

Challenging Enriching & Fun Culford Sixth Form




Culford

Welcome to all prospective Sixth Form students and their parents

Life at Culford Sixth Form is different. We give students the freedom to be themselves, to follow their passions and discover new ones, within a safe, caring and supportive community.



A young woman with long brown hair, wearing a dark blue blazer over a dark blue sweater and a long green and black plaid skirt, is walking on a gravel path in a garden. She is smiling and looking to her right. The background is a lush garden with green trees and a large stone urn.

The opportunities at Culford are huge; it is these experiences that will set you apart when you are applying to university, or for your first job, and that will help you shape your future.

Joining the Sixth Form at Culford is an exciting and defining moment. You are entering the final phase of your secondary education and the choices you make here will be crucial to your success in later life.

We believe strongly that education should be challenging, enriching and fun, and that there are three key elements to success in the Sixth Form:

- Academic excellence
- Outstanding pastoral care
- Personal development

The Sixth Form is not just a chance to achieve vital academic grades. It is also about developing human qualities that are arguably even more important in the longer term. A good Sixth Form education will give you the pastoral care to make academic excellence possible. It will provide you with the ability not only to make a competitive application to university, but also to present yourself to others as a well-rounded, impressive and articulate candidate in the employment market, with the social and personal skills necessary to make the most of your academic talents.

This is the added value of the Sixth Form that you will experience at Culford: a stage of your education that will look outwards beyond the academic to the full engagement of you as an individual. We look forward to welcoming you to the Culford Sixth Form. The challenges are great but the rewards are greater.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'Julian Johnson-Munday'.

Julian Johnson-Munday MA MBA
Headmaster


Challenging, Enriching and Fun

Sixth Formers are given a high level of independence and are expected to make the most not only of their lessons and private study, but also of all the sporting, music, drama and many other opportunities on offer. Life in the Sixth Form will be demanding but it will also be fun!

We expect you to get fully involved in the school, for example, leading activities for younger pupils. What you achieve outside the classroom will be just as important as

what you achieve inside it. This is a time for you to develop yourself as an individual, with your own personal interests, capable of expressing your points of view and beliefs with confidence.


Culford's Sixth Form is limited to around 170 students each year. Many are continuing their studies after taking their GCSEs at Culford but a considerable number, typically at least one-third of the year group, will join from other



Culford aims to prepare you, not just for university, but also for life beyond it.

schools, both in the U.K. and from overseas. More than two-thirds of Sixth Formers are boarders and everyone, whether they are boarding or not, belongs to a House. This is a special community where everyone gets to know each other very well. There is a strong support network made up of teachers, personal tutors, Housemasters and Housemistresses and students across all year groups.

The huge range of opportunities on offer, combined with Culford's focused and supportive approach towards academic studies, produces students who are confident, creative and capable, have a healthy work-life balance and who, by the end of two years, are ready for the challenges of both university and employment.



“Compared to lower years, the difference with the freedom and choice we are given in the Sixth Form is noticeable straight away.”

Juod, Upper Sixth



Day and Pastoral Care

Daily Life in the Sixth Form

Whether you are a day student or a boarder you will belong to one of the four Houses at Culford and have the support of a Housemaster or Housemistress and a personal tutor. Your tutor supports you from day one in Sixth Form, through to helping you submit a competitive application to university. All Sixth Formers have access to study areas within the Houses and can use all of the social facilities too.

If you have passed your driving test and have your parents' permission you may choose to drive to school. The day starts at 8.25am and finishes at 5.20pm, once

activities are over, although students are welcome to stay on for supper if they are in a school play, rehearsing for a concert or attending an evening academic or social event. Alternatively, you can stay and study in the library until 9pm most nights. What's more, this extended day service is free of charge. There is school on Saturday mornings with major games fixtures taking place on Saturday afternoons as well as occasionally during the week.

All day students are also welcome to join in all the social events and any of the weekend outings such as ski trips to the snow dome or days out in London and Cambridge.



“Our Sixth Form has a very happy and dynamic vibe; it is a great place to live and study.”

Mr Stephen Arbutnot,
Head of Sixth Form



Culford is a Christian School with a Methodist tradition. Methodism is rooted in social justice, inclusivity and tolerance. Our clear moral values remain beacons of certainty in a confusing world.

Our ethos is evident in activities such as services, discussion groups and lessons; and also in the inclusive nature of school life, where the talents that each student possesses are nurtured.

Boarding **Rated Excellent by ISI**

The freedom and responsibilities offered by Sixth Form boarding at Culford are perfect for giving you a head start in preparation for independent living at university, all in a safe, friendly and caring environment. The school is situated in 480 acres of beautiful Suffolk parkland, close to the bustling market town of Bury St Edmunds. Over two-thirds of Sixth Formers are boarders.

Four modern boarding Houses are run by friendly and experienced Housemasters and Housemistresses who take a genuine interest in your life. You will also have your own personal tutor, available to help you with your academic work, support you with managing your time efficiently and encourage you with your extra-curricular activities, ambitions and passions.

Be prepared to make good friends at Culford quickly because this is a welcoming school, and there is no faster way to make friends for life than to board. The study

“I love the independence, the structured routine, and waking up with everything you want and need to do all around you. It’s exceeded all my expectations!”

Amira, Lower Sixth,
new to Culford Sixth Form



bedrooms are a mix of twin and single rooms in the Lower Sixth; in the Upper Sixth each student has their own room. Keeping in touch with home is easy as all rooms have wireless internet access.

Living at Culford, you can really get involved in everything: and it all happens just outside your front door! There is a packed weekend activities programme, from outings to London and trips to the theatre or cinema, through to mountain biking and go-karting. If you decide to stay in, there are plenty of social areas to meet with friends, play

pool or watch TV in one of the cosy and inviting Common Rooms. All the Houses have kitchen areas where you can make snacks and hot drinks while all your meals are taken either in Ashby Dining Room or at Paddy and Scott's café.

Culford offers flexible arrangements for boarders where possible and if you choose not to board, it is usually possible to do so for an occasional night or two. Although the majority of boarders stay at school for the whole week, students may choose to go home or stay with friends at the weekend.



“The access to leisure facilities is fantastic. You can go to the gym, play tennis, have a swim or meet up with a few friends to play football, and the great thing is, it’s all just next door.”

Will, Upper Sixth,
Tennis Scholar

The Facilities

There are state-of-the-art facilities for all subjects including a superb Science Centre and dedicated Music School. The new library at the academic heart of the school offers a lecture theatre, broad range of academic texts and the latest ICT resources for further study and careers information. The entire site is covered by a fast wireless network.

Sixth Formers have three dedicated spaces separate from the rest of the school located at the Sports Centre, at Ashby Dining Hall and in the library where you have the exclusive use of the mezzanine floor with study areas and coffee bar.

In the Sports Centre you have sole use of Paddy and Scott’s café, complete with comfy leather sofas and freshly ground coffee served by professional baristas. Students can also use the café as an informal meeting place for discussing projects or catching up at other times of the day.

If you enjoy sport then Culford’s Sports and Tennis Centre boasts exceptional facilities with six outdoor tennis courts, four championship-standard indoor courts, two all-weather hockey pitches and a 25m heated indoor swimming pool, as well as an indoor climbing wall, dance studio, fitness suite and a strength and conditioning suite. There are a huge



range of activities on offer covering everything from scuba diving, roller blading and dance through to academic societies, sailing and horse riding.

Cultural activities abound with drama productions in Centenary Hall, our 400 seat auditorium, or in our professionally equipped Studio Theatre. The fully equipped Music School and Rehearsal Studio is based in Culford Hall itself, complete with many rehearsal rooms and a recital room with a Steinway grand.

Academic Choices

In the Sixth Form we step up a gear academically.

You will choose subjects you want to study; and your teachers will be more like mentors as you explore your interest in their subjects. Small class sizes mean individual attention and a focus on personalised, differentiated and supportive learning.

We also try to offer a full range of learning activities and students will take a more active part in lessons; which will sometimes lead you into unexpected areas. If you get fully involved your learning will be an interesting journey, offering you the chance to develop a real passion for your subjects. Particularly strong and keen students can become subject ambassadors, advising younger pupils and helping Culford to improve courses still further.

We will support you fully whatever your level of academic ability. We provide rigorous assessment, feedback and advice, to help you get the grades you need. Students who work hard, listen to our feedback and take our advice often exceed not only our expectations, but also their own.

While providing stretch and challenge for the most able, for students finding elements of courses tough, we offer academic clinics and revision sessions throughout the year. At Culford, teachers are always available for one-to-one help: our students tell us they really value this and we know it makes a real difference to them.



“A Levels are a jump up from GCSEs academically, but I am really enjoying the challenge.”

Lucy, Lower Sixth



“Culford Sixth Form has a record of academic excellence due to our focus on enhancing students’ academic interest and confidence. This helps each student identify and develop their talents to reach their fullest potential.”

Dr John Guntrip,
Deputy Head



A Level Subjects

The Sixth Form programme at Culford offers you combinations of A Level subjects to study which will prepare you for just about any degree course. You will have a considerable amount of freedom to decide which subjects you would like to study from the broad range on offer. Overseas students will often sit A Level examinations in their first language.

A Level Courses may be taken in:

Art, Craft and Design

Art: Textiles

Art: Three Dimensional Design

Business

Design and Technology

Drama and Theatre

Economics

English Literature

Geography

History

Mathematics and Further Mathematics

Modern Languages: French and Spanish

Music

Physical Education

Psychology

Religious Studies

Sciences: Biology, Chemistry, Physics

English as an Additional Language is also available.

Other subjects may be offered from time to time.

Please contact the Admissions Office for more information on +44 (0)1284 385308 or email admissions@culford.co.uk





“In Sixth Form I am
studying the subjects
I really want to.”

Sol, Lower Sixth



“Everyone wants to be here, which makes for a great learning environment.”

Natasha, Upper Sixth,
Academic Scholar



Choosing Your A Levels

A Level results matter so you must choose wisely, right from the start.

While some students enter Sixth Form with a decided career path, you may be unsure at the moment what career you would like to pursue in the future. If this is the case, then do take the time to talk to people before you decide; and choose subjects which you are passionate about and have clear reasons for studying.

As a result of the recent changes in A Level specifications, most pupils will study three subjects in the Sixth Form, although there may be some exceptions to this, e.g. further mathematicians. Each subject has a student ambassador who leads pupils and supports the Head of Department for that subject.

Culford teachers have an abundance of experience in advising students on the best combination of subjects to take. Of course, if you already attend Culford then you will have plenty of opportunity to discuss your subject choices in detail. However, those new to Culford will be able to explore their preferred subject options as part of the interview process.

Entry Requirements

As a guideline, for A Level entry pupils should have gained at least 7 GCSEs at levels 4 and 5 or above including English and maths, and at least levels 6 for the subjects to be studied at A Level, with some subjects like maths and physics requiring at least level 8.

International students are accepted on the basis of school grades and references, together with entrance examinations in Mathematics and English and an interview.

Scholarship exams take place in November, prior to the year of entry.

For details about Scholarships please contact the Admissions team on +44 (0)1284 385308 or visit our website: culford.co.uk



A photograph of two students in climbing gear (orange helmets, blue jackets) standing on a rocky mountain path, looking up at a steep, forested cliff face. The student in the foreground is holding a rope. The background is filled with dense green trees and mossy rocks.

Enrichment Programme & Freshers' Week

In the Sixth Form, your learning will extend far beyond the classroom. The skills you learn in our dedicated Enrichment Programme will support your studies and well-being, as well as help to prepare you for life after school. The programme is complementary to your A Level studies and includes a host of activities, seminars and events, including many that you will be involved with organising.

Culford boasts dynamic Drama and Music departments. There are two major drama productions each year with other less formal shows in between. Musical highlights include acoustic music evenings and the annual Rock Concert. House Concerts

offer further performance opportunities and there is a variety of ensembles and choirs to join to suit all levels and tastes.

Your first week in Lower Sixth will be packed with activities to enable you to settle in quickly and make friends, as well as develop new skills. The whole Lower Sixth have their own dedicated Freshers' Week and before you attend a single lesson you will be taken off to the Peak District for three days of fun and team building. You will build rafts, traverse gorges, navigate underground caves, and help each other abseil down cliffs. As well as learning new skills, students have a lot of fun along the way, often making lasting friendships.



“After Freshers’ Week,
it felt like we had known
each other for years.”

Lewan, Lower Sixth, new to
Culford Sixth Form

Back at school, weekly seminars cover valuable life skills, including: financial management, cookery, CV writing, self-defence, and presentation and interview skills. There are courses in managing your work-life balance and learning to deal with stress through a variety of techniques including yoga and mindfulness.

All students are welcome to access the annual Scholars’ Programme where speakers from the academic, cultural and sporting worlds come to inspire and challenge us. Recent speakers at Culford include a cognitive neuroscientist, a zoologist and the Chief Executive of Film London.



Leadership

Academic leadership is important, but so too is leadership in other fields. Whether you become a prefect or a mentor, act as a tour guide for prospective parents and pupils, join the Combined Cadet Force or one of the many societies on offer, Culford expects you to contribute to its success and your own by being a role model. Students can also get involved with decision making on various levels, from the School and House Councils to the Sixth Form Committee.

Gaining experience as a leader, whether it be chairing a subject society or coaching Prep school games, will be invaluable at university, as a graduate, and for the rest of your life. Recruiters want confident people who can inspire others, innovate, drive change and be resilient enough to take knockbacks. The Leadership and Life Skills programme at Culford's Sixth Form will help build these essential skills through courses on public speaking and dynamism, among others.



“If you work at it, the CCF is probably one of the most rewarding experiences you will have at the school.”

Charlie, Upper Sixth,
Former CCF Senior Cadet



All of these opportunities will help to develop your organisational and interpersonal skills and we positively encourage all our students to seek new challenges. Each term, outstanding Sixth Form Leadership is recognised with the Headmaster's Leadership Award; a symbol of how highly the School regards the efforts of our pupils.



“We help to organise lots of events at Culford, from social evenings for students, through to charity fundraisers and high profile school events such as Opera in the Park.”

Alex, Upper Sixth

Trips and Travel

Culford offers an extensive array of trips and expeditions throughout the year. Some will support your studies such as Biology and Geography field trips, exchange visits to France and excursions to art galleries, museums and universities. Others will be cultural tours such as a recent trip to New York. The Head of Sixth Form also

organises two scuba diving trips each year to destinations such as Tobago and Mexico.

Perhaps the most exciting and challenging expedition we offer is a three week trip to Malawi every summer for students in the Lower Sixth.



This is truly a life changing experience. Students who sign up to go to Malawi are expected to fundraise the money they need to cover the cost of their trip: in the past this has involved everything from sponsored car washes and hosted dinner parties to babysitting, jam making, calendar sales and a sponsored London to Paris cycle ride.

The group meet regularly throughout the year preceding departure to ensure they are prepared for an exciting and challenging three weeks where they will help with a variety of projects which, to date have included: building schoolrooms; teaching English; painting youth centres and orphanages; and donating blood.

Students gain a real insight into the realities of life in a less economically developed country, are pushed beyond their comfort zones and, above all, experience the world from a totally different perspective. The last few days of the trip are spent relaxing on the beautiful shores of Lake Malawi.



“Culford’s Malawi expedition opened my eyes to a new culture, a different way of looking at the world, and the lives of people who have so much less than us.”

Harriet, Upper Sixth

Guided Independent Learning



“At Culford, I discovered that not only could I do the work of an ‘academic’, but I could do it well. The confidence I developed throughout the course of my A Level studies helped me believe that I could excel at university, and so it proved.”

Louie gained a first class degree in Modern History and Politics at university and now has a career as a journalist

At Culford, students truly discover how to learn independently. Using study skills seminars and workshops you will be helped to manage your work effectively, participate in lively discussion, work within teams and reflect on successes and failures. You will learn skills that will help you not just at school, but also when you reach university and the work place. These skills include independent enquiry, creative thinking, reflective learning, team work, self-management, effective participation and tenacity.

Independent Research Project

Independent study and research skills are an integral part of A level study and beyond, for example at degree level when at university. We therefore ensure that all our Sixth Form students develop and use successfully key independent study skills, for example information literacy, so that study away from the classroom is productive, effective and very importantly enjoyable.

All students in the Culford Sixth Form attend an Independent Research Conference at the beginning of the Lower Sixth year covering speed reading, note-taking and revision skills. All students are then required to submit an Independent Research Project, which can be on any topic of their choice. This project begins in the Spring Term of the Lower Sixth when students select a project and ask an appropriate teacher to be their Project Tutor. The projects are presented in front of a group of teachers and fellow

students. Students normally select projects which extend their A level study in a particular subject or which are relevant to their chosen university courses. Independent research projects such as these are looked upon very favourably indeed by universities when reviewing UCAS applications and interviewing prospective candidates.

The Open University

Talented Culford students may choose to take The Open University's degree-style short courses, such as; Nuclear energy; living without oil; galaxies, stars and planets; human genetics; and health issues are just some of the topics on offer and demonstrate the wide range of opportunities that are available. These courses are designed to extend students' knowledge, help with their university applications and create individuals who are confident, independent learners.

Scholarships and Exhibitions

If you show a breadth of strong talents or have an exceptional ability in academic subjects, Art, Design and Technology, Drama, Music or Sport then you may apply for a Scholarship or Exhibition, which are awarded openly as an honour on the basis of merit. Scholarships are worth up to 25% reduction in tuition fees, except the Foundation Scholarship which is worth up to 50%. Exhibitions are worth up to 10%.

In addition, specialist Scholarships or High Performance Programmes are available in Hockey, Rugby, Golf, Cricket, Swimming and Tennis. Scholarship exams take place in the November prior to entry, so you need to apply in good time.

More details are available in the Scholarships, Exhibitions & Bursaries brochure; there is also a booklet published detailing the Scholars' Programme.

Please contact the Admissions Office on +44 (0)1284 385308, email admissions@culford.co.uk or visit our website: culford.co.uk, for more information and how to apply.



Bursaries

Financial assistance, in the form of bursaries, is available to help pupils whose family financial circumstances would otherwise prevent them from joining or remaining at Culford. All Culford Bursaries are means-tested and reviewed annually in an entirely confidential process. A bursary application may be made to augment the value of a scholarship or exhibition in cases of financial need. For more information about bursaries, please contact the Admissions Office.

Forces Allowances

Culford's Forces Allowances are normally awarded automatically to parents who are serving in the UK Armed Forces and who are in receipt of the MoD CEA. For more information, please contact the Finance Department, +44 (0)1284 385345 or email finance@culford.co.uk



“Being a scholar gives me the opportunity to hone my talents.”

Anna, Upper Sixth,
Drama Scholar

Life after Culford

“I have been lucky enough to have had many chances to enjoy and challenge myself and I have Culford to thank for helping me access these opportunities.”

Charlotte, who is studying French and Italian at St. Hilda's College, Oxford University

Many of our students go on to study at Russell Group universities and Oxford and Cambridge remain the destinations for the most able students. You will also be supported with the same level of interest and attention if you wish to attend other Universities, Drama School, Art College or join the Forces.

Throughout the year there are also regular Careers Lunches in the library where experts in fields including medicine, law and engineering are available to talk to and question. Through the Foundation department, students can network

and build contacts with alumni who work in their chosen profession, or are currently at a university that they are thinking of applying for.

Destinations of recent leavers are varied, including: Veterinary Science at Cambridge; Psychology at Cardiff; Law at Durham; Medicine at Hull; Physics at King's College, London; Politics, Philosophy and Economics at Oxford; Mechanical Engineering at Southampton; Art Foundation at University College, Falmouth; History at UEA; and Mathematics at Warwick.



“The careers lunches have been invaluable in helping me choose my future direction.”

Megan, Upper Sixth

Preparations for university applications starts early in the Lower Sixth year, with seminars that explore what is needed to make a successful application to the country's top universities. This is followed by a week of 'Life after Culford' events, lectures and seminars, after the summer examinations. These events provide ample information and advice about careers together with practical help to prepare for higher education and the workplace. Seminars cover topics such as UCAS applications, work experience choices, CV writing and student finance.

We also work with Cambridge Occupational Analysts who run Centigrade, a Higher Education course finder questionnaire, and students also have access to an online careers development programme.

Living in Suffolk

Tucked away in the Suffolk countryside and set in 480 acres of beautiful Suffolk parkland, with a 16th century mansion at its centre, Culford School is just 10 minutes away from the historic town of Bury St Edmunds and 40 minutes from Cambridge.

Bury St Edmunds

A unique and historic gem, Bury St Edmunds was once the capital of East Anglia and is now a bustling market town. The striking combination of medieval architecture, elegant Georgian squares and glorious Cathedral and Abbey gardens provide a wonderful setting. There are shops galore with a mix of high-street labels as well as independent boutiques, delicatessens and an award-winning market.

Dozens of cafés, restaurants and pubs offer the visitor an endless choice of refreshments and there is a multi-screen cinema and bowling alley. Cultural venues include the Apex concert hall where a variety of artists, musicians and bands perform and the Theatre Royal, the only surviving example of a Regency theatre in this country. The Theatre presents a vibrant, year-round programme of drama, music, dance and light entertainment, featuring many of this country's leading companies and performers.

There is a school mini-bus service to Bury St Edmunds during the week and on Saturday afternoons. At weekends students may go into town with their Housemaster's or Housemistress's permission.



Travelling to Culford

Culford is relatively near major international airports: it is just 45 minutes from Stansted and Norwich airports, and approximately 2 hours from Heathrow and Gatwick airports. There are good rail and coach links from Heathrow and Gatwick airports to London. Trains leave from London Liverpool Street (via Ipswich) or King's Cross (via Cambridge) to travel to Bury St Edmunds. The school also runs a bus service throughout the local area including shuttle buses from Norwich and Cambridge.

For more information about the Sixth Form at Culford or to arrange a visit, please contact the Admissions team who will be pleased to help you. Please telephone **+44 (0)1284 385308** or email: **admissions@culford.co.uk**.

Individual A Level Subject Information guides are available to read or download from our website: **culford.co.uk/A-Level-Courses**

This prospectus describes the broad principles on which Culford School is run and the information within it may be subject to change. The prospectus does not form part of any contractual agreement between parents or guardians and the School. Published in 2018.





Culford

Bury St Edmunds
Suffolk
IP28 6TX

Tel: 01284 728615
culford.co.uk

Culford School is a Registered Charity.