



Quality of Sixth Form Provision

Programmes of Study

Intent

Richmond Sixth Form College study programmes are designed to provide students with a structured and challenging learning schedule that supports their development and progression in line with their career plans. All students enter into a home-college agreement outlining our high aspirations, what students can expect from the college with regard to teaching and learning, student support, reporting and the expectations of students in order to ensure success.

Implementation

The sixth form programme comprises of qualification and non-qualification hours and includes the following elements some or all of which can be selected for each student's personalised programme of study.

1. Substantial qualifications that stretch students and prepare them for education at the next level or for employment.

A-levels: Students can choose three or four A-level subjects dependent on GCSE qualifications from a range of twenty different subjects.

Vocational Level 3 Courses: Students can choose one, two or three subjects and mix with A-levels if appropriate. We offer a range of vocational courses across six different subject areas.

Level 3 Core Maths: Students who do not wish to take A-level Maths but wish to continue their mathematical studies have the opportunity to take this subject alongside their main subject choices.

Extended Project Qualification (EPQ): Students can choose to undertake the EPQ as an additional qualification which is equivalent to 50% of an A-level. This allows students to demonstrate in-depth, university-style research in one particular area of their choosing which enhances their future applications.

2. English and Maths resits where students have not yet achieved a GCSE pass at grade 4 or better.

GCSE Level 2 English and Maths: All students who have not reached a grade 4 in English or Maths prior to joining Richmond Sixth Form College will have distinct timetabled lessons to help them to achieve at least a standard pass. Other Level 2 qualifications in English or Maths can be offered in addition, such as Functional Skills qualifications, to aid progression.

3. Work experience to give students the opportunity to develop their career choices and to apply their skills in real working conditions.

Work Experience: Preparation for university and employment is an integral and key part of the sixth form programme. We give students the opportunity to complete a minimum of five days of high quality work experience in order to gain a deeper knowledge of the subjects and career areas they are considering.

4. Other non-qualification activity to develop students' characters, broader skills, attitudes and confidence, and to support progression.

We recognise the importance of students developing personal qualities alongside their academic studies and offer a range of enrichment opportunities for students to participate in.

Non-qualification programme: Each student has 10 hours of timetabled supervised study per fortnight in the sixth form study centre where an Academic Mentor supports students with their learning. In addition, each student is allocated a tutor with a programme of weekly activities in Year 12. The tutor also leads the Learning for Life programme including study skills, careers guidance and guest speakers from local universities, gap year organisations and "Speakers for Schools". The tutorial programme supports the UCAS and careers programme in Year 13 to ensure students have clear progression strategies in place following the completion of their courses.

Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance: Our students receive outstanding Careers guidance and we hold the prestigious Quality in Careers Standard. Using our close working links with the universities of Durham, York, Leeds, Newcastle, Leeds Beckett, Newcastle and Teesside, each student is offered a mock interview and all attend a UCAS higher education event. Outstanding support for applicants for Oxbridge, Medicine, Veterinary Science, Nursing and Russell Group universities is in place. All further education applicants are given one to one support.

Enrichment Programme: All students have the opportunity to participate in extra-curricular enrichment including many sporting and cultural activities. Performing Arts and Music are particular strengths and have strong links in the local community. Subjects offer residential and day visits and national competitions where students are encouraged to take part. The College runs the highly regarded Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award where students dedicate time to community work, an expedition and other challenging activities. Students also lead after-college enrichment clubs, learning transferable life skills as a result.

Student Leadership Programme: We have an active body of Student Leaders who work as ambassadors for the school and sixth form college and have a variety of roles, giving our students a voice in decision making. The Student Leaders' work allows them to learn how to effect positive change and take on roles of responsibility to prepare them for life beyond college, discussing issues such as learning, mentoring, sustainability and healthy eating.

Independent Learning Tasks: Students are encouraged to undertake MOOCs and other research tasks throughout their time in sixth form. Most independent work takes place in the study centre where the environment supports purposeful learning.