

Information Culford Applicants

2024-25



Senior School (ages 13-18)

Independent boarding and day school for boys and girls aged 1 to 18 years

Ethos and Values

We believe that to make pupils ready for life means developing them to be flexible, innovative, dynamic and resilient young adults. The first three are key values in a world in which change is the only constant; and young adults also need to learn resilience as our failures and setbacks can sometimes lead to our greatest successes.

To provide the right environment, we demand the same attributes from ourselves as a school and as teachers, modelling the values we want pupils to learn. We also seek to model the honesty to learn from our own flaws whilst treating others with compassion.

It is a simple proposition: young adults should leave Culford ready for life, a credit to us and a delight to you.

Curriculum

Senior School Curriculum

Academically, we instil an enthusiasm for inquiry and learning, and facilitate success and high achievement. We produce independent learners who benefit from a high degree of individual academic and pastoral support, which ensures that each pupil reaches his or her potential. The curriculum provides breadth and balance, as well as a degree of specialism, in both our GCSE and A Level programmes.

Our classrooms are fully equipped for learning in a technological world and feature smartboards and networked projectors. We focus on blended learning, and as such complement face to face learning with the use of Google Classroom as our virtual learning platform, and a range of innovative technology to further enhance the learning experience. We develop pupils to be flexible, dynamic, resilient and innovative in terms of learning behaviours and skills.

There are dedicated facilities for science, art, design and technology and music; a studio theatre for drama, music, seminars and presentations and two dance studios. Our impressive library provides a social learning foyer, an 80-seat lecture theatre and a mezzanine area with tea and coffee facilities, reserved for the Sixth Form.

Lessons of 40 or 80 minutes begin at 08:45 and end at 15:30, with extra-curricular activities, including academic clinics, available each weekday between 15:50 and 17:20. Senior School pupils attend Saturday morning school. Pupils are expected to do prep (homework) every evening.

Curriculum Enrichment

Pupils enjoy a range of extra-curricular academic clubs and societies and many visits, trips, field courses and competitions specific to departments. Structured programmes for study skills include organisation, independent study, research, revision and careers advice, UCAS applications and Oxbridge guidance. Our Scholars' Programme

includes Oxbridge-style tutorials, guest speaker seminars and the annual Oxbridge Forum.

Fourth Form (Year 9)

Fourth Form pupils study art, design and technology, drama, English language and literature, French, Spanish, geography, history, mathematics, music, philosophy, religion and ethics (PRE), learning for life (PSHCE) and science (biology, chemistry and physics). Pupils join sets according to ability in mathematics, science, the humanities (English, history, geography and PRE), French and Spanish. Weekly tutorial sessions encourage active learning, and pupils experience target setting and monitoring, learning to learn (study skills) and learning for life through seminars and discussions.

Lower & Upper Fifth (Years 10 & 11)

Lower Fifth and Upper Fifth pupils study a number of GCSE subjects according to individual aptitude and needs. However, most pupils take the compulsory core GCSE courses: English language and English literature; mathematics and double award science.

Pupils also study up to five optional subjects from: art; astronomy; computer science; dance; design and technology; drama (acting); drama (technical); French; geography; history; music; physical education; philosophy; religion and ethics; separate sciences; Spanish and statistics.

Pupils are grouped according to ability for: English; mathematics and science. Pupils also attend one weekly period of learning for life (PSHCE), one period of learning to learn (study skills), a reading lesson, one period of computing, together with two double games periods. Scholars have the opportunity to complete an Edexcel qualification in a research project based on a science topic of their choice.

Sixth Form Curriculum

Lower & Upper Sixth (Years 12 & 13)

Pupils in Lower Sixth (Year 12) usually take three subjects and then continue into Upper Sixth (Year 13) with the same subjects. Some pupils, such as further mathematicians, may take four subjects as an academic extension. We also offer the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) which qualifies for UCAS points. Those who choose not to do the EPQ undertake the Culford Independent Research Project.

Sixth Form subjects include the following (although others may sometimes also be available): BTEC acting; art; textiles; biology; business; business technical (single or double award); chemistry; computer science; cyber security and computing (one year); dance; design and technology; digital media; drama; economics; English literature; geography; history; languages in business; mathematics; context mathematics (one year); French; sociology; Spanish; music; photography; physics; physical education; PRE and psychology.

Other elements of the Culford Sixth Form programme enable pupils to develop their study skills and life skills, alongside leadership and volunteering opportunities. The Future Pathways module supports their steps beyond Culford with progress towards university, degree apprenticeships or the world of employment. Pupils also benefit from outstanding co-curricular provision with a wide range of activities and sporting opportunities.

Culford's Sixth Form programme enables pupils to significantly develop their potential in preparation for life beyond secondary education. It includes events, seminars, workshops on topics such as team building, communication skills, finance and learning to learn as well as many other life skills. Sixth Form starts with a Freshers' Week of bonding, leadership and team activities in the Peak District National Park.

Sixth Form Facilities

Sixth Formers have use of Paddy & Scott's café in the Sports and Tennis Centre every weekday. In the style of a university campus, it is a place for meeting socially, discussing work projects and enjoying a snack or light lunch. Sixth Formers also have exclusive use of the Library's mezzanine floor and the Sixth Form study room, all for private study and social events.

Learning Development

Culford is a mainstream school with a small and successful learning development department serving the Pre-Prep, Prep and Senior Schools. We offer support to pupils with mild specific learning difficulties who are able to manage independently in the classroom.

Our aim is to meet every child's individual needs with a tailor-made provision, which is incorporated into the mainstream timetable. Learning Development lessons are either embedded in a pupil's timetable, offered on a withdrawal basis or arranged before or after school. Additional costs apply and our Admissions Team can answer any questions you might have.

English as an Additional Language (EAL)

Culford is proud of the dynamic contributions of our international pupils, and we value the global perspectives they share. Learning English is an important component of our programme, and EAL lessons are offered on both a group and individual basis. We offer preparation courses for a range of Cambridge English Qualifications, and prepare students to take IELTS prior to starting university. Additional costs apply, and our Admissions Team can answer any questions you might have.

Extra-curricular Activities

Sporting provision at Culford is exceptional. Our superb Sports and Tennis Centre is equipped with a 25m heated indoor pool, large sports hall with an indoor climbing wall, fitness studio, golf swing studio, golf short game area, strength and conditioning suite and a championship-standard indoor tennis centre.

All major sports are played (rugby, hockey, netball, football, tennis and cricket), as well as swimming, golf and basketball with many other sports on offer from horse riding to scuba diving. Sports academies are on offer from 17:00-18:00 and 18:00-19:00 on an invitational basis.

Culford offers an excellent variety of extra-curricular activities. Mid-week activities take place at the end of the school day Monday to Friday, 16:00-17:00, and every pupil participates. Some additional activities, usually music and drama, take place in the lunch break. A separate activities programme is on offer at the weekends for boarders and day pupils are also welcome to take part. A wide range of trips for all pupils ranging from academic enrichment, sports, CCF, Duke of Edinburgh, outdoor education and charitable enterprises is on offer throughout the academic year.

Plays and musical performances take place each term, and are well attended. In addition, Senior School pupils organise and participate in many annual events such as concerts, as well as arts and sports presentation evenings. The Sixth Form also organise their own termly events.

External Examination Results 2021-2023

GCSE Grades	2023	2022	2021	A Level Grades	2023	2022	2021
9 to 7	54%	50%	56%	A* and A	32%	40%	48%
9 to 6	72%	70%	75%	A* to B	63%	66%	77%
9 to 4	97%	99%	99%	A* to C	82%	86%	92%
				A* to E	98%	99%	100%

We take great pride that our pupils go on to enjoy university courses which enable them to broaden their experiences, pursue academic areas about which they are passionate and embark upon fulfilling careers. Culford's Sixth Formers take up places on a wide range of competitive courses at many excellent higher education institutions.

Recent Leavers' University Destinations

University of Bath	Nottingham Trent University
University of Bristol	Ohio State University
University of Cambridge	University of Oxford
University of Cardiff	Oxford Brookes University
Coventry University	University of Portsmouth
University of Durham	Queen Mary, University of London
University of East Anglia	Royal Agricultural University, Cirencester
University of Edinburgh	Royal Holloway, University of London
University of Exeter	SOAS (University of London)
Florida State University	University of Sheffield
Goldsmiths University	University of Southampton
Harper Adams University	University of St Andrews
Imperial College London	University of Surrey
University of Leeds	University of Sussex
University of Liverpool	University of Swansea
Loughborough University	University of the Arts London
University of Manchester	University of Warwick
University of Newcastle	University of Westminster
University of Nottingham	University of York

Subject Course Examples

Subjects	
Aeronautical Engineering	French and Italian
Anthropology (Social)	History
Arabic	Hospitality Management with Tourism
Architecture	International Business
Art	Law
Art History	Marine Biology
Biology	Medicine
Biomedical Science	Middle Eastern and a Modern European Language
Business and Management	Philosophy, Politics and Economics
Business Studies and Finance	Physics
Chemical Engineering	Politics of the International Economy
Chemistry	Psychology
Civil and Coastal Engineering	Science and Society
Economics	Sociology
Education Studies	Sports Management
Electrical Engineering	Textile Design
English	Veterinary Science
Equine Science and Thoroughbred Management	

Scholarships

Scholarships are awarded as an honour on the basis of merit:

- Scholarships are reserved for candidates who show a breadth of strong talents and exceptional potential.

Scholarships on offer

- Academic Scholarships (13+ and 16+)
- The William Miller Science Scholarship (16+)
- Sixth Form Maths Scholarship (16+)
- Music Scholarships (13+ and 16+)
- Art (13+ and 16+) and Design Technology Scholarships (13+ and 16+)
- Drama Scholarships (13+ and 16+)
- Sports Scholarships in Major Games (from 13+)
- Tennis and Golf (from 13+)

Our vibrant Scholars' Programme, in which all scholars participate, provides a comprehensive calendar of events throughout the academic year. In the Senior School there are frequent scholars' tutorials as well as a variety of visiting speakers. Many of these events are open to all pupils, and some also welcome parents and guests.

Value of the Awards

The value of a scholarship is worth up to 10% of the tuition fees. For sports scholarships please refer to the Individual Sports Programme.

Candidates may sit for up to two awards but the total award will not exceed the value of the major award. The maintenance of each award is at the discretion of the Head and is subject to the pupil's continued good performance.

Scholarship Application

Information on the application process for scholarships and exhibitions can be found on the following page.

Application Process

All applicants are required to complete a registration form in order to sit entrance and scholarship examinations or assessments.

Applications for academic scholarships should be received by the middle of November (16+) and by the beginning of January (13+). Applications for sports scholarships should be received by the middle of October (13+ and 16+). A supporting reference must be received from the Head of the pupil's current school before he/she sits those examinations.

To request our scholarship awards brochure and for application forms please contact the Admissions Office on +44 (0)1284 385308 or email: admissions@culford.co.uk

Admission to Senior School

Assessment and Entrance Assessments

Entry at 13+ Fourth Form (Year 9)

Our admissions procedure is both personalised and friendly. Applicants to Culford complete online entrance assessments on an individual basis in a welcoming and supportive environment.

Successful candidates will be invited to the Culford Discovery Day, which provides an exciting and fun opportunity to learn what our School has to offer.

Entry at Lower & Upper Fifth (Years 10 & 11)

Entry is based on online examinations in English and mathematics, current school reports and references. The Admissions Office will arrange your child's entrance examinations.

Admission to the Sixth Form (At Age 16+)

Pupils entering the Sixth Form should achieve at least six GCSE passes at grade 5 or above. For most subjects pupils will need a grade 6 in the three subjects they will study at A Level. Additional higher grade criteria for some specific subjects are in place to ensure success at A Level.

Admissions Procedure

How to Apply

The majority of pupils will join Culford at the start of the academic year in September, although we welcome enquiries at any time. The application process has been designed for simplicity:

1. Contact the Admissions Office to check on the availability of places and to arrange a personal visit.
2. Once you have decided to apply for a place at Culford, complete and return a registration form with a non-refundable registration fee of £150 and the relevant supporting documents.
3. Speak with the Admissions Office to arrange an entrance assessment, which will be appropriate for your child's age and year group.

Offers

Each formal offer is made subject to our standard terms and conditions. Your child's place will be secured upon receipt of the signed acceptance form, medical form and the non-refundable acceptance fee. A copy of the standard terms and conditions will accompany the formal offer of a place.

Admissions Policy

The educational interests of the child are at the heart of our admissions process and we will only admit pupils whose educational needs we can adequately meet.

It is a general principle that no part of Culford School will admit a pupil in the belief that they will not qualify for the next stage of their education within the School. It is, however, recognised that, especially at younger ages, making such judgements may be difficult and there may, on occasion, be pupils at Culford who do not qualify for transfer to the next part of the School.

Any decision to refuse such progress will be made:

- With timely, documented and open discussions with the parents.
- With regard to the best educational interests of the child concerned.

Parents whose children are admitted with such reservations will be informed regularly of the likelihood of progression to the next stage of education. Any parent whose child is deemed unlikely to progress to the next stage at Culford will receive a formal letter outlining concerns at least one calendar year prior to the end of the academic year in which transfer occurs.

Culford reserves the right, in consultation with parents and guardians, not to offer places to those whom it considers would not benefit from the School's education, or whose presence might have a detrimental effect on other pupils.

Responsibility for Admission to Culford

In all cases, the Head is responsible for deciding to admit or refuse entry to a pupil. Where such a decision is challenged, the School's normal complaints procedure should be followed.

School Policies

You will find all Culford's policies and handbooks, including the school safeguarding policy, in the policies section on our website culford.co.uk.

Fees

Please visit culford.co.uk/senior/fees to view our current fees.

Payment of Fees

A non-refundable registration fee of £150 per pupil is payable prior to assessments/entrance examinations. An acceptance fee of £300 (day), £500 (UK boarder) and £750 (international boarder) per pupil, is payable with the acceptance form and secures your child's place once offered. International pupils also pay a refundable deposit.

Fees cover tuition, meals, standard textbooks and teaching resources. They do not include optional subjects and examination entry fees.

Fees are payable on or before the first day of term. Payment by direct debit is available over ten months (August-May). It is also possible to arrange a lump sum advance payment of annual fees.

Bring your own Device

Senior School pupils are required to bring their own laptop or tablet to use in the classroom for research and various assignments. Minimum software and hardware requirements apply.

Extra Charges

We try to make any extra charges as low as possible. Pupils are, however, billed for:

- Learning development and EAL lessons
- Non-transferable academic texts
- School trips and visits
- Boarders' outings
- House social events

Parents wishing to limit such charges should speak to their child's Housemaster or Housemistress.

Forces Allowances

Culford's Forces Allowances are normally awarded automatically to parents who are serving in the Armed Forces and are in receipt of the MOD Continuity of Education Allowance (CEA), and who wish their children to board at Culford.

Means-tested bursaries are also available for children of serving or ex-servicemen and women, subject to their child satisfying our entrance requirements.

Financial Assistance

Bursaries are a way of enabling children to attend Culford who might not otherwise be able to; or to help pupils who already attend the school to remain here. They are awarded privately, are means-tested and may be awarded in order to augment the value of a scholarship.

Bursaries are a limited resource provided from the school's income, endowments and gifts. To apply for financial support you will need to complete a financial circumstances form. Support is reviewed every year, and the financial circumstances paperwork must be completed annually, at the start of the Spring term.

The bursary application process is entirely confidential. Forms can be downloaded from the website culford.co.uk/parent-hub or requested from the Admissions Office. Applications are initially assessed by Bursar, and then awarded by the Bursaries Committee.

There is no closing date for new applicants, but submissions are encouraged as early as possible. Entrance exams must be completed prior to a bursary outcome. Applications made late in the school year may also be considered.

General Information

House Structure

All Senior School pupils belong to one of four Houses:

- Cornwallis (Boys)
- Edwards (Boys)
- Fitzgerald (Girls)
- Jocelyn (Girls)

A Housemaster or Housemistress is responsible for each House, which includes boarding and day pupils. Pupils also meet regularly with their tutor to ensure they are happy and their school work is progressing well.

Approximately 45% of Senior School pupils are full boarders. A comprehensive weekend activities programme changes every year and may include outings to London, Theme Parks, and punting in Cambridge, to name but a few.

Our most recent ISI inspection judged our boarding provision to be excellent.

Uniform

Culford's uniform is one of our distinctive hallmarks and enables pupils to take pride in their appearance and their school. Sixth Form pupils have more flexibility with uniform but are still expected to dress professionally and smart. Uniform information can be obtained from culford.co.uk/parent-hub/uniform.

Bus Routes

Express Shuttle Services

The Cambridge and Norwich Express Shuttle services operate between Cambridge (Trumpington Park & Ride and Milton Park & Ride) and Norwich (Thickthorn Park & Ride) and Culford. The convenient collection and drop-off points make it easy for children to take advantage of the huge range of academic, sporting and artistic opportunities offered by the School.

Day Pupils' Bus Service

We also offer a comprehensive bus service for day pupils operating from towns and villages located as far as 30 miles from the School. The service runs inbound and outbound during term time from Monday to Friday and inbound only on Saturday mornings. Additional routes may be added subject to sufficient demand. To view or book a bus service please visit culford.co.uk/bus-routes.

Standard Terms and Conditions

A copy of our standard terms and conditions will be provided for parents when a formal offer of a place is made. If you would like a copy in advance please download it from culford.co.uk/about-us/policies-handbooks.

Bus Routes

- Cambridge
- Haverhill
- Newmarket (A)
- Newmarket (B)
- Norwich
- Snetterton
- Stowmarket
- Sudbury



The Culford Estate

- 1 Culford Hall**
Head's Office
Finance Office
Admissions Office
Foundation Office
Studio Theatre
Centenary Hall
Music School
- 2 Cricket Pavilion**
- 3 Iron Bridge**
- 4 South Front**
- 5 Head's Lodge**
- 6 St Mary's Church**
- 7 Hastings and Skinner Teaching Blocks**
- 8 William Miller & Bristol Myers Science Building**
- 9 Library and Watson Lecture Theatre**
- 10 Pringle Centre for Art and Design Technology**
- 11 Sports Centre and Paddy & Scott's café**
- 12 Swimming Pool**
- 13 Indoor Tennis Centre**
- 14 Outdoor Tennis Centre**
- 15 Tennis Courts**
- 16 Artificial Turf Pitch (Culford Hockey Centre)**
- 17 All Weather Pitch**
- 18 Athletics Track**
- 19 Pre-Prep & Nursery School**
- 20 Estate Yard**
- 21 Health Centre**
- 22 Ashby Dining Hall**
- 23 Ashby Quad Houses**
- 24 Cadogan House**
- 25 Prep School**
- 26 Prep School Sports Pitches**
- 27 Golf Short Game Area**
- 28 Rugby Pitches**
- 29 Golf Range**
- 30 Culford Nursery**





Culford

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culford.co.uk

Culford School is part of the Methodist Independent Schools Trust.
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