themselves; share ideas and work together. We encourage a genuine spirit of enquiry in our students; the desire to look beyond the confines of the curriculum and have the ability to work with independence, tenacity and flair. We equip our Sixth Formers with everything they need to ensure they do well in their A Level exams and for their journey onto university and beyond.



HUMANITIES

Our Humanities subjects cover everything from traditional options, such as Languages, History and Geography, to more contemporary choices like Psychology and Economics.

Subjects brim with an enriching mix of lessons, projects, trips, fieldwork and guest lectures, allowing our students to absorb and understand a topic from every angle: it could be historians visiting London as part of their Tudor module; geographers on Bodmin Moor measuring river sources; the founder of Wetherspoons sharing his knowledge with business students or classicists seeing Pompeii come alive on a trip to Italy.





SCIENCE & MATHS

A Level scientists and mathematicians delve deep into the complexities of molecules, cells and equations. Practical investigation and experimental work are paramount in increasing students' understanding and knowledge while at the same time igniting a real passion for the topics.

Chemistry explores theories that relate to everyday life and takes full advantage of Plymouth University's and the Plymouth Medical Society's open invitation to attend guest lectures. The Biology team put our stunning local environment to good use on field excursions for ecological sampling and surveying rocky shores, while the Physics department takes students to the CERN high energy research facility in Geneva.



CREATIVE ARTS

Our Creative Arts subjects offer Sixth Formers great personal freedom in expression and imagination. Whether they are studying Art, DT, Music or Drama, our students can devise a performance or a piece of work that reflects their own interests.

Creative flair is underpinned by theory and practice, from dark room skills and digital imaging in Photography to analysing the work of a theatre practitioner in Drama. Students can embrace their love of the arts further with trips to galleries and theatres in Plymouth, London and even Paris.





SPORT BACCALAUREATE

The Sport Baccalaureate combines everything Plymouth College excels at – providing students with a robust academic base together with a portfolio of practical sport and adventurous pursuits skills. Students who prefer assessment rather than traditional exams will thrive on this opportunity, not only to gain a BTEC Extended Diploma, but they will also acquire a number of other useful qualifications such as First Aid at Work; Pool and/or Beach Lifeguard and the gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award. Students also take part in the British Canoeing Foundation Safety and Rescue Training course and the British Canoeing United Kingdom Coaching Certificate in Paddlesport. Equivalent to three A Levels, the Diploma is accepted by a number of universities for sport and outdoor education-based degrees and the additional qualifications open up numerous gap year possibilities. The course covers Fitness in Sport; Leadership in Sport; Coaching Sports; Adventurous Sports and Health and Nutrition for Athletes. As well as extensive sports facilities on site, students have the fantastic playground of the moors and the coast close to hand to test their skills and build confidence. Working with younger pupils on a range of activities, such as kayaking and climbing sessions with Years 7 and 8 pupils, really helps to bring skills in leadership, planning and organisation to the fore. Eighteen modules are assessed by two or three assignments, each giving students control of pace and workload over the two years the course runs.





CAREERS

All Sixth Form students are strongly supported in developing their personal post-18 plans throughout their time in the Sixth Form. The majority successfully apply to UK universities through UCAS. Preparation for this starts early and includes whole year group and individual guidance sessions; a visit to a UCAS convention; an interview skills workshop and practice interviews and extra support is provided for Oxbridge candidates.

There are many other educational and career paths that pupils have the opportunity to explore. Some, for example, apply to universities in North America. The College has experience in supporting these applications and provides specialist help with any scholarships. Work experience is seen as an essential part of career choice and university application, with students having excellent placements with employers locally; across the UK and abroad.





ENRICHMENT

A Plymouth College education doesn't just stop at the classroom door. With more than 70 clubs and activities on offer, every student can find something to excite and challenge them, whether it's to enhance an existing talent or harness a new skill. Clubs and activities are run at lunchtimes and after school, with Sixth Form timetabled to have a whole afternoon of enrichment on Fridays. Our extensive programme is designed to stimulate our students' sense of adventure and unlock creativity while making the most of our school, city, moorland and coastal environments. The rugged terrain of Dartmoor is home to weekend expeditions with overnight camping or residentials at our outdoor pursuits centre, Whiteworks.



Our Sixth Form Duke of Edinburgh's Award students often travel further afield with, in recent years, expeditions to Scotland, France and Morocco. The canoeing and sailing clubs frequent the waterways that run through and around the coasts of Devon and Cornwall, interspersed with competitions against other schools and clubs. Sixth Formers can also hone their skills in caving, climbing, mountain biking, scuba diving, bushcraft and gorge walking - to name just a few.

The Plymouth College Combined Cadet Force dates back to 1871. With Navy, Army and RAF sections, our cadets work within a structured and disciplined environment in order to develop skills in leadership and self-reliance. By the time they reach the Sixth Form, our cadets will be in positions of responsibility where they lead and organise younger cadets. There are many adventurous training opportunities for cadets both at home and abroad and trips to military establishments are a favourite. The annual CCF Summer Camp at Penhale is one of the highlights.





Our performance and creative arts clubs cover everything from perfecting etching in Art Textiles and embossing in Card Club, to a starring role in Drama Club or leading percussion in the Samba Band. Expression and experimentation are at the heart of these clubs so that students can further develop the creative outlet that suits them. Whether you like the sound of the contemporary Rock School or the more traditional Orchestra, there is always a student performance just round the corner. The worlds of music and drama often collide with collaborative big school productions such as 'Les Miserables' running alongside more intimate concerts.



Thrown into this mix of adventure and creativity are a number of other exciting challenges for Sixth Formers. Plymouth College has a formidable track record in business competitions having won 13 national finals, including Young Enterprise and Student Investor, in recent years. The Entrepreneurial Society welcomes top business leaders such as Reggae Reggae sauce creator, Levi Roots, and The Engineering Education Scheme sees students working with local manufacturers on innovative projects.





SPORT

At Plymouth College we embrace all aspects of sport from grass roots engagement, to team participation, through to Olympic Champions. We run performance sport programmes for those hoping to reach world podiums but for many of our students sport is about having the opportunity to take part; staying healthy and enjoying their chosen sport. We very much believe in the mantra 'healthy body, healthy mind' and that the pride, spirit and determination from participating, particularly in team sport, will flow through to the classroom and stay with our students throughout their lives.

Overseas tours, particularly for senior teams, are part of the mix and really help to broaden the horizons of our students, not only in terms of their sports development but also their cultural and social awareness of the world around them. Recent countries visited include South Africa, Barbados and Sri Lanka. A great example of the international nature of Plymouth College, the tours create life-long memories both on and off the field.





SPORT

Rugby dominates the boys' fixtures list in the Autumn Term and the school is considered a significant force with county, regional and national caps amongst its credentials. The 1st XV feature strongly in tournaments around the country and have reached the semi and quarter-finals of national competitions in recent times. Skills camps, strength and conditioning sessions and coaching with Exeter Chiefs and Plymouth Albion players enhance the senior team's training mix. Hockey is the girls' choice for the Autumn Term. With block fixtures on Saturdays, the girls also compete in the National Cup competition. Senior players are positive role models for the younger teams, with opportunities to coach and guide those just starting out in their hockey careers.

The Spring Term brings netball for the girls and football for the boys. Netball has an extensive fixtures list and teams play in all area and national schools' tournaments. There are currently several senior girls in the Plymouth satellite centres. Competing mid-week and at weekends, the boys' football coaching focuses on skill development and tactical awareness. Developing a strong team ethos is key to the game as is enjoyment of the sport.

Cricket, the sport of summer, has a rich tradition at Plymouth College. The school regularly sees Sixth Formers on county sides and playing for adult teams in the local leagues. The 1st XI annual match against MCC is one of the summer highlights. The girls play rounders and cricket, mixing in-house tournaments with local fixtures. Athletics are also key to the Summer Term sports calendar - runners, shot putters, long jumpers, high jumpers and javelin throwers can often be seen representing the school in county, regional and national schools' competitions.

Moving away from the traditional teams is a plethora of other sports. The muddy cross country courses have produced a number of national-ability athletes while our equestrian team members compete at prestigious events, such as the Horse of the Year Show. From basketball to badminton and yoga to swimming, sport is most definitely part of the fabric of life at Plymouth College.





LIFE

The life of a Plymouth College Sixth Former is full and rewarding. The Sixth Form Centre is a hub of activity with its own bistro, common rooms and study areas; a lively Social Committee organises everything from dinners and balls to quizzes and charity events.

Our Senior Prefects are led by the Head Boy and the Head Girl. Students are rewarded with these positions of responsibility by proving themselves as positive role models who have gained the respect of their peers and show great commitment to the school.

The four Houses bring all year groups together creating a strong camaraderie amongst the pupils. House events flow through the school year covering Sport, Music, Drama, Languages and quizzes. Sixth Form House Captains lead the activities, organising and supporting younger pupils. The competitive spirit is lively and friendly throughout.



There are some great opportunities for overseas trips in the Sixth Form: Berlin with German; Switzerland with Physics; South Africa with Rugby and Morocco with the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme. Embracing new cultures and widening our students' global perspective plays a big part in these trips, adding to Plymouth College's internationally-focussed credentials.





THE END RESULT

There are many points in our students' academic journey where progression and achievement are reflected upon. Sixth Form is the final milestone when A Level exams are sat; Sports Baccalaureate completed and choices are made for university. Guidance through the UCAS process is extensive and more than 90% of students get into their first choice of university. A third go to Russell Group universities and a growing number; one in four, go to universities overseas – the USA is proving to be a popular destination, particularly for those with a sports background.

Plymouth College posts consistently strong results across all courses and our students' attainments are contrary to our non-selective in-take and multi-cultural community. However, the 'added value' that Plymouth College gives its students is broader than just academic results. Our Prefects and Team Captains have lots of opportunities to lead and inspire, while the gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme challenges the mind and body. Overseas trips and expeditions broaden cultural perspective; off-timetable competitions and projects bring drive and determination to the mix.

As Sixth Form draws to a close, we see students who have become well-educated, confident, well-mannered and compassionate young adults.



THE NEXT STEP

Plymouth College is proud of its exceptional students, who are confident, articulate, empathetic, globally-minded and prepared for success.

The 'something special' that a Plymouth College educational experience provides can only be fully understood by getting to know us better; to that end, we would encourage you to visit us and see for yourself.

To book a visit to the school, please contact the Admissions Department on 01752 505115 or email admissions@plymouthcollege.com

We look forward to seeing you soon.

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