

COLLEGIATE

INDEPENDENT CO-EDUCATION

SIXTH FORM

SIXTH FORM GUIDE

2027/28

We are Collegiate

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SIXTH FORM

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CONTACT DETAILS

Collegiate Senior School
Bell Hill, Stapleton, Bristol BS16 1BJ

Head:

Mr Jeremy McCullough

Head of Sixth Form:

Ms Kim Porter

Heads of Year:

Mr Mark Eyles

Mrs Victoria Wilson

Admissions:

0117 992 3194

Admissions Email:

admissions@collegiate.org.uk

Find us on social media:

 @collegiateschool

 @CollegiateSchool

 /school/collegiate-school-bristol



WELCOME TO *the Sixth Form*

Let me start by asking why you are reading this... Are you a student conducting your own independent research into local Sixth Forms, spurred on by a desire to find the right place to develop your academic and co-curricular passions, wanting to be the best version of yourself that you can be?

Or are you reading this because you want to find out more about the various courses available to you and to see just what Collegiate will do to help you become competitive in the university and job market in years to come?

Perhaps you want to gain a better understanding of how a combination of the traditional academic A Levels and the more vocational BTEC/CTEC qualifications can equip you for the next exciting stage of your career; whether that is in higher education, in an apprenticeship or in a job?

Maybe you are trying to check that it won't all be about academic work? Maybe you want reassurance that the support will be there for you as an elite athlete, a musician, an actor, an entrepreneur; support that will help you maximise your potential in an ever-changing world?

Or are you reading this because it will get your parents off your back and you've got to go somewhere for the Sixth Form?

Well, the good news is that we can help if you answered 'yes' to any of these questions. Although you might get more out of Collegiate if you said 'yes' to one or more of the first five questions, we even do a good job with those who tick the last box!

If you have managed to get this far, then you are the sort of determined person we want to join our brilliant Sixth Form, so make sure you come and visit us soon and find out how we can help you achieve your potential.

I look forward to meeting you soon.

Mr Jeremy McCullough MA (Oxon)
Head





"Collegiate Sixth Form provides a dynamic, diverse and industrious learning environment, that strives to give every individual a vast range of opportunities to fulfil their potential whilst preparing for their post-18 pathway. The myriad of extra-curricular events, alongside specialist facilities, encourage a spirit of service, develop the capacity for leadership and enhance

*employability skills; we ask every student to give of their best and **go and do thou likewise**. High-quality teaching and learning is central to our approach and academic performance is strong; however, this success is also nurtured through excellent pastoral care. Collegiate is a place like no other and the holistic approach we offer enables all Sixth Formers to achieve a high rate of success in pursuing careers in their chosen field."*

Ms Kim Porter
Head of Sixth Form



THE COLLEGIATE *experience*

The concept of a fully holistic education underpins all that we offer in our Sixth Form. Whether students begin their journey at Collegiate in Year 12 or whether they have been here since their early years, we pride ourselves in knowing them as individuals. Students are valued for the talents and skills they bring to the school and it is our privilege to help them achieve their best in all areas and prepare them for life after Collegiate.

We encourage all students to embrace new challenges and contribute positively to the school and wider community. The breadth of opportunities that we provide extends far beyond the classroom, making it an exceptional Sixth Form experience. Excelling at sport, drama and music, as well as undertaking service to others by participating in our hugely popular Outreach Programme, adds value to our all-encompassing approach.

We seek to develop young leaders who take on responsibility whilst working alongside others; thus, preparing them to meet the demands that university and the workplace present.

Students are taught in well-equipped modern classrooms, specialist teaching spaces and are issued with a school iPad to support their learning. We have an excellent careers service, an extensive library and dedicated quiet areas in which to study, enabling our students to fulfil their potential.

Alongside the academic provision, the Sixth Form café and common room areas are popular places to socialise and relax with friends. We encourage our students to be healthy in body and mind and many take the opportunity to use our high-quality sports facilities, which are situated within our 30-acre campus; the Collegiate site is an excellent stepping stone between school and university.

We have a range of dedicated schemes in place to enrich and develop our most able students. Along with a tailored programme for our Oxbridge candidates and those wishing to apply for Medicine or Veterinary Science, all students are encouraged to extend their studies beyond the classroom.

Our students are our finest ambassadors; they are confident, reflective and resilient and leave Collegiate fully prepared to be successful in a range of diverse pathways.



CHOOSING THE *right course*

A Levels, BTECs and CTECs

Collegiate offers a wide range of A Level, BTEC and CTEC options. Students usually choose three courses from the following list:

- Art
- Biology
- Business Studies
- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- DT: Product Design
- Drama and Theatre
- Economics
- English Language
- English Literature
- Film Studies
- French*
- Further Mathematics **
- Geography
- Graphic Communications
- History
- Mathematics
- Music
- Photography
- Physics
- Physical Education
- Politics
- Psychology
- Religious Studies (Philosophy & Ethics)
- Sociology
- Spanish*
- BTEC Sport & Exercise Science (2 A Level equivalent)
- BTEC Sport & Exercise Science (1 A Level Equivalent)
- CTEC Business (1 A Level equivalent)

* Spanish or French may be taken as an additional AS Level outside of the curriculum, or as a timetabled A Level.

** Further Mathematics can be taken as a fourth A Level.

For further information on the courses we offer, please see our Subject Guide which can also be found on our website at www.collegiate.org.uk/What-We-Study/





THE ‘three plus’ MODEL

To ensure our Sixth Form programme gives our students the best possible advantage for university and beyond, we consulted widely with universities (including the Russell Group and Oxbridge) and industry. The message they all gave was very clear: students need three good A Levels (or equivalent) and a wider set of experiences, alongside employability skills, to make them confident and successful in their future studies and employment.

Developing such excellence and breadth is what Collegiate does best; our students embark on the right combination of subject qualifications, which are enhanced by well-developed employability and life skills through the Future Leaders Programme and specialist career guidance.

From the beginning of Year 12, students focus their studies on three A Levels (or equivalent) and do not sit AS Levels in these subjects. This approach significantly increases the available teaching time for each subject in both years, a distinct advantage over a model where students begin studying four subjects and then drop one subject.

They have the option to extend and broaden their academic studies through an Extended Project Qualification (EPQ), which is highly regarded by universities and employers. Students who study Mathematics will have the option to study Further Mathematics as a fourth A Level, using time normally allocated to private study. An alternative ‘plus’ could be an AS Level in a Modern Foreign Language. All of these options take place outside of the core curriculum, but reflect the personalised approach we offer.

We also offer students the opportunity to study for a number of BTEC and CTEC qualifications. These well-regarded qualifications, with UCAS tariffs equivalent to A Levels, are assessed differently, with much greater emphasis on coursework. These can also be combined with A Levels from a range of subjects.

Academic studies are enriched by our Future Leaders Programme and, coupled with our small class sizes, this approach gives Collegiate Sixth Formers a unique post-16 experience.



CAREERS *guidance*

Careers education, information, advice and guidance is an integral part of the Future Leaders Programme at Collegiate and is delivered in accordance with the latest recommendations and guidelines for best practice.

In the Sixth Form, students have a broad range of opportunities to develop their employability skills through contact with employers and professional speakers. Weekly taught sessions, which include input from industry specialists, help to prepare students for competitive university admissions, school leaver programmes, assessment centres and interviews.

Students have access to unlimited individual careers guidance appointments, where they receive a personalised action plan to support their next steps. These interviews allow students to explore a range of career pathways, helping them to identify their strengths and develop decision-making techniques. Guidance interviews are completely impartial, ensuring that the best outcomes for the student are central to all interactions.





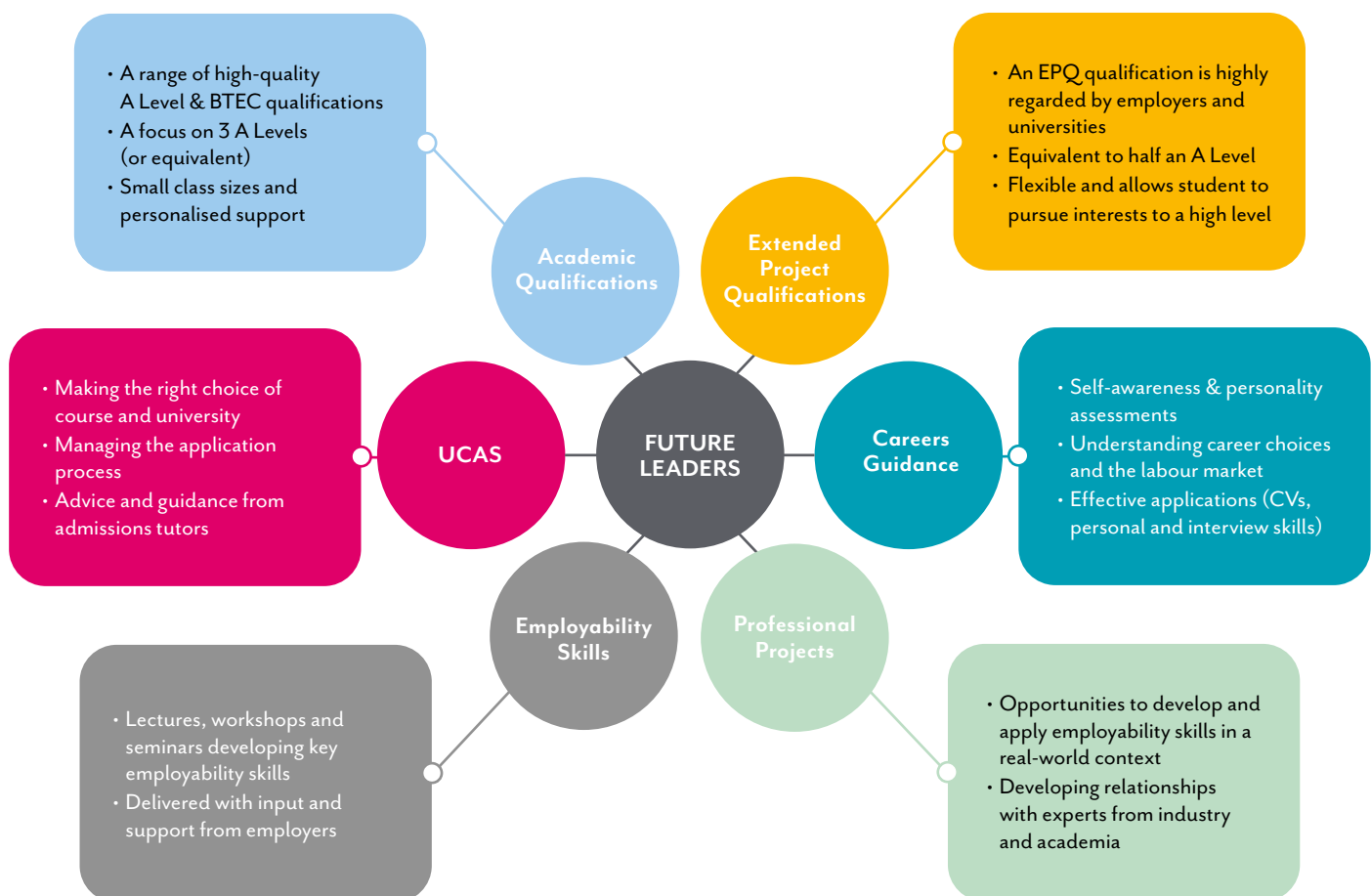
FUTURE LEADERS Programme

We are all familiar with the news headlines which claim that today's school leavers and graduates are lacking the skills required in today's workplace.

At Collegiate, we are determined that our Sixth Formers will have the breadth of skills they need for life beyond school, and the purpose of the programme is to provide structured time and organised opportunities to allow these qualities to develop.

Students benefit from taught sessions each week, and they are run by a specialist team of tutors, senior staff members and instructors from the world of work and academia.

The sessions are exceptionally diverse and there is something to suit everyone. Students can sign up for industry-led talks, cookery workshops, financial capability modules, wellbeing activities and super-curricular events. Our aim is to ensure that our Sixth Form students leave us much better prepared for independent living.





LOWER SIXTH PROGRAMME

During the Lower Sixth there is a focus on employability skills. Students develop their team-work and leadership skills through a range of tasks including activities on applications and interview techniques, CV writing and presentation skills. This culminates in mock interviews with one of our partners from industry. We also include modules on leadership and teamwork, communication, project management and time management.

Students take part in charity fundraising events, organising a Christmas Fayre for the younger year groups and produce the annual *Collegiate's Got Talent* evening. The skills developed are then extended during the Professional Projects, where students work in teams to briefs set by a range of employers.



UPPER SIXTH PROGRAMME

The Upper Sixth focuses on life beyond Collegiate. Students are supported at every stage throughout the UCAS process if they wish to go on to university, or they can join the Apprenticeship Academy group if they wish to secure a position on a Higher or Degree level Apprenticeship.

We have a specialist group to support those applying for highly competitive courses, for example Oxbridge, Medicine, Veterinary Science and Dentistry courses.

Students also receive training to enhance their life skills. They receive a course on basic financial management and hear from a range of institutions to ease the transition when they leave home. In previous years they have heard from a diverse range of bodies, including Avon Fire and Rescue (safety in the student home), Safe Drive Stay Alive (road safety for the new driver), British Red Cross (coping with change), Southampton University (what to expect when you leave home) and cookery schools (fast and delicious food on a low budget).

PARTNERS AND COLLABORATORS

We developed our Future Leaders Programme in partnership with a range of world-class businesses and universities. Here are just a few examples:





EXTENDED PROJECT QUALIFICATION - EPQ

As part of the Future Leaders Programme, we offer the EPQ – the Extended Project Qualification. It is worth half the UCAS points of a full A Level (more points than an AS Level) and offers students the freedom to independently research an area of interest. This could lead to a 5,000 word dissertation or, alternatively, a 1,000 word report accompanied by an artefact.

The EPQ is entirely optional as, apart from the taught skills element, it is an independent and self-directed project. Each student will, however, be allocated a supervisor who will be able to provide general guidance and advice.

Students can use the EPQ to enhance their university application by researching a topic that is closely related to their chosen university course. For example, a recent

Medical applicant chose to research the effectiveness of current methods for the diagnosis and treatment of Alzheimer's disease.

Alternatively, students can demonstrate breadth by choosing a topic that is entirely outside their subject area but is of personal interest: one example is the student who designed a computer animation teaching younger students basic programming skills. Both students were awarded top A* grades.

The Extended Project Qualification allows pupils to decide their own area of interest and set their own research parameters. A qualification that requires real dedication and independence, the EPQ is an excellent bridge between the Sixth Form and self-directed study at university and is highly regarded by universities.





OUTREACH programme

The Collegiate Outreach programme provides pupils throughout the school with an opportunity to volunteer with various service providers, including charities, schools and care homes in Bristol. In keeping with the school aims, the programme encourages a spirit of service in pupils, so that they may become confident, respectful and responsible citizens. This perfectly complements the Collegiate School motto *“Go and Do Though Likewise.”*

In the Sixth Form, our students have the opportunity to develop their independence by volunteering outside of school on either Tuesday or Thursday afternoons as well as during free periods, if they are performing well in their academic work. Our programme already includes a network of providers in the local area, including Glenfrone Primary school, The Worthies and Elms care homes as well as Frenchay care home. Our pupils engage in activities such as reading mentoring, maths mentoring, interacting with adults with learning

difficulties or dementia as well as simply befriending elderly residents of care homes.

In addition to the opportunities provided directly by the school, we encourage pupils to develop their independence by arranging their own placements; these have included working in charity shops, young mothers’ groups, NHS volunteering and the Air Ambulance charity.

As part of their outreach programme, Collegiate Sixth Formers are also required to record their hours and activities for volunteering using the FROG virtual learning environment. This can be a helpful point of reference for writing personal statements for university and job applications, and can be used as part of their UCAS application or Duke of Edinburgh awards. Owing to the new Government Legislation, our volunteers are now required to go through the DBS checking process.





DEVELOPING *individuals*

The pastoral support at Collegiate is unrivalled. New students settle in well, and the relationships between staff and students are a key strength of the Sixth Form. The Sixth Form Centre offers multiple spaces for our Sixth Formers to relax and socialise, study and play. The recent addition of our dedicated Sixth Form café offers a light and positive working environment, free from the busyness of the rest of the school. Being a space purely for use by Sixth Formers, the café is well stocked with a range of food and drink; open for breakfast and throughout the day.

This friendly and collaborative atmosphere stems from the fact that Collegiate is a community in which every student is valued for the contribution they are able to make. Staff go the extra mile to get to know students in their tutor group extremely well, and academic progress

is monitored continually to allow everyone to achieve their potential. Relationships with parents are also strong, and staff are always happy to speak with parents and to work in partnership with a focus on the student.

When the time comes to focus on university applications, these tutor relationships ensure that first class references are provided for students. Tutors have small groups which allows them to guide each tutee through every step of the application process, from deciding on courses to formulating their personal statement.

We are proud of our Sixth Form students, who play their own role in the Collegiate experience by setting the tone of the school. They lead assemblies, take on the roles of Academic Mentors and Peer Supporters for younger pupils, and lead an array of House and sport events.

Sport IN THE SIXTH FORM

At Collegiate, we value and nurture sporting excellence and our strong sporting tradition is at the heart of school life. We encourage everyone to get involved because physical education is important for a healthy mind, and allows each pupil to develop self-esteem and a strong team ethic.

There are two timetabled sessions every week, giving pupils the opportunity to experience a variety of different sporting activities. For those interested in competitive sport, these weekly training sessions give pupils the opportunity to prepare for weekly fixtures and tournaments in the school's major sports of Rugby, Hockey, Netball and Cricket. In each of these sports there are a number of teams, ensuring that everyone can find a place in a team at the right level; from those that are completely new to the game to those aspiring to representative achievement.

Our pupils regularly achieve success in school competitions, and a number go on to achieve representative honours and professional careers.

For those that enjoy competing at a recreational level or are purely focused on their physical and mental health and fitness, a wide range of other activities are provided ensuring an enjoyable break from classroom study. This includes a fitness suite that is open to pupils before and after school every week day. Additional opportunities exist beyond the timetabled periods, and pupils with a specialist or multi-sport interest have the opportunity to train for their chosen sport(s) in all three terms by accessing some of our additional individual, group and team sessions, which take place before, during or after school. Committed athletes of all abilities may also have their timetable adapted to allow for additional sports coaching.



SIXTH FORM LIFE AT COLLEGIATE: *frequently asked questions*

Whether you are joining Collegiate Sixth Form from another school or are on the next step of your Collegiate journey, there are a number of questions you will have which we will start to answer here. You will, of course, be provided with all the information you need before you start, so don't hesitate to ask if you're not sure about something.



"At Collegiate, the relationship between teacher and student is a partnership based on mutual trust and respect. We are always incredibly proud of our Sixth Formers' achievements. Academic results are excellent and our focus is always on each individual doing what, for them, is their very best."

Mrs V Wilson
Head of Year 12



"Equally important to academia is our sense of community. Each student strives to embrace new opportunities which helps them to become the best person they can be. Ultimately, we send our Sixth Form students out into the world as confident, kind individuals who want to make a positive contribution to their society. We cannot ask for any more than this."

Mr M Eyles
Head of Year 13

What are the entry requirements for Collegiate Sixth Form?

These vary for each A Level or BTEC subject, but a minimum of 5 GCSEs at grade 4 or equivalent, including English and Mathematics, is necessary. Many subjects require grade 6 or above to study them at A Level (please see our entrance requirements). New students will be given a conditional offer based on their predicted GCSE grades, an interview and a reference from their current school.

What opportunities are there for me to take on more responsibility?

There are lots of opportunities for you to take on responsibilities in the Sixth Form and this is of paramount importance for success in the wider world. You may be assigned specific House duties or can develop leadership skills through roles such as being on the School Council, a Peer Supporter or Academic Mentor. A longer-term commitment would be on a school sports team, or initiating and leading a club or society. Equally, there are lots of events to volunteer for, such as, Parents' Evenings, concerts and plays, Information Evenings and other whole-school events. The ultimate accolade in the Upper Sixth is to be awarded the position of Prefect or Head of School.

How does the House system work in the Sixth Form?

At Collegiate we have four Houses - Aldington, Dolphin, Kings and Roundway - which you will remain in or, if you are new to Collegiate, you will be assigned to one. House meetings are held every Friday and in the Sixth Form you will have more of a leadership role. In the Lower Sixth, we encourage you to seek out your Head of House to volunteer as a House Prefect.

How will I know if I'm on track, and when will I be assessed?

The BTEC/CTEC programmes have assessments (which may be written assignments or relatively small exams) throughout the two years, and A Level exams are taken in the Upper Sixth. Throughout Sixth Form you will have internal assessments and reports. The first of these cycles takes place in the first week of October, when you will have small class tests to check that you are on the right courses and any course changes need to be made by half term. You will then have internal examinations after the Easter break (in place of AS examinations) following which provisional UCAS predictions will be given, and a chance to re-sit if needed at the end of the Summer term. Your UCAS predictions will then be made in September, and you will have trial examinations in January of the Upper Sixth.

How do study periods work?

Typically, you will have around nine study periods per fortnight. We would expect you to use at least half of these for study, but it is up to you when and where you actually do this. Some subjects will require more than this, and you may wish to spend longer to achieve the best grades you can. Alternatively, you may prefer to do more study at home in the evening so that you can do other things in school during the day.

What do I wear?

Whilst we allow you some choice over what you wear in light of your growing maturity and independence, we expect you to dress in a business-like manner. Business dress would include a smart business suit with a shirt or blouse and black or tan shoes. In terms of games kit, what you will need depends on which sports you are likely to be involved with.

What items will I use each day?

At the start of the Lower Sixth, you will be issued with an iPad. Although the iPad will remain the property of the School, you will be free to take it home, with the expectation that you will bring it, fully charged, to all lessons. You will also be provided with a homework diary (if requested), file and a pad of paper to start the year. It would be sensible to have a file for each subject (with dividers for different topics) at home to decant your work from the day-to-day folder you have at school. Some of your subjects may use exercise books which you will be provided with in school, and textbooks are normally issued by each subject centrally. It would be advisable to purchase any stationery you would like to use.

What social events are there?

We like to organise as many social events as possible in the Sixth Form. In addition to the annual induction trip, we have sought to organise quizzes, cookery sessions, meals out, a BBQ, laser quest and a Christmas party. The social calendar culminates in the Sixth Form Leavers' Ball.

Are scholarships and bursaries available?

There is a Sixth Form Scholarship Programme for students joining us from other schools, and our own Year 11s are considered for scholarships automatically. Academic, Sports, Music, Drama or All-Round Scholarships are available for internal and external students and are made after academic assessment and interview. Parents are able to apply for additional finance through a means-tested bursary. For further details, please contact the Finance Team on finance@collegiate.org.uk

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