



Prior Park
College



SIXTH FORM
PROSPECTUS



WELCOME TO PRIOR PARK COLLEGE

The Sixth Form experience at Prior Park College is different in so many ways. It is a far cry from your previous educational experiences. You'll do fewer subjects in greater intensity and really get close to mastering the material that you're being examined on. The exams will become less the end focus and more a by-product of how you've been learning over the past two years. You'll have a completely different relationship with your teachers. It is much closer to a collaboration and that represents a step change from many pupils' experience of education up to that point.

The Sixth Form at Prior Park College offers a range of academic opportunities, but so do many other schools. The difference is that you become part of a community. Not one that lasts for two years and then stops, but one that lasts for life. You'll be listened to, and you'll be appreciated. You'll be given opportunities to grow on a personal level and opportunities to lead. You'll leave us after your two years in the Sixth Form, ready to take your place in the world. A world that you'll be ready to help shape. We will give you room to be you, in a safe, caring and academically stretching environment. We look forward to you joining us here and being part of something special.

Ben Horan

Headmaster, Prior Park College



LIFE IN THE SIXTH FORM

The Sixth Form is a lively, socially enjoyable and intellectually stimulating time in a pupil's school career. From the moment you arrive you are part of the Prior Park community.

Our two induction days involve fun team building exercises, where you will meet other students joining the Sixth Form, as well as study skills tips that will show you how to make the most of your time at the College.

Sixth Form students have their own designated space within the Mansion providing the perfect place for students to work and relax. The Sixth Form Centre includes a large, bright room for study, a kitchen and café area that sells snacks at break times and a sofa area for socialising. Daily support is available from our Heads of Sixth Form, who are based in an office in the study area, as well as members of each House and Form Tutors.

Our Sixth Form team prides itself on the support given to each student through the university admissions process. All students have access to the Unifrog software which helps to highlight options for them. They also have individual meetings to discuss their choices and to get advice on finance, accommodation and student life in general. Those interested in applying to Oxbridge meet weekly to discuss the specific requirements, take part in practice interviews and prepare for admission tests. Students who wish to apply for an apprenticeship or take a gap year can meet with our Independent Careers Advisor and are welcomed at our annual Gap Fair, held onsite every June. We also run a biennial Careers Fair where students have the opportunity to chat with professionals from a wide range of

industries. There is a genuine commitment to find the right way forward for each individual.

All students are encouraged to pursue their academic interests beyond the A Level course curriculum through competitions, lectures, work experience and private research. However, there are many enrichment and co-curricular opportunities including community service, sport, debating, creative options and House activities and performances. There is even a wine tasting society!

One of the highlights of the Sixth Form experience is an U6 overseas trip - the favoured destination of recent years has been New York, where students have enjoyed an action packed cultural experience in one of the most exciting cities in the world.

In addition, there are many events throughout the year where the Sixth Form community socialise together. These range from BBQs, restaurant outings, a fancy dress party and concerts. The U6 finish off their time at Prior in style with a Grand Leavers' Dinner and Palladian Ball, held in the magnificent Assembly Rooms in Bath.

One of the core aims at Prior Park is to enable our Leavers to be confident, capable, compassionate and independent-minded. We wholeheartedly support our pupils to this end.

Mrs Amy Colquhoun
Head of Sixth Form, Academic

Ms Laura Young
Head of Sixth Form, Pastoral

SIXTH FORM CURRICULUM

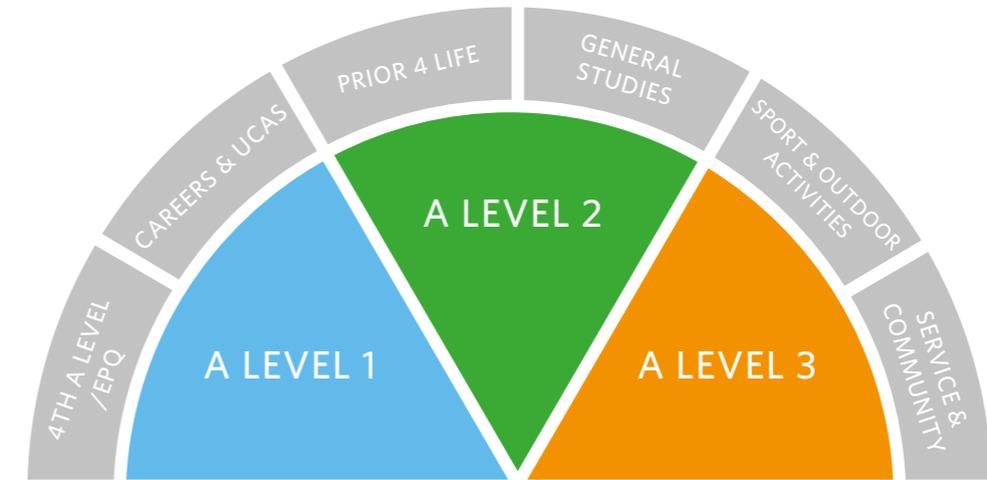
Our curriculum is designed to:

- Maximise the use of directed teaching time
- Develop skills needed for Higher Education and the workspace
- Include opportunities to participate in other enriching activities and serve the wider community.

At Prior Park College all students take three A Levels and may also take a fourth qualification such as a further A Level or complete an EPQ or undertake a maths qualification. We also have international students taking A Levels in their native language.

We encourage students to think about the following points when choosing their A Level subjects:

- Do what you love
- Do what you are good at
- Do what you need to do for the future
- Do what you think you will find interesting and will keep you motivated for two years.



We offer 25 A Levels at PPC and a further 2 A Levels* in partnership with Saint Gregory's Catholic College, Bath.

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|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| Art | Mathematics |
| Biology | Further Mathematics |
| Business | Music |
| Chemistry | Music Technology |
| Classical Civilisation | Photography |
| Design & Technology - Product | Physical Education |
| Design | Physics |
| Drama & Theatre Studies | *Politics |
| Economics | Psychology |
| English Literature | Spanish |
| French | *Sociology |
| Geography | Textiles |
| History | Theology |
| Latin | Greek |

Please refer to our Sixth Form Course Booklet for further information on each of these subjects.

PRIOR 4 LIFE

Prior 4 Life is the part of our curriculum that encourages students to learn practical and enriching skills that help to prepare them for life.

All Sixth Form students undertake a short volunteering project to give back to our community and earn a qualification in first aid. They will all learn specific things that will immediately be useful on leaving Prior Park College, including DIY, basic cookery, interview skills and managing their finances. We also encourage all students to continue to be creative, speak a foreign language and appreciate music.

We want to ensure that their Sixth Form education remains broad based and culturally fascinating.



ENRICHMENT

Sixth Form study at Prior Park College will offer you many opportunities and important life skills alongside your core studies. The programme of activities are focused around Academic, Action and Service.

ACADEMIC

DEBATING

You will see a lot of House rivalry within the school in our annual debating competition, with some of our most talented students achieving success in national debating competitions.

GENERAL STUDIES PROGRAMME

This is an obligatory period once a week where students are given the opportunity to learn from world-class speakers on a diverse range of topics such as Health, Academia, Environment, Charity, Personal Finance, Safety and Forensics. Recent speakers have included Chris Lubbe (Nelson Mandela's former bodyguard), Shaun Atwood (once convicted drug criminal turned jail rights activist) and Natasha Devon (acclaimed mental health and gender equality activist).

INSPIRE! ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Similar to a TEDx event, our Annual Sixth Form Conference is a day filled with inspirational and entrepreneurial speakers. Previous speakers include: Tom Barton, Prior Park alumnus and co-founder/owner of the Honest Burger chain; Paul Lindley, founder of Ella's Kitchen, the organic baby food manufacturer; Rob Law MBE, one of the country's best known entrepreneurs and creator of Trunki, the children's ride-on suitcases.

MODEL UNITED NATIONS

Known as MUN, it provides students with an exciting opportunity to learn about the challenges facing the world today. Participants seek to reflect accurately the view of their assigned country in a series of debates on international issues.





ACTION

COMBINED CADET FORCE (CCF)

The aim of the CCF is to provide disciplined training, develop powers of leadership, and invoke qualities of responsibility, self-reliance, resourcefulness and endurance. CCF is particularly popular with those students who may be considering a career in the Armed Forces.

DAILY ACTIVITY PROGRAMME

The College offers over sixty co-curricular activities over the course of a week.

DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD

The award is designed to develop the confidence and self-reliance of young people and it is also a lot of fun! Expeditions are an integral part of the training. The College offers participation at bronze, silver and gold levels.

HOUSE MUSIC AND BAND NIGHT

All students participate in the fierce competition that is House Music; Band Night showcases the diverse musical talent across the College.

NEW YORK TRIP

Only available to Sixth Form students, you will experience almost all the famous New York culture in the space of a week – an incredible experience that always exceeds expectations.

PERFORMING ARTS

Prior Park boasts an incredible array of productions. Everyone gets a chance to be in one or more if they are interested. There are also opportunities to help the producer, work as stage crew or even operate the tech box (sound and lighting).



SATURDAY ACTIVE

A programme of courses that take place on a Saturday morning from 10:00-11:30am. There are over 25 courses to choose from across the year, including computer programming, sailing, golf, creative writing and basketball.

SPORT

Our outstanding on-site facilities and specialist coaches encourage our pupils to achieve the highest standards regardless of ability. The school has a strong fixture list and we compete with the best sporting schools. We have pupils that compete at County, Regional and International level. Our close proximity

to the University of Bath is a tremendous bonus, with elite students using training facilities and coaching there. Prior Park supports these students in pursuit of their goals whilst making sure the demands of their school life are also met.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON PROGRAMME (TAP)

Alongside our major sports programme and Prior Concern, we also run other fitness activities on Thursday afternoons, including pilates, football, cross-country running and fitness sessions in our fitness suite.



SERVICE

CHARITIES COMMITTEE

We are committed to making a difference to those that are less fortunate than ourselves. Fundraising is led by a Charities Committee of Sixth Form students who act as role models and drive fundraising forward. Charities' Week (the final week of the Lent term) shows the competitive nature of Houses as each tries to raise the most money for the College's chosen cause.

ECO PRIOR

A committee that acts to prevent climate change, works actively to conserve energy around the school and beyond and promotes the protection of the natural environment.

PAIRED READING

Sixth Formers are linked with a lower school student at Prior Park or at a local primary school. They meet each week to read together. Showing a younger student how much joy can be found in reading is really rewarding.

PEER SUPPORT

Peer Mentors provide support for students and can offer advice, lead discussion groups and tutorials on all

aspects of wellbeing. They complete a six-week training programme including sessions led by external speakers on listening skills.

PRIOR CONCERN

This is our own community service programme. It has in the past included school placements and practical placements. Students have also supported people in care homes and general hospitals.

SOUP RUN

On Wednesday evenings, and in conjunction with The Genesis Trust, staff and Sixth Formers take food, winter clothing and toiletries to the Bath homeless. It gives students a different perspective on life.

TRIP TO LOURDES

A truly enriching experience that takes place in the summer holidays. Over the week, volunteers support pilgrims on their visit to the small market town in the French Pyrenees



PASTORAL CARE & STUDENT SUPPORT

All pupils are members of a House and this generates a wonderful sense of community and camaraderie, as well as facilitating some competitive Inter-House competitions in sport, debating and singing. Each student has a House Tutor, who is their main point of contact for all matters and concerns.

Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education (PSHCE) is a vital aspect of every student's education. Sixth Form students have regular lectures that cover important issues such as personal safety, mental wellbeing, responsibility, prejudice, money management and study skills.

In addition, the School Counsellor is available for professional guidance.



HIGHER EDUCATION AND CAREERS

During the Sixth Form, all students are prepared for Higher Education and the world of work through a variety of ways:

- Seminars on topics such as options at 18+, using resources and how to choose a course at University
- Individual interviews or careers appointments with our Careers Advisor
- Information evenings for students and parents
- MedSoc: preparing potential medics for their applications
- Oxbridge: providing help with the application procedure and mock interview with specialist academic staff
- Help with completing UCAS forms and dynamic personal statements
- Mock interviews
- Results Day: giving advice and guidance for clearing or looking at alternative options.

IELTS - PREPARING FOR UNIVERSITY

The EAL (English as an Additional Language) focus for Sixth Formers is the International English Language Testing System or IELTS. It is an exam designed to build the language ability of people who want to study (or work) where English is the language of communication. IELTS is normally the exam required by universities.



ADMISSIONS & ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

To register an interest in Prior Park College, all external candidates should complete a Registration Form and return it to our Admissions department.

The offer of a place to external candidates is subject to satisfactory interview and references from the candidate's current school. The conditional offer of a place will be made in early December. Offers are conditional on the candidate gaining six 9 to 6 Grades at GCSE. There are minimal GCSE grade requirements in subjects that will be studied at A Level, or in allied subjects if the subject has not been studied at GCSE.

Current Prior Park College pupils do not need to complete a registration form or attend for interview but must still meet the same examination entry requirements. The full Admissions Policy is available on our website.

SCHOLARSHIPS & BURSARIAL SUPPORT

Prior Park aims to attract a talented cohort of students by offering a range of scholarships. We believe we can provide the level of support and encouragement to develop their talents further. At 16+, scholarships are available in the following categories: Academic, Art, Product Design, Drama, Music and Sport. Award holders will be impressive pupils who will contribute in areas of school life, demonstrating commitment and dedication, whilst becoming role models for their peers. Means-tested bursaries can be added to scholarships. All awards are reviewed annually.

Please contact our Admissions department for further information
Email: admissions@priorparkschools.com or telephone +44 (0)1225 831000

TIMELINE FOR APPLICATION

OCTOBER

Sixth Form Open Evening takes place. It is an opportunity for students and parents to discuss individual subjects with our Heads of Departments.

JANUARY/FEBRUARY/MARCH

Mock GCSE exams.
Option blocks published.
Parent/teacher meeting.
Final choices made.*

SEPTEMBER

Lower Sixth Forum and Sixth Form Induction day before the start of term.

NOVEMBER

Taster day for candidates allowing prospective students to attend subject taster lessons. All students will be asked to make a choice of three subjects within the option blocks presented.

Interviews and Scholarship exams begin.

SUMMER TERM

16+ induction day for all students.

Check with Admissions for exact dates.

**We do our utmost to accommodate all A Level choices, however we reserve the right not to offer courses which attract too few pupils.*



Prior Park College

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Information given in this document is believed to be correct at the time of printing (September 2019). This, however, does not form part of any agreement between the College and current or prospective parents. Those requiring information on specific matters should seek written confirmation from the College.