



COUNTY UPPER  
*Sixth Form*



**2022 Prospectus**

# Head Teacher's Welcome



## Ms Kennedy, Head Teacher

"The Sixth Form at County Upper is a very special place: it is large enough to deliver a strong, academic range of 'A' levels delivered by highly-qualified subject experts; but small enough to know and care about each individual student. We provide a secure, stable, stepping stone so that you succeed in achieving your goals whether that is seeking university, attaining an apprenticeship or going straight into employment.

County Upper Sixth Form is not just about academic success: the support and care you will receive from our pastoral team is exceptional. We know our students well and so can tailor experiences to encourage and inspire each individual. With trips, expeditions, concerts, plays, sporting fixtures, charity events, work experience opportunities, visits from external speakers and long-standing links both with local employers and those further afield, County Upper Sixth Form provides an excellent launch pad for the next step of your journey.

I believe that our Sixth Form students should feel quite different to the students lower down the school - they have a special place at the school and therefore have clear privileges that reflect increased age and increased maturity. Without doubt, sixth formers are an integral part of the County Upper community: the school relies on their contributions and very presence to ensure continuity, stability and a culture of excellence; consequently, sixth formers are respected and valued by staff and younger students alike.

And so, I hope, with all my heart, that you will join us in September 2022. Our ambition is for you have no limits and I am confident that our Sixth Form ethos will empower you to dream big and to achieve those dreams."

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sherry'.



“ Sixth Form pupils take the many opportunities to contribute to the life of the school and to the work of younger pupils ”

**Ofsted 2019**

“ I believe that County Upper is the place for me. I want a part in the hundreds of opportunities and experiences on offer. The teachers already know me and this will help towards my future as I will be given a better, more personalised education. The Oxbridge Programme will help me to achieve my goals and push harder to reaching Cambridge University. Overall, County 6th form is a friendly, welcoming place that I want to be a part of. ”

**County Upper Sixth Form  
Student, June 2020**

# Meet your team



“ Leaders know individual students very well. They ensure that students start courses that are a good match for their interests, aspirations and abilities ”

**Ofsted 2019**

## Welcome to the Sixth Form at County Upper

### Mr Fisher, Head of Sixth Form

“First of all, I feel really privileged to have such a good job and get to see the positives here. One of the best things for me is bumping into people that I taught 5 to 10 years ago and seeing where they are in life. We as teachers can treat Sixth Formers as adults - we are on a more equal level and we encourage students to work independently. The Sixth Form isn't too big here so you won't be in a large teaching group, however you still have great opportunities to develop and flourish as an individual, both through studying at this level and through the extra-curricular activities available to you.”

### Mrs Stevens, Assistant Head of Sixth Form

“I've held this role for 7 years and I love the buzz of working with young people at this stage of their education. In the Sixth Form we aim to be the launch pad from mainstream education to the “next stage”, whatever that may be - a job; apprenticeship or university. We try to support students in both their education and their wellbeing as they negotiate the pressures of 'A' levels. We very much want the Sixth Form experience to be a fun, formative, focussed time, where young people learn to find their place in the world, so they leave school with positive memories and a strong foundation for the years ahead.”



# Hello from the Head Student Team!



## Eliza Hayden, Head Student

"I feel honoured to have achieved the role as a Head Student at County Upper, as this school has given me so many amazing opportunities and through this I get to give something back. The school has so much to offer in its extra curricular activities, and as Head Student this is something I hope to promote and encourage further, specifically the music! I hope to be a helping hand for the lower school as well as my peers in the sixth form and am looking forward to the rest of the year."

## Will Holton, Head Student

"I am so excited to represent the school this year as head student. Being a figure head of the entire student body is an honour and I cannot wait to help the students voice their opinions and make the school a place that students see as their own. Furthermore I'm hoping that we can ensure that the school returns to some form of normality."

## Will Simmons, Student Council

"We work with the Head to raise issues about the school and how to improve it. We are always looking for more people to represent the student council which the Sixth Form leads for all the whole school. The more people, the more ideas for how the school could improve."



We know what it's like in year eleven with the pressures of GCSEs and we know just how different it will be in year twelve:

- You will meet new people; those who come to be part of what we offer and those you've never really met in the main school.
- You will be given much more independence; it isn't just about not wearing uniform!
- You will be treated as an adult; the smaller class sizes and more relaxed learning environment are all part of this.
- You can take on leadership roles and you will get an even bigger choice of clubs and activities.
- You will have a sense of belonging; years twelve and thirteen work well and have fun together.
- You will also still get the excellent teaching, strong sense of community, personalised pastoral support and special atmosphere for which County is renowned.
- You will love it and that means you will do well. If you have any questions, we're always happy to help, just ask us!

“ Teaching in the sixth form shares all of the effective features of teaching in key stages 3 and 4. Teachers use their expert subject knowledge to inspire interest and enthuse students who are strongly motivated to do their best ”  
Ofsted 2019 ”

# The Sixth Form Curriculum

**All students will select at least three subjects to study.** The majority of students will then also take the **Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)**. It is possible to study four subjects.

Students will take **internal school examinations in June** and also practice examinations in November of year 13. These are used to monitor progress and provide information for university, college and apprenticeship applications.

**Students are also encouraged to follow an enrichment programme** which can include work experience, volunteering and extra-curricular activities.

## Entry Requirements

Our entry requirements are based on our experience and the link between GCSE and 'A' level success. We believe it is vital that students are enrolled on courses in which they have the potential to achieve success. This requires more than academic ability. Students must be willing to commit time and personal effort to their study and work with independence and self-motivation.

**Students who wish to study GCE Advanced level courses** are required to have passed at least five GCSE or equivalent level two courses at grades 5-9 including a minimum of grade 5 in the subjects they wish to study. Most students attempting 'A' level courses will have more than this minimum. In subjects not taught at GCSE, a 5 in a related subject is required (for example, a 5/6 in English would enable a student to study Politics).

**All students entering year 12 would normally be expected to have achieved GCSE Grades 4 - 9 in English and Mathematics.** Students without these qualifications will be helped to attain them early in their year 12 programme.

For **modern languages and mathematics**, students must have followed the higher level GCSE course. (If in doubt, please check with the head of department.)

**The requirements for A level physics, biology and chemistry are slightly different.** To study these subjects students must have a double grade 7 award in GCSE science or at least a strong 6 in the relevant science subject(s) from the triple award course. They must also have at least a grade 6 in mathematics. In addition, students are advised to select at least two science subjects, or a single science subject plus mathematics, as part of their programme.



## Courses at County Upper

The courses in the grid overleaf are available to students beginning sixth form study in September 2022. Students follow at least three subjects through to completion in year 13. They are strongly advised to select their subjects with a view to where their programme will lead after 'A' level. To this end, the subjects have been divided into groups that can lead to a specific range of university/college courses, examples of which are given on the grid.

## County Upper Bursary

Information about the bursary fund is available on our website for those who are eligible for financial support with their education.

## Disclaimer

The information and particulars contained in this prospectus relate to the school year indicated on the front cover and are correct at the time of publication. It should not be assumed that there will be no change affecting the relevant arrangements, courses or some matter particularised:

- Before the start of, or during the school year in question, or
- In relation to subsequent school years.

# Year 12 Curriculum 2022-2023

“ The proportion of students who go on to university or employment is well above the national average ”  
Ofsted 2019

| Subject Group                   | Example Degree Courses  | GCE A-Level  |
|---------------------------------|---|--|
| <b>Humanities and Languages</b> | American Studies<br>Archaeology<br>English<br>French<br>German                                      | History<br>History of Art<br>Law<br>Philosophy<br>Theology                                     |
| <b>Applied Subjects</b>         | Accountancy<br>Business Studies<br>Childhood Studies  | Economics<br>Management St   |
| <b>Sciences</b>                 | Archaeology<br>Architecture<br>Biology<br>Chemistry<br>Computer Science<br>Dentistry<br>Engineering | Geography<br>Geology<br>Mathematics<br>Medicine<br>Physics<br>Psychology<br>Veterinary Science |
| <b>Applied Sciences</b>         | Anthropology<br>Forensic Science<br>Childhood Studies<br>Nursing<br>Midwifery                       | Oceanography<br>Physiotherapy<br>Sociology<br>Sports Science                                   |
| <b>Creative</b>                 | Art and Design<br>Drama<br>Fashion  | Media Studies<br>Music   |
|                                 |   | English Language<br>English Literature<br>German *also AS available<br>Geography               |
|                                 |   | History<br>Law<br>Politics<br>Religious Studies<br>Sociology<br>Spanish                        |
|                                 |   | Art<br>Computer Science<br>Economics<br>Photography  |
|                                 |   | Mathematics<br>PE<br>Psychology  |
|                                 |   | Biology<br>Chemistry<br>Computer Science<br>Further Mathematics                                |
|                                 |   | Geography<br>German<br>Mathematics<br>Physics<br>Psychology<br>Spanish                         |
|                                 |   | Biology<br>Chemistry<br>English Language<br>Geography  |
|                                 |   | PE<br>Psychology<br>Sociology  |
|                                 |   | Art<br>English Language<br>English Literature<br>Photography                                   |
|                                 |   | Media Studies<br>Music<br>PE<br>Theatre Studies  |



# Subjects available

## What do our students think?

### Before coming to Sixth Form

*"I was nervous about the grades and form classes but I ended up thoroughly enjoying it."  
"The stability, accessibility and existing relationships between peers and staff make the transition to Sixth Form really smooth"*

### ART

*"Mrs Masterman is very supportive and helpful but still gives us independence with our work."*

*"A lot of content and work needed to be put in but helps with organisation and is more independent than GCSE."*

### BIOLOGY

*"Subject content is varied with some challenging and interesting topics."*

*"There was not such a large jump from GCSE as the introductory topics make it smoother."*

### CHEMISTRY

*"Although the content is hard, it is interesting."*

*"In some respects I felt dissatisfied with Chemistry GCSE as many of my questions were left unanswered however the 'A' level has expanded my knowledge and challenged my interests."*

### COMPUTER SCIENCE

*"Can be a bit complex."*

*"Much more advanced than GCSE: far more interesting and exciting."*

### ECONOMICS

*"Lessons are informative."*

*"All new concepts so everything is new to learn."*

### ENGLISH LANGUAGE

*"Thought it was going to be a lot of reading and I was right!"*

*"I was worried about this subject because I thought it would be challenging but I absolutely love it now. Mrs Lay and Miss Rhodes are the most supportive teachers ever and I recommend English Language."*

### ENGLISH LITERATURE

*"I really enjoy English lessons and we have great conversations about the texts we study which feels very relaxed but allows us to come up with good ideas."*

*"A big jump from GCSE in terms of complexity of content and workload but a welcome challenge."*

### FRENCH

*"Having the language assistants really helps and for 1:1 discussions allows more time to improve."*

*"It is a fair leap from GCSE but if you really enjoy the subject you will be fine."*

### FURTHER MATHS

*"Start in year 13, much more work and far more advanced."*

### GERMAN

*"The jump from GCSE was significant but definitely not too much."*

*"You also get one lesson a week with a native speaker where you can discuss topics in detail and learn a lot about current issues, culture etc. This definitely helps with confidence and improves fluency with which you speak the language."*

### GEOGRAPHY

*"Quite different to GCSE but I like how it is split into human and physical geography."*

*"You must be fully committed to completing assignments on time."*

## Creative Subjects

Art  
Photography  
Media Studies  
Theatre Studies  
Music

## Languages

German  
Spanish  
French

## Social Sciences

Economics  
Law  
Politics  
Psychology  
Sociology

## Exercise Science

PE

## Extended Project Qualification

## Humanities

History  
Geography  
Religious Studies

## English

English Language  
English Literature

## Maths

Maths  
Further Maths  
Computer Science

## Sciences

Physics  
Chemistry  
Biology

### HISTORY

*"The coursework is very different to GCSE and knowing that we can use notes and research when doing the final essay makes it less stressful and easier to enjoy."*

*"Much larger workload and content than I was expecting."*

### LAW

*Studying Law gives you the opportunity to explore and understand the role of law in the today's society and raise your awareness of the rights and responsibilities we are all expected to follow as members of Society.*

### MATHS

*"Often we are given extra-curricular mathematical activities to do which are fun."*

*"Expected it to be easier."*

### MEDIA STUDIES

*"I was expecting it to be more practical and 'hands on' rather than a heavy writing subject."*

*"A lot of content, however it is interesting and can open a wide range of opportunities for the future."*

### MUSIC

*"It's a small class so we get a lot of help when we need it."*

### PE

*"You learn about three different areas of the community."*

*"Some practical lessons are included which help progress your understanding."*

### PHOTOGRAPHY

*"It's a good mix of independent and guided study but it can sometimes be hard especially when you don't have certain materials."*

*"It is interesting to see how your ideas and work progresses."*

### PHYSICS

*"Expected it to be easier."*

*"I was worried about the number of equations I would have to learn but fortunately they are almost all given in the exams."*

### POLITICS

*"If you find politics interesting you'll likely enjoy it."*

*"It is really great to get an insight into the workings of the UK political system."*

### PSYCHOLOGY

*"I would have liked to have learnt it at GCSE to make it easier at 'A' level."*

*"Teaching style is mature but offers you help if needed or wanted."*

### RELIGIOUS STUDIES

*"Learning about religion from a critical perspective has widened my knowledge about the subject itself."*

### SOCIOLOGY

*"I didn't know exactly what to expect but I am still very glad that I chose this subject, it is my favourite. I find the topics very interesting and my teachers are the best."*

*"Lessons are engaging and informative."*

### SPANISH

*"One on one teaching."*

*"We can go over things if I need to."*

### THEATRE STUDIES

*"Teachers are great, always a laugh but keep us on track when we need it."*

*"A lot of freedom but you need to work hard to stay on course."*

### EPQ

*"Enabled me to write, research and talk about a topic I'm passionate about."*

*"Teaches you how to write essays and plan for future research."*

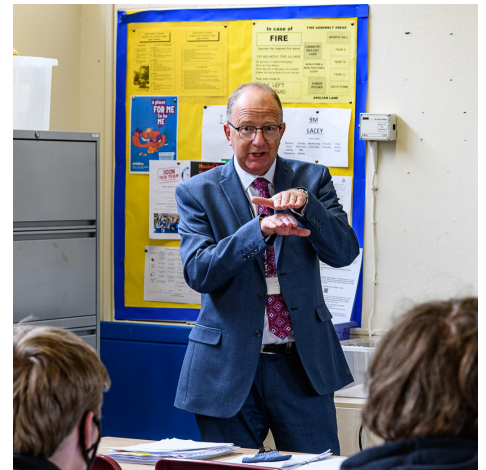


# What makes us different?

The jump from GCSE to 'A' level can be intimidating. It is a big change and is definitely a decision that should have a lot of thought put into it as hard work and dedication will be necessary in order to succeed. However, any worries that arise when contemplating Sixth Form, such as the difference in workload, the ability and skills to achieve good grades, thoughts of the future or any other issues, are soon eased by the support offered from the staff. Knowing the staff and the staff knowing you creates a comfortable and secure environment that offers assistance with no judgement.

## Academic

As well as being given support, as Sixth Form students you are given a certain level of independence. For example, free periods that you can spend either revising and doing work or taking a break in the designated Sixth Form Common Room. There is a wide range of subjects you can take at 'A' level and you can choose your own combination of three subjects. If you decide after a few weeks that a subject does not suit you, there is the flexibility to change and you are given advice to help with this decision. The teachers are well-trained, experienced and knowledgeable in their field. The smaller class sizes means that no student is overlooked and also enables more interactive lessons. You will find that, although you are furnished with advice, any academic choices you make are ultimately your decisions.



**'I am enjoying lessons more as I choose what I want to learn about'**



**'More laid back in classes'**

**'Because we are a school community, everybody knows each other and that makes it a more comfortable experience'**



**'Being part of the County community already makes the transition easier'**

## Our community

There is a big sense of community within Sixth Form. There is an atmosphere of maturity and responsibility which paves the way for acceptance among the student body, allowing each individual to express themselves without judgement. Furthermore, you are given certain responsibilities and privileges in Sixth Form: becoming subject captains; leading clubs; having ownership of Charity Week and the Sixth Form Revue. This makes you feel like you are part of the wider community by helping others. Being entrusted with this level of authority increases your confidence immensely and strengthens skills needed for the future, whether that is going to university, getting an apprenticeship or whatever you have decided will ensue after Sixth Form.

## Pastoral care

The pastoral care in Sixth Form is different to the pastoral care in the lower school. You will find that all members of the Sixth Form tutor team are approachable and can help you if you have a problem or an issue of concern. The teachers treat you more like an adult and with respect, making you feel more at ease when asking for help. You will find that they are involved and caring, especially the Head of Sixth Form staff and you can guarantee that any issues that have occurred will be sorted out quickly and securely.

**'Pastoral provision is very involved and supportive'**

**'I feel comfortable approaching the Head and Assistant Head of Sixth Form with any issues I am faced with'**



## Extra curricular

Sixth Form has an abundance of extracurricular activities. There are clubs such as History Society, Politics Society, Pride Club and many more. These clubs are inclusive and safe places and are a large part of the County Upper community. Being part of these clubs is good for social skills and making new friends. In addition to the large list of clubs that you could be a part of, there are also the renowned school trips: the art trip to Paris, trips to theatre productions, the skiing trip and a lot more. Being a part of these clubs and taking part in school trips will enrich your time at County Upper School and will most definitely benefit you.

**'It is amazing that County includes local charities in the charity week'**



**'The Sixth Form Revue makes me laugh every year'**



## Health & Wellbeing

**Students will be allocated a tutor group and will register with their form tutor daily. This provides an opportunity for monitoring student wellbeing. In addition there is a pastoral programme delivered through assemblies and workshops throughout the year to enhance and enrich the students' education and to prepare them for the adult world.**



# Past and new students



“The teaching received from County Upper, through partaking in lessons, an Extended Project Qualification (EPQ), Non-Examined Assessments (NEAs) and general essay writing has helped massively with studies at university.

County Upper taught me that it was acceptable to ask for help, that you're not the only one and there is always someone fighting in your corner. Activities such as Breathing Space and the days within activity week that were based around mental health, have certainly helped also. You also felt you could talk to any of the teachers at County Upper and be listened to, be treated with the utmost respect and be reassured that it was completely private.”

**James Bradley**



“Specifically in relation to my English Literature course, I have noticed a strong correlation between the methods of teaching that are used both in my experience of 'A' levels and at university level. My weekly seminars are set out in almost the exact format that my English Literature lessons were at 'A' level, which has made the transition a lot easier.

Also, the independent study periods I had at 'A' level have prepared me for the style of teaching at university, which is mostly independent.”

**Polly Lupton**

“The staff at County Upper not only teach academic content but they also promote positive relations and communication with staff members.

If there was one piece of advice I could give to anyone going to university, or even into Sixth Form, it is talk to your teachers. They are there to help you! With the support of the County Upper staff I was shown that good teaching isn't just about getting A\*s but it's also about developing a positive attitude towards learning. Learning at County Upper was a privilege: the tailored and personal education I received has equipped me with the skills and confidence to follow my dream of studying history at a top university. County Upper taught me that confidence is key.”

**Hannah Pamplin**



## New sixth-form student

“I decided to come to County Upper Sixth Form for a different experience. I didn't attend lower school but I was welcomed into the Sixth Form with warm and open arms. Obviously being new came with plenty of worries: I was scared that I would not fit in with the rest of the crowd, that I wouldn't find my way around the school and how hard it would be to make new friends due to the fact most students knew each other previously. However, ever since joining County

I have made plenty of friends, the teachers are very understanding and so supportive and I wouldn't change this experience for anything.”

**Malaika Nembaware**

“I am so glad I took the EPQ. The UCAS points I gained from my B grade supported my other 'A' level grades and opened a wider selection of university courses to me than if I had only my 'A' level grades. It also taught me how to read academically and to reference. Definitely to be recommended.”

**Ben Stevens**

# Information for Applications

The County Upper Sixth Form welcomes applications from students who are completing their GCSE studies either in our main school or in schools other than County Upper who both support our ethos and meet our entry criteria.

- 1 Study the course entry requirements carefully – these are available in our prospectus.
- 2 In November please register your interest in sixth form study at County Upper and make your provisional decisions about which subjects you wish to study. Please use the link <https://forms.gle/Yz1K7GcNd94xwdH69> to register your interest.
- 3 Please attend our Sixth Form Open Evening on Tuesday 18th January 2022, 5-7.30pm. You will have the chance to meet the team and ask any questions. We are happy to help! You can also register as a potential County Upper Sixth Former at this evening event by completing an application form. The application form will be available on the website from 18th January 2022.



Please be aware that if you do not register at this stage, your chosen subjects may not be available due to group sizes and staffing requirements. If clarification is needed, we may ask to see you to discuss your application.

- 4 Applications must be completed and received by us by 28th February 2022.
- 5 We will process your application and ask your current school (if not CU) for an academic reference to confirm your potential to meet our entry requirements. Please inform your current school of your intention to apply to us.
- 6 We will arrange interviews to discuss your aspirations, aptitude and subject choices during March 2022 and place offers will follow (subject to you obtaining the required grades).
- 7 GCSE results will be released on Thursday 25th August 2022. It is at this point that you will know if you have achieved the grades required to be accepted onto the courses you wish to study. Your timetable will be based on the choices on your application.
- 8 You should then confirm your wish to join us for September 2022. Only external applicants need to email proof of grades. The proof of your GCSE attainment will need to be emailed to: [pfisher@countyupper.org](mailto:pfisher@countyupper.org)

If you require more information or we can help in any way, please contact our Head of Sixth Form, Mr Fisher on [pfisher@countyupper.org](mailto:pfisher@countyupper.org)