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6XTH FORM

Open Evening 2018

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Welcome!

Dear Students and Parents,

Thank you for taking the time to attend tonight's Sixth Form Open Evening. I hope you are as excited as we are about the next stage in your educational journey.

Our goals at Churchdown Sixth Form are simple ones: to ensure that every one of you receives the best possible educational experience and that you are all fully prepared for the next stage in your lives, be that at university, an apprenticeship or in the workplace. We will work tirelessly to ensure that you achieve the best results and help you realise your undoubted potential.

I know that making a decision about where to study and what to study for the next two years can seem like a daunting prospect, but we are here to offer you all the guidance and advice you need.

I hope that the information in this booklet gives you a better insight into what we have to offer and that this evening leaves you confident that applying to Sixth Form at Churchdown is a fantastic decision.

I look forward to meeting you all tonight and wish you all the very best of luck with choosing your pathway for the next two years.

Warm regards,



Mr A Cush

Head of Sixth Form



Key Information

Joining us

As a student choosing to join our Sixth Form, you'll get the best of both worlds: a varied and challenging curriculum to help you enhance your academic ability and an enrichment programme aimed at developing key life skills to prepare you for the future. Churchdown has a wide range of AS, A Level, and BTEC courses on offer, with the vast majority of our students following three or four courses in Year 12 and three in Year 13.

Academic Mentoring and Tracking

Success at this level is very much a team game and, as such, parents are kept fully informed of your progress through information evenings, parent evenings and regular academic reviews. You will also be allocated an academic mentor with whom you will meet on a regular basis to review progress and achievement, set targets and receive support and advice.

Pastoral Care

By choosing to continue your studies at Churchdown you're guaranteed the 'personal touch'. We'll be with you every step of the journey and we're here to help when life throws up challenges along the way. You'll receive the support you might need throughout your two years with us, from the people who know you best.

Next Steps

We take your future seriously and do all that we can to prepare you for whatever the future holds. The Sixth Form team in collaboration with our on-site careers officer have devised a full programme that offers advice on both higher education and career pathways. This incorporates outside speakers, visits to universities and workshops aimed at developing vital skills.

Key Information

Enrichment

There is no doubt that good grades are imperative in securing your target career or university place. However, employers and universities are looking for much more than just good grades. Our enrichment programme will equip you with the “soft skills” and experience that will help you to succeed in your next step, whether that be higher education or employment.

Independent Learning/Homework

To make a success of your studies there is an expectation that you carry out an hour's independent learning/homework for every lesson you attend. This is the equivalent to five hours per subject per week. If for any reason no homework is given following a lesson, you as the learner, are expected to conduct research to consolidate knowledge gained in the lesson or to facilitate learning in future lessons. **There is no such thing as “no work” set!**

Sixth Form Study Rooms

The Sixth Form study rooms are located in the Sixth Form block and are designed specifically for Sixth Form students. A large number of networked PCs, Wi-Fi coverage and quiet study areas provide a setting which will allow you to achieve your full potential.

Sixth Form Common Room and Café

The common room and café is open before school until 3.00pm. This is a place to relax, meet with friends and enjoy a coffee or some lunch.

Curriculum

At Churchdown we offer a mixture of A-Level, Applied A Level and Applied BTEC courses, providing you with a wide curriculum to choose from. The course guide in the back of our prospectus covers these in more detail.

Applied A Level and A Level Courses

The Advanced Subsidiary (AS) is a stand-alone qualification and is valued as half a full A-Level qualification. They are assessed by two or three unit exams. The A Level follows from this qualification and is over the two years.

Applied BTEC courses

The Applied BTEC courses we offer are equivalent to one A-Level and are assessed through a series of units. A unit can be externally assessed (exam) or internally assessed (coursework). Each unit is marked and graded through assignments based on work-related situations or activities with opportunities for teamwork and in-depth study. Our Applied BTEC courses are A Level equivalent and universities accept them as key qualifications.



Choosing courses

Choosing the right courses

Choosing the right course is paramount if you are to have a positive and successful experience during your time in the Sixth Form and for your career choices in the future. There are many things to take into account before you make a final decision on which subjects you would like to study.

If you already know what you would like to do when you leave school, check the entry requirements with a member of the Sixth Form team (checking which subjects you should study; what grades you will need to achieve; what work experience/extra-curricular accomplishments may be necessary). If at this stage you have only a general idea of what you wish to do, or are really not sure yet, then select your strongest subjects or those which you actively enjoy.

With regard to higher education, some degree courses require particular subject combinations, whilst others require very high grades in a wide range of subject combinations.

Courses at Oxford or Cambridge University and the Russell Group of universities have their own requirements and have published leaflets that explain their perspective. The informed choices leaflet can be viewed online at:

<http://russellgroup.org/InformedChoices-latest.pdf>

Choosing courses

Good reasons for choosing a course:

- You have gained good grades in the subject;
- You enjoy the subject;
- You need to have a certain subject in order to pursue your chosen career (e.g. being a doctor);
- You have read through the course content, visited the exam board website and you like the topics being covered;
- The subject opens doors for you in the future so you can keep your options open;
- Your choice of subjects complement each other;
- Your teachers have advised you that you will enjoy/do well in a specific subject;
- The style of assessment suits you e.g. coursework or practical work.

Bad reasons for choosing a course:

- Your friends are doing the course – they won't be able to do the work for you;
- Your parents/family members said you should choose a particular subject – it has to be your choice;
- You didn't look at any other course and you don't know what else to do – you must be committed to the course and may have found that other courses would have suited you better;
- You're too scared to try something new – new subjects can complement more familiar subjects well and may become your new favourite subject;
- You don't think you will get the grades for anything else – you need to be positive and committed to doing your best. Having a defeatist outlook will not help you do that;
- You just can't be bothered to get a job instead – getting a job requires effort and so will good results. There is no opt out choice;
- You think the subject is 'easy' – there is no such thing as an A-Level or BTEC course that is 'easy'.

Choosing courses



For courses such as Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Science, Nursing/Midwifery and Engineering-based courses, please check with subject teachers and the Sixth Form team to ensure that you are looking at appropriate subject combinations. It is also worth taking a look at specific university websites to give yourself an idea of current entry requirements for courses such as Medicine and Dentistry, as requirements will vary from one establishment to another.

If you want to study for a degree in Science, at A-Level it is advisable to study at least two Sciences or possibly one Science plus Mathematics. Some subjects support each other e.g. Biology and Chemistry A-Levels for a Biological Science degree, or Physics and Mathematics A-Levels for a degree in Physics.


Degree entry requirements are usually more flexible with Arts subjects as subsequent career choices are generally broader. However it is really important that you check with individual universities about their entrance requirements.

Pathways

Churchdown Sixth Form is a comprehensive Sixth Form offering a range of Academic and Applied courses. We require an average GCSE Point score of 4.0 and above in order to gain a place.

Entry is then divided into Pathways: the A Level Pathway, the Applied A Level Pathway and or the Applied BTEC Pathway. Access to each Pathway is determined by the average GCSE point score achieved in August.

Each Pathway contains a range of different courses that ensure students are able to gain their preferred destination whether this is university, apprenticeship or the workplace.



A Level Pathway	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A mix of 3 or 4 A Level or Applied courses
Applied A Level Pathway	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A mix of 3 Applied A Level of BTEC courses
Applied BTEC Pathway	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A mix of Level 3 Applied BTEC courses

Pathways

Average GCSE Point Scores

With the GCSE numerical grading system the average point score is calculated by adding the GCSE grades achieved or predicted and dividing by the total exams sat.

Example:

A student achieved:

Maths	6
English Literature	5
English Language	5
Geography	6
Science	5,4
PE	5
History	4
iMedia BTEC	Merit 5.5
Total	45.5

Points for BTEC courses:

Grade	Points
Distinction*	8.5
Distinction	7
Merit	5.5
Pass	4

To obtain the average, divide this total by the number of subjects taken (9)

In this case $45.5 / 9 = \underline{5.1}$

Pathways

Typical progression on each pathway generally looks like:

Average GCSE Score	Year 12	Year 13	After Sixth Form
Between 4.0 and 5.0 in five or more subjects Applied BTEC Pathway	A combination of 3 courses from the Applied BTEC Pathway GCSE Maths and English as required	A combination of 3 courses from the Applied BTEC Pathway	Modern Apprenticeship University Workplace
Between 5.0 and 6.4 in five or more subjects Applied A Level Pathway	A combination of 3 or 4 courses from the Applied A Level or Applied BTEC Pathways. GCSE Maths and English	A combination of 3 or 4 courses from the Applied A Level or Applied BTEC Pathways.	Modern Apprenticeship University Workplace
Above 6.5 A Level Pathway	A combination of 3 or 4 courses from all Pathways	A combination of 3 courses from all Pathways. 4 courses can be considered in exceptional circumstances.	Modern Apprenticeship University

What To Do Next

Now you've had a taste of what Churchdown Sixth Form has to offer, you must ensure that you have all the information you need. Over the coming weeks the Sixth Form team and your subject teachers are still here to answer any of your questions, so please get in touch if you need anything at all.

The next stage of the application process is to fill in an application form and submit it to the Sixth Form Manager ***no later than 3pm on FRIDAY 14th DECEMBER***.

Working together as a team successfully requires communication. Please find below the e-mail addresses of the people you have heard from this evening:

Head of Sixth Form: Mr Cush

Email: adc@churchdownschool.com

Sixth Form Manager: Mrs Martin

Email: ram@churchdownschool.com

Head of Year 12: Mr Spooner

Email: rjs@churchdownschool.com

Head of Year 13: Mrs Jardine

Email: srj@churchdownschool.com



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