



HIGH  
ASPIRATIONS,  
TRADITIONAL  
VALUES



HOLYPORT  
COLLEGE  
SIXTH FORM



# HISTORY AND ETHOS

*High Aspirations, Traditional Values*

Holyport College was founded under the Government's free school programme as the UK's first State Boarding free school. We opened our doors to our first students in Sept 2014 and our Sixth form provision started in 2017 for both day and boarding students. Whilst we may be modelled on an independent boarding school, at Holyport College we aim to emulate the best of both the state and independent sectors. We pride ourselves on the diversity of our community and our students and staff are drawn from all walks of life. Eton College is our sole educational sponsor and our aim is to deliver an exceptional quality of education and a boarding experience which develops our students as independent and thoughtful citizens of the modern world.

Despite being a new school, we have adopted a traditional ethos; we operate a longer school day, we structure our pastoral care around our boarding houses and we have adopted certain language and traditions from our sponsors at Eton College. That said, we are also keen to forge our own traditions and identity as we establish ourselves as a model for the future of British state education and for collaboration between the independent and maintained sectors.



An aerial photograph of Holyport College, showing a large, modern school building with a flat roof and solar panels. The building is surrounded by green lawns, trees, and a parking area. In the background, there are more green fields and a few scattered trees.

# WELCOME

A portrait of Mr B McCarey, the Head Master. He is a man with short brown hair, wearing a dark suit jacket over a light blue shirt, smiling at the camera.

## MR B McCAREY: HEAD MASTER

Holyport College is a community founded on the belief that young people who love and value their education will be successful, both academically and personally, and that, through nurture, self discipline and opportunity, all young people can learn to develop a genuine zest for learning. At the heart of any student's life at Holyport College is an ambition for academic excellence and our Sixth Form is the zenith of this ambition. As a member of our Sixth Form, you will be expected to value and to cherish learning, to embrace the full range of opportunities available to you and to engage fully in the life of the College and its community. Our Sixth Form is designed to support you in your ambition towards the best courses at the best Universities and we look forward to helping you fulfil this ambition.

A portrait of Mr G Alford, the Head of Sixth Form. He is a man with short brown hair, wearing a white shirt, a dark tie, and a dark vest, smiling at the camera.

## MR G ALFORD: HEAD OF SIXTH FORM

Holyport Sixth Form was built on a vision of academic excellence and I am delighted to say that we are delivering this vision despite still being a relatively young organisation. The two words that best sum up the Holyport Sixth Form experience are aspiration and community. Aspiration is at the heart of our curriculum and our vision. Our unique position as a State Boarding Free school, working hand in hand with our friends and colleagues at Eton allows us to offer our students an environment in which they can aspire to greater things than they ever thought they were capable of. But we are not an exam factory. We are a small school and a home for a significant number of boarding students and staff meaning that every student is known as an individual. This ensures that we can provide bespoke support for all of our students on their journey to university. If this resonates with you, we would love to welcome you to Holyport College Sixth Form.



# THE SIXTH FORM



The Sixth Form at Holyport College aims to ensure that its students achieve the full potential of which they are capable: that they become happy, successful and well informed members of the global community; that they will always understand and cherish the value of learning for its own sake. Our aim is to provide an environment in which students will be resilient, self-reliant and morally upstanding adults whatever their chosen paths and that they will have the necessary qualifications and personal attributes to choose these paths wisely.

We believe that, in preparing our students for a university education at Oxbridge, Russell Group Universities or other institutions with global reputations for excellence, we are giving them the best possible opportunity to achieve these futures. Our curriculum is constructed with this pathway in mind, its emphasis being on academic A-Level subjects which facilitate entry to top universities. Our culture, standards and expectations reflect this aspiration through all aspects of college life.



As a boarding school, we have an opportunity to act as a bridge between school and university where our students can enjoy an independent yet supported approach to their studies. Likewise, our relationship with Eton College offers opportunities for enrichment, extension and depth of learning.

Holyport College was established to offer a very high standard of state funded education: an education with higher aspirations and higher expectations; an education founded on a sense of community, collaboration and mutual respect; an education which does not offer excuses, cut corners or look for shortcuts; an education predicated on the fundamental tenet that our students can achieve standards on a par with the best students in the best schools in the country, be they state funded or independent. Our Sixth Form is the embodiment of this vision and our students are a testament to it.

We welcome Sixth Form applications for both day and boarding places from those students currently at Holyport College and also from those at other schools all over the world (with the right to reside in the UK) who would like to join our aspirational, unique and happy community.





# OUR SPONSOR

***At Holyport College, we are fortunate and proud to have Eton College as our sole educational sponsor.***

Eton College was founded by King Henry VI in 1440 and is situated just a few miles away from Holyport near Windsor. Eton is widely recognised as a leading, academically selective, independent boarding school in the UK and, whilst Holyport College may be a relatively new school, we are fortunate to be able to draw on Eton's heritage and experience. This sponsorship has allowed us to forge links between the two schools at a number of levels (in our governance, and through staff and student interactions). It is our mutual aim for Eton's sponsorship of Holyport to become the gold standard by which other state and independent school collaborations are judged.

Holyport students benefit from the use of a number of Eton College's facilities and from the opportunity to build relationships with students currently at Eton; our staff have worked alongside their counterparts to develop the Sixth Form curriculum and internal assessment materials ensuring that students are encouraged to aim high. Our Sixth Formers benefit from the wide range of society meetings held at Eton, which help to encourage independent thinking and the courage to ask questions among students.





# CURRICULUM

***The curriculum model for Holyport College Sixth Form has been designed specifically to challenge students to develop academically so that they are in the best possible position to apply for highly competitive universities. Our “Three plus 1” model allows students to select a range of additional courses to complement the traditional three A-level route and ensure that the personal curriculum is tailored to the individual so that they can meet their aspirations.***

## ***The “Plus 1” Fourth A-level***

This pathway is for the most academic students. Completing four academic A-levels is a challenge and is not for everyone.

## ***Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)***

The EPQ is a wonderful opportunity for students to carry out a research project on a subject of their choice. A student who embarks on this pathway will learn and develop planning and research skills, critical analysis of sources, referencing, time management and evaluation skills. The EPQ is a level three qualification equivalent to half an A-level and it is favourably looked upon by universities. Indeed, a significant number of universities will give students a lower offer if they achieve a high grade in their EPQ.

## ***Core Maths***

This qualification is worth the equivalent of an AS level. It is designed for students who are not taking Mathematics at A-level but are studying subjects that have a significant mathematical demand or who are planning to study courses at university that require a strong grounding in maths.

## ***EtonX***

Through our partnership with Eton College, our students have access to a fabulous range of self-study courses through the EtonX online platform. The courses, each lasting approximately six hours, are designed primarily for students with the aim of developing future skills that are applicable for university and beyond.

***We believe that this curriculum model delivered by our highly experienced staff ensures that when it comes to university entrance, our students are competitive with the best there are.***

## **The A-Level courses we offer are:**

- English Literature
- Maths
- Further Maths
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- Physics
- Geography
- History
- Spanish
- French
- Latin
- Art
- Music
- Economics
- Politics
- Psychology
- R.S
- P.E

## **Entry to the Sixth Form has the following GCSE (or equivalent) entry requirements:**

- A minimum average GCSE point score (APS) of 6.00 across the student's best eight subjects
- Minimum grades of 6 and 5 in English and Maths in either order if not included in the APS above

Students will also need to meet any specific entry requirements for the subjects they would like to study.





# STAFF

***At Holyport College, we believe that our staff are one of our greatest assets (second only to our students).***

Our teachers are drawn from a wide variety of backgrounds (from state schools, from grammar schools and from the independent sector) but they have one thing in common: their passion for and expertise in their subjects. We encourage our staff to build strong relationships with the students they teach, to raise their aspirations and to challenge them on a daily basis to be the best and never to accept excuses or compromises when it comes to their goals and achievements.



# LIFE AT HOLYPORT COLLEGE

## THE COLLEGE DAY

***The structure of our day allows our students more freedom to develop the personal and academic attributes they will need to succeed in the next stages of their education.***

Our college day is longer than that of most schools and colleges, lasting from 8:40 until 17:00 (15:45 on Fridays). This means that, alongside a high level of contact time with teachers, our Sixth Form students also have ample opportunity for independent study, collaborative study, additional support from tutors or teachers, extension or enrichment activities and plenty of time to take part in (and lead parts of) our extensive co-curriculum programme. Boarders also benefit from additional time with academic tutors in the evenings.





# CO-CURRICULUM

***At Holyport College we view the co-curricular programme as an integral part of the school day and one of the reasons our students are so rounded, positive and successful. Monday to Thursday one hour is given over to this programme of enrichment activities. Students are encouraged to develop and refine their interests alongside trying new experiences.***

We are proud to compete against both state and independent schools in the full range of team sports, from rugby and netball to cricket, rounders and athletics as well as in less mainstream sports such as Eton Fives and petanque!

Our relationship with Eton College allows our students access to their world class sporting facilities for many of our home fixtures and our rowing squads benefit from the use of Olympic venue Eton Dorney Rowing Lake for training.

Alongside sports, we have a wide range of cultural and academic activities on offer: students in the Sixth Form can choose from drama societies, orchestras, choirs,

ensembles and societies allowing them to deepen their knowledge of their chosen academic subjects beyond the traditional A-level curriculum.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is flourishing at Holyport College, with many of our students involved, and we hope many of our Sixth Form students will go on to achieve the Gold Award. Likewise, there are many opportunities, through the co-curricular programme, to give something back to the community: by running a club or society for younger students; by coaching a sports team; by mentoring a student who may be struggling academically or emotionally or by volunteering at a local primary school or elsewhere in the community.







# BOARDING LIFE

**In choosing to be a Sixth Form boarder at Holyport College, you will be joining a happy and diverse community of like-minded young people who work hard to achieve great academic success. Boarders are also immersed in an environment full of exciting and diverse opportunities outside of the classroom.**

Our Sixth Form boarding experience is designed as a bridge between school and university: you will enjoy greater freedom but greater responsibility. We have separate boarding houses for girls and boys and our Sixth Formers reside in accommodation very similar to those found in university halls of residence - modern bedrooms, fully equipped kitchens and comfortable TV lounges.

Boarding at Holyport College is a place where students develop as a whole person and key to this is the relationship with their House Master. We pride ourselves on exceptional pastoral care and getting to know our boarders as

individuals, thus enabling a flexible approach to bespoke care and attention. Our mission is to ensure every boarder has everything they need in place to thrive.

Our onsite Medical Centre provides exceptional medical care throughout the day and we also boast two matrons - one residential Senior Matron and also a non-resident Matron, who are on-hand in the evenings to meet your needs, whilst also being an extra pair of listening, caring ears.

Sixth Form Tutors are available in the evenings to support boarders with their studies. They can help resolve any academic issues or concerns and are always keen for a general catch-up and chat. They also run an additional academic enrichment activity each evening, which is just for boarders to take advantage of.

Boarding fees at Holyport College are significantly lower than those at independent schools.







# STUDENT LEADERSHIP

## ***We want strong leadership.***

Leadership forms a central role throughout Holyport College. Our aim is to provide a range of leadership opportunities for all students to help form an active role in the school community.

Whether it be through charity and community events, house competitions, sport, co-curricular clubs and societies, Duke of Edinburgh, student council, or the arts.

Student voice is at the heart of the college and students regularly have the opportunity to raise their views about the school community. Each tutor group has a representative who acts as the voice for the group led regularly by the individual Heads of House.

The Sixth Form students, who aspire to be great leaders, have further opportunities to join the senior student leadership team in the middle of year twelve. Students who take on these senior roles have high standards of behaviour, appearance, attendance and a real ambition to succeed.

The formal roles include subject ambassadors, peer mentors, prefects, Heads of House and Head Boy and Girl.

Each senior student is encouraged to take on additional responsibilities and lead on areas within the school community such as the Feminist Society, African and Caribbean Society and STEM Society.

Our partnership links with Eton College also provide invaluable opportunities for students to engage and lead in societies and to question visiting speakers.



# UNIVERSITY AND BEYOND



***Holyport Sixth Form was designed with the express aim of preparing students to go to some of the best universities in the UK and around the world.***

We are unashamedly open about the fact that students who select Holyport College Sixth Form are aiming for Russell Group and Oxbridge as their aspiration.

Headlines and additional UCAS support :

- Successful Oxbridge entry in each graduating cohort, with numbers growing each year
- 70 % of the year, in 2023 went to a Russell Group University or equivalent
- Students assisted to go to international universities including in Canada, USA, Netherlands and Spain
- Support from our partners at Eton with the Oxbridge, Medical and Dentistry application process
- Mock interviews given by Eton College Masters
- Help with university admissions test preparation (such as BMAT, UCAT, HAT, TSA, ENGAA, PAT, LNAT plus many more)
- A bespoke 16-week online course that all parents/carers and students have access to - known as Uniport - no other state school in the country has this level of support



***The Holyport Scholars and Societies programme was founded to expand the horizons of our students and to extend and deepen learning beyond the classroom.***

A schedule of weekly talks at both Holyport and Eton Colleges, provides our students with the exposure to a comprehensive range of employment areas and academic disciplines. The speakers are specifically tailored to support and further a students knowledge in their area of academic interest.

Scholars provide the opportunity for Sixth Form students to gain first hand interview experience as they delve into the careers and academic history of our speakers. They are interactive events, inviting conversation with both the interviewees and the audience throughout. Societies at Eton allow students to actively participate in their passions such as Investment Club and Medical Society. Providing students with this first hand experience is invaluable to university applications.

**Holyport Sixth Form Scholars have access to the following:**

- Invitations to visiting speakers, lectures and societies at both Eton College and Holyport College
- Specialist academic support and supervision in their chosen university subjects, over and above the A-Level curriculum
- The opportunity to independently research, plan and write an Extended Professional Qualification on a subject of their own choosing, under the tutelage of a supervisor and with access to Eton College's libraries
- The opportunity to share and discuss this EPQ with fellow Scholars
- Interview practice and coaching specifically tailored to Oxbridge interviews in their chosen subject

# HOLYPORT SCHOLARS



At Holyport College Sixth Form, academic excellence is at the heart of all that we do; our Scholars programme ensures that our best and brightest students develop their love for learning and their knowledge of their chosen subject. This will be of huge value to their UCAS applications and gives them the best possible chance of succeeding at Oxbridge interview.



# WHY HOLYPORT?

- The opportunity to attend one of the most exciting new schools in the UK with its aspirational, high achieving ethos within a diverse and mutually supportive community
- Focus on core academic subjects, allowing students to keep options open and to give them the very best chance of securing a place at a top university with input from Eton College as Holyport's educational partner
- Unparalleled tutor support and advice with applications to the most competitive courses and universities
- Specialist support in preparation for university admissions tests and interviews
- Extensive co-curriculum through our longer school day giving students opportunities to pursue cultural, sporting and academic interests
- Scholars lectures and seminars at Holyport and Eton from across the academic, political and business worlds. Hear from philosophers, authors, journalists, chemists, bankers, doctors and pilots
- Community service through Duke of Edinburgh, Young Leadership programme, mentoring of younger students and prefect responsibilities
- The option to board at Holyport College, making close friendships and the chance to have a taste of independent university life
- New, purpose-built teaching rooms, specialist labs and classrooms, alongside dedicated Sixth Form study areas, reading rooms and Common rooms
- A College at the heart of the community with a vibrant and caring learning environment which values the individual qualities of the individual student and maintains a positive outlook and a sense of humour alongside its pursuit of academic excellence
- A College where everyone is mutually supportive and proud of all their achievements but is also not afraid of competition or of celebrating success











Full information on courses, the application process and key dates is available on our website:

**[www.holyportcollege.org.uk/sixth-form](http://www.holyportcollege.org.uk/sixth-form)**

For further information please contact:

**[6thformadmissions@holyporcollege.org.uk](mailto:6thformadmissions@holyporcollege.org.uk)**

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