



HOLYPORT  
COLLEGE

# WELCOME



Welcome to Holyport College, one of the most exciting schools in the UK today. We believe that discovering and becoming the best version of ourselves is a joyous process.

We have a strong focus on academic excellence but we are equally passionate about education in the broadest possible sense. With an impressive array of co-curricular activities led by staff who all care deeply about every student, we create a culture where everyone belongs and is empowered to develop their own sense of self.

Holyport students are happy, kind and go on to achieve remarkable things, including exceptional exam results and places at the world's top universities. We are partnered with nearby Eton College and work together with them to develop our students as athletes, as musicians, as compassionate people, as adventurers, as scholars, as creatives and into the best possible version of the adults they were born to become.

With 40 percent of our students living on site, boarding is at the heart of Holyport College. We welcome boarders from diverse backgrounds for a fraction of the cost of our independent equivalents. Our boarding model is flexible, with boarders having the option to return home for the weekend, or stay onsite to take full advantage of the enriching, fun programme of activities.

This is Holyport, a thriving state-sector boarding school that helps all our students discover the magic within themselves.

**Alastair Ingall, Head**

Holyport College provides a joyous and inclusive education which is uncompromising in encouraging each individual to aspire to academic excellence, to learn that embracing opportunity is its own achievement and to understand that a diverse, harmonious and happy community is the foundation of individual success.

We pride ourselves on the diversity of our community and our students and staff are drawn from all walks of life however they are united by our high aspirations and traditional yet caring ethos.



From Years 7 to 11, we are an all ability, comprehensive school and we are academically selective in our Sixth Form with a focus on preparing students for access to Oxford and Cambridge and Russell Group universities. The College has an unashamedly academic curriculum with all students expected to take up to ten GCSEs including the English Baccalaureate (English, Maths, Science, Geography or History and a Modern Foreign Language).

Pupils at the College are made up of boarding and day pupils, and parents have the option to apply for either type of place, or both if they prefer. Full details of our admissions policy and application process can be found on our website: [www.holyportcollege.org.uk/admissions](http://www.holyportcollege.org.uk/admissions)



# THE SCHOOL DAY

We ensure that every child who comes to Holyport College experiences a nurturing environment. Above all, we want all our pupils, staff and everyone involved in the school day to feel fulfilled and happy.

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 school day is longer than that of most state schools, lasting from 08:40 until 17:30 (15:45 on Fridays). This means that, alongside a high level of contact time with their teachers, our students also have ample opportunity for a wide range of co-curricular activities as well as independent study, collaborative study, academic intervention or extension and enrichment activities.

Boarders also benefit from additional contact time with academic tutors in the evenings and from a full evening and weekend activity programme.

Another unique feature of the school is that the whole school community sits down to eat their lunchtime meal together. Students can choose from a wide range of hot and cold options and eat in the College refectory with the staff and with their friends. Students are not permitted to bring in packed lunches.

Our term dates are available on our website and are broadly in line with other local schools in the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead. However, as with most boarding schools, our pupils enjoy an extended holiday in October and at Christmas.





Holyport College's pupils and staff benefit from all new facilities and the latest in technology. Our on-site facilities include:

- Newly built science laboratories
- Library
- Multi Use Games pitch (astro turf) for football, netball, hockey and tennis
- Sports Hall for netball, basketball, fitness and dance
- Drama suite
- Art rooms
- IT suite and wifi throughout the College
- Boarding accommodation and communal areas for up to 225 boarders
- Large, central dining hall
- Medical Centre
- Garden and outdoor space



In addition to our own facilities, we have access to a variety of Eton College's facilities and make particular use of their outstanding sports facilities.

# CONDUCT AND BEHAVIOUR

All our pupils are encouraged and expected to recognise the part they play, however small, in enhancing the lives of others around them.

At Holyport College we believe good behaviour to be essential in promoting a caring and supportive environment, enabling all members of the school community to feel secure and respected, and ensuring positive attitudes towards learning. The development of personal qualities and social skills and the fostering of socially acceptable behaviour are integral aspects of the school curriculum.

We expect all pupils to conduct themselves in an exemplary manner at all times, both in and outside of the school grounds and to contribute to the community in a meaningful and constructive way.

We want every child from Holyport College to fulfil their own potential and to attain academic excellence. Children who regularly miss school or who are late for lessons are less likely to do well in their studies. Therefore, we set very high expectations in terms of attendance and punctuality and expect parents to support us with this aim.

## UNIFORM

We want all our pupils to feel proud to be part of the Holyport College community. We believe that a uniform reflects the values and high standards to which all pupils should aspire. We expect pupils to wear a smart school uniform and clear guidelines are provided on what is and is not acceptable. Our uniform is designed to be distinctive and hardwearing. Further details of our uniform and sports kit is available on our website.

## THE HOUSE SYSTEM

Houses play a central part in the lives of all pupils at the College. There are four houses: Brunel, Turingl, Johnson and Fawcett. All students are assigned to a house and the house is at the centre of the pastoral care they receive.

Holyport College students develop close friendship groups, and interact with other year groups. We believe this is vital in promoting mutual respect and understanding. Older students in each house are expected to act as role models and mentors to younger ones and to help reinforce the ethos and principles of the school in terms of behaviour, positive relationships and the importance of each individual pupil's contribution to school life.

Students are offered leadership roles and will be given responsibilities that will help them in their own personal development, as well as supporting the College in achieving its aims.

# THE ETON PARTNERSHIP

At Holyport College, we are fortunate and proud to work in partnership with Eton College.

Eton College was founded by King Henry VI in 1440 and is situated 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 partnership has allowed us to forge links between the schools at a number of levels (in our governance, through the sharing of facilities and opportunities and through staff and student interactions).

Holyport students benefit from the regular use of a number of Eton College's facilities (for example rowing at Eton Dorney or taking part in Design Technology sessions in Eton's workshops). Likewise, our partnership with Eton College provides Holyport students with unique opportunities which would not otherwise be afforded them: more able students in Key Stage 3 may be invited to take part in the Eton Aspirations Project whereby Senior Eton students teach a series of extension lessons to younger Holyport students to broaden their horizons beyond the curriculum; senior Holyport students are regularly invited to attend society meetings at Eton College with some of the country's most eminent speakers and students at Holyport College have the opportunity to join forces with Eton's Combined Cadet Force.

The relationship between Holyport College and Eton College is meaningful, visible and has a significant impact on the life and education of every single student at Holyport College.



# CURRICULUM



Holyport College was founded on the principle that it is the fundamental entitlement of every young person, regardless of background or ability, to study a meaningful and broad range of academic subjects and to have the opportunity to gain appropriate qualifications in the full range of these subjects.

Our teaching staff are chosen for their depth of subject knowledge and their genuine love for their subjects and, through them, we aim to challenge and inspire our students and to engender a lifelong love of learning.

The College actively encourages all department areas to run frequent trips and visits to enrich our students' learning and to allow them to contextualise this learning within the wider world. There are regular trips to theatres, galleries, museums and places of worship; all students are encouraged to take part in our extensive programme of sports fixtures; Sixth Form students regularly attend national conferences in their chosen subject areas; younger students have the opportunity to attend a residential outdoor activity trip in the Summer. All students also have the opportunity to achieve the Duke of Edinburgh's Award and older students can join the College's CCF Corp. There is also an extensive programme of international trips including ski trips and sports tours and trips to Iceland, Italy, France and Japan.



## KEY STAGE 3

At Key Stage 3, all students will study the following subjects: English, Maths, Science, Spanish (or French for some students joining in Year 9), Geography, History, R.S., Music, Computing, Drama, Art, Physical Education.

In all subject areas, the curriculum and assessment framework have been designed around developing the skills students will need to be successful in their studies of each subject (including literacy and numeracy where appropriate) as well as extending their knowledge of subject content. Students sit Trials (formal examinations) in each subject three times per year plus two further interim assessments. The Key Stage 3 curriculum serves to develop students' learning in each subject, to inspire an interest in the further study of that subject and to ensure that students are prepared for the rigours of the GCSE courses which begin in Year 10.



## KEY STAGE 4

The GCSE curriculum is designed around the principle that, through studying a broad range of academic subjects until the age of sixteen, students will have a greater range of options and opportunities available to them in the next stages of their education. Students choose their GCSE Options in May of Year 9. All students take either nine or ten GCSEs (depending on whether they take Trilogy or separate Sciences).



The following subjects are compulsory for all students at GCSE: English Language, English Literature, Maths, Sciences (all students begin a "triple Science" pathway in Year 10. In Year 11, some students will move to a Trilogy pathway to ensure that each individual is on the most appropriate pathway), Spanish or French, History or Geography.

Students must then choose three of the following GCSE Options in addition to those above: Geography, History, Spanish, French, Art, Music, Computing, Drama, RS, PE, Latin.

## SIXTH FORM

Our Sixth Form curriculum is based around high quality, academic A Level courses. The stated aim of our Sixth Form is to meet the needs of those students who have the ability and ambition to gain entry to Oxford, Cambridge or Russell Group universities (or equivalent international institutions). To this end, we are academically selective at Sixth Form level, admitting only those students whose GCSE grades serve as evidence of their ability to succeed on more demanding courses such as these.

All of our A Levels are two year, linear courses chosen for their rigour and we offer them in the following subjects: English Literature, Maths, Further Maths, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Computing, Geography, History, Spanish, French, Latin, Art, Economics, Politics, Psychology, Religious Studies, Physical Education.

# CO-CURRICULUM

The College's co-curriculum is far more than simply a few activities at the end of our school day: we view it as an integral part of life at Holyport College and one of the reasons our students are so rounded, positive and successful.

We put aside 90 minutes per day (Monday to Thursday) for our co-curriculum (from 14:15-15:45 on a Monday and from 16:00-17:30 from Tuesday to Thursday) and, during this time, students are encouraged to develop and refine their interests alongside trying new experiences.



We have a huge range of activities on offer from traditional team sports to American football and yoga; several drama clubs (alongside rehearsals for our school productions), choirs, dance and instrumental groups; various academic activities including both intervention and enrichment/extension sessions and a host of other activities, clubs and societies.

There is also the opportunity for any student who wants to to set up their own club or activity to do so.





Our co-curriculum activities fall into SIX broad categories (many of activities crossing over between more than one category):

**Physical:** Sports and activities which promote physical fitness and wellbeing

**Intellectual:** Activities which challenge students to think, often in different ways to the traditional curriculum

**Cultural:** Activities which encourage students to engage with, and contribute to, our shared cultural heritage including music, art, drama, film, literature and philosophy

**Service:** Activities which encourage students to become active citizens of the modern world and to contribute both to the College community and to the wider community as a whole

**Mindfulness:** Activities which allow students to slow down, destress and take a break from the busyness of their lives

**Intervention:** Activities designed to provide additional academic support to students over and above their timetabled lessons



# SPORT

Sport and physical activities are integral to everyday life at Holyport College. Regular exercise is essential to ensuring a healthy lifestyle and it is also proven to have a significantly beneficial effect on your mental health and academic achievement.

In short, regular exercise will make you a happier and more successful person! All students at Holyport College are therefore expected to engage in regular sporting and other physical activities.

The College plays regular sports fixtures against other local schools in a wide range of sports. In order to make sure we field the strongest teams possible, team training in co-curriculum time is compulsory for all students in Years 7 and 8 and for all students in Year 9 for at least the first half term (following which they may be released from team training sessions in co-curriculum time at the discretion of the Director of Sport). The only exception to this is those students with medical conditions which might exclude them from taking part in the sports on offer. Students in Years 10, 11 and the Sixth Form must also attend team training sessions if they wish to be considered for selection to one of the College teams.



During the week, sports fixtures usually take place on Tuesday or Wednesday afternoons (although some fixtures will also take place at other times). These fixtures will take priority over any other activities you may be signed up to (although please do sign up for other activities on these days as you won't have a fixture every week).

The College also operates a full schedule of sport on Saturday mornings including both training and fixtures. All students are strongly encouraged to attend (attendance is compulsory for boarders and the majority of day students' parents and carers also choose to treat Saturday mornings as compulsory at least until the end of Year 9 unless other commitments make attendance impossible).

Many of our Saturday morning sessions take place at Eton College and they are often fantastic social occasions for both students and parents. On one Saturday morning each term, the College also holds an interhouse sports tournament. Attendance at this is compulsory and it is a great opportunity for some fun and competitive bonding between our students with refreshments provided by the Holyport College Dad's Club. In the Summer term, the College also holds an annual Sports Day at Thames Valley Athletics Centre to which parents and carers are very welcome.

The College holds its annual Sports Awards Dinner in the Summer term. This is a formal occasion to thank and celebrate those students who have demonstrated the most commitment to College sports over the course of the previous year.



# BOARDING

Holyport College is more than just a school. It is a close-knit community of students, staff and their families that work together to develop the lives of young people and enrich their futures.

With more than 40% of our students living on site, boarding is at the heart of the College community and reflects its values and ethos. The modern boarding model that we provide seeks to replicate the family atmosphere of a home where relationships are familiar in nature and the environment relaxed and stable.

This caring and nurturing environment builds the confidence of boarders and encourages them to develop new skills and to go outside of their comfort zones. Boarding provides opportunities that open doors, turn interests into passions and set futures in motion.

We believe that balance is the key to a happy and successful education. We hope that all boarders will aspire to academic success. At the same time, they should balance their time with activities and events that enrich their mind and boost their physical and mental health. We also believe it is important for young people to socialise. Our boarding houses are situated upstairs in the main buildings and we strive to make them a real home from home. Boarders at Holyport College join a community that celebrates traditional values while developing tolerance and understanding, essential when living in such a diverse community. There are a wide variety of activities that the boarders can become involved in and when put alongside our high academic expectations, provide an outstanding, holistic education. Our aim is to develop each boarder's maturity, confidence, self-motivation and self-discipline, as these qualities are essential in today's world. Our boarders study hard, enjoy a host of organised experiences and play a positive, leading role in College life.



## **FEES**

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

These fees cover the cost of accommodation, meals, on-site medical care and the programme of events for evenings and weekends. They do not include additional costs for uniform, sports kit, school equipment and school trips (undertaken with day pupils as part of the main curriculum).

Once a place has been confirmed at the College, a non-refundable deposit will be required to secure the place. The deposit is £2,500 for UK applicants and one term's fees for international applicants.

## **APPLYING FOR A BOARDING PLACE**

If you would like to apply for a boarding place for your son or daughter, you will need to complete our boarding application form, which is available on our website [www.holyportcollege.org.uk/admissions](http://www.holyportcollege.org.uk/admissions). Applicants from England and Wales applying for Year 7 boarding places will also need to apply through their home local authority. A registration fee of £150 is required when making an application for a boarding place.

All pupils whose parents have returned an application will be invited to attend an interview to assess their suitability for boarding at the College. This is not intended to be a stressful process and we very much hope that children and their parents will enjoy the experience.



# WELLBEING

## MEALS

At Holyport College we recognise the importance of all our pupils being able to enjoy healthy, appetizing, regular meals. We provide nutritious, freshly prepared meals from our brand new kitchens.

For our boarders, main meals of breakfast, lunch and supper will be taken in our large central dining hall - just a few moments' walk from the boarding houses and large enough to accommodate all our boarders and staff in one sitting. Meals will include a wide choice of options including hot meals, vegetarian choices as well as healthy snacks and drinks in between meals. We are able to cater for any specific dietary requirements a pupil may have.

A cooked meal at lunchtime is as a central part of the day when both boarding and pupils have the opportunity to socialise and spend time with their peers in a congenial way. Charges for day pupils are comparable with other schools in the borough.





## **SECURITY**

Our purpose-built boarding accommodation incorporates state-of-the-art security technology to ensure pupils' safety at all times. Measures include CCTV, limited entry and exit points and use of biometric recognition systems to access certain areas of the accommodation. All our staff undergo rigorous safeguarding checks so that we can be certain that all our pupils are receiving the very highest levels of care.

## **ON SITE MEDICAL CENTRE**

All our boarding pupils will need to enrol with our local GP surgery. The boarding houses are staffed by a matron who will be able to deal with minor ailments and first aid. Our nurse provides on-site medical care under the guidance of our local GP surgery.

# FROM OUR PARENTS...

We were extremely pleased with our son's parents evening. His progress is unbelievable! In seven months he has turned into a confident, happy, very able young man who loves sports and enjoys school. All the teachers work so hard and are so committed to their job. Please thank them for doing such a wonderful job on a child who seven months ago had lost his confidence and was not doing well academically. They are very talented teachers. We are very lucky to have them.

We have been pleased to see our son's progress since last September, and we would like to thank Holyport for the supportive environment it has provided.

It is so exciting to see our daughter thriving and grasping hold of all the experiences that the college is offering. She is loving college life and all its goals in achievement.

We have had nothing but positive feedback from our daughter since she started year 9 last week. The lunches are delicious, she is enjoying the lessons, and has been chosen for the A team hockey team! Thank you very much for all your efforts, we are so pleased that we obviously made the right decision to send our daughter to Holyport College.

My daughter has been happy and excited at Holyport from day one. I put this down largely to the ethos of the school, the inspiring lessons and the yummy school lunches! She tells me that she is now beginning to understand maths and feels she can succeed ... last week's rice pudding was the best I've ever tasted ... Life skills makes me think quite deeply about things and I like that. I'm getting ever so fit in PE, and the RS teacher is quite simply an amazing teacher Mum. I could go on, but you've probably got the idea!

Thank you for looking after our son so well. He is very keen to stay as many weekends as possible.

I am so grateful for your work, commitment and talent to bring the most valuable asset in the life of my son and other Holyportians - education with values.

Thank you for a lovely first year. I have never seen my daughter so happy.

My son is extremely happy at Holyport College. He finds the peace, confidence and strength to grow up in a balanced environment which fosters hard work and the joy of achievement.





Set in an idyllic semi-rural location, yet close to major transport networks, Holyport College is easily accessible. The College campus is only a few miles from the M4 motorway, 10 minutes from Maidenhead train station, which serves London Paddington, and 25 minutes drive from London Heathrow airport. Nearby, the towns of Maidenhead and Windsor provide a huge range of attractions and amenities, including theatre, cinema, ten-pin bowling, shops and restaurants.

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

[www.holyportcollege.org.uk/admissions](http://www.holyportcollege.org.uk/admissions)

For further information please contact: [admissions@holypportcollege.org.uk](mailto:admissions@holypportcollege.org.uk)

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