

Sixth Form

PROSPECTUS



Prior Park
College





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 induction day involves fun team building exercises, where you will meet the 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 area within the Mansion, providing a perfect place for students to work and socialise. The Sixth Form Centre has five spaces: a quiet study area, café, common room, multifunctional classroom, and social study area.

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 biennial Universities Fair, held onsite every June. We also run an annual 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, House activities, and performances.

One of the highlights of the Sixth Form experiences 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.

Throughout the year, there are many events where the Sixth Form community socialise together. These range from BBQs, restaurant outings, a fancy dress party, and fun team building events. The U6 finish off their time at Prior in style with a Leavers' Ball.

One of our 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

SIXTH FORM CURRICULUM

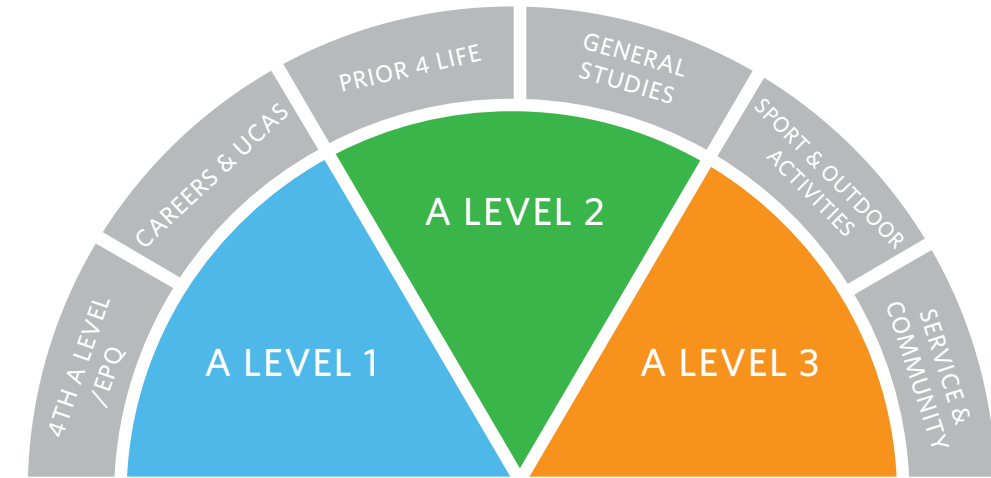
Key points about our curriculum:

- Huge choice of subjects taught by inspirational specialists, we help you make the most of your individual gifts and talents
- Maximises directed teaching time
- Develops skills needed for Higher Education and the workspace
- Includes opportunities to participate in other enriching activities and serve the wider community.

At Prior Park College students generally study three A Levels. Some may also take a fourth qualification, for example a further A Level, an EPQ, or an additional maths qualification. We also help many of our international students or fluent speakers of another language to take A Levels in other languages.

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 a choice of some 28 subjects at A Level; including:

Art	Mandarin
Biology	Mathematics
Business (at both A Level and BTEC)	Further Mathematics
Chemistry	Music
Classical Civilisation	Music Technology
Computer Science	Photography
Design & Technology	Physical Education
Drama	Physics
Economics	Psychology
English Literature	Sociology
French	Spanish
Geography	Textile Design
History	Theology, Philosophy & Ethics
Latin / Classical Greek	Fully supervised EPQ

Please refer to our Sixth Form Course Booklet for more detail on all the courses we offer.

PRIOR 4 LIFE

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

They will all learn specific things that will be immediately useful on leaving Prior Park College including basic cookery, interview skills, managing their personal finances, and first aid. 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, the environment, charity, activism, adventure, and unexpected career options. Recent speakers have included James Brickell (wildlife film maker), Victoria Humphries (member of the first all-female group to walk to the North Pole), and Julie McEnery (alumna and NASA Astrophysicist).

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 Ben Smith, who completed 401 marathons in 401 days, Maria Torres, a music artist manager, and Paralympian Talan Skeels-Piggins.

BATH STUDENT PARLIAMENT

Two elected members of the Sixth Form represent our community as part of the Bath Student Parliament. Issues important to young people are discussed and solutions suggested during regular meetings held in local schools.

MODEL UNITED NATIONS (MUN)

MUN is a weekly club which explores issues in politics and international relations. Students debate current affairs and prepare for competitive conferences where delegations meet to discuss the most pressing issues of the day.





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. There are great opportunities for adventure, including trips away, with both the Army and Navy sections of the CCF programme. CCF is particularly popular with those students who may be considering a career in the Armed Forces.

LUNCHTIME AND AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

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 and gold levels.

HOUSE MUSIC AND BAND NIGHT

All students participate in the fierce Inter-House 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 (stage and lighting).



SATURDAY ACTIVE

A programme of courses that take place on Saturday morning. There are around 20 courses to choose from across the year, including archery, sailing, and golf.

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 met.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON PROGRAMME (TAP)

Alongside our major sports programme we also run other fitness activities on Thursday afternoons, including football, stand-up paddle boarding, 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 through events such as bake sales, car washing, and pillow fight championships!

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.

PEER SUPPORT

Peer Mentors provide support for students and can offer advice, as well as 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.

ACADEMIC SUPPORT

L6 students meet weekly with L5 students to support them with any academic work they are struggling with. They work through prep tasks, projects and test revision in a collaborative and encouraging way.

VOLUNTEERING

Student volunteers help in local primary schools and care homes across a range of activities, e.g. reading and gardening.



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
- Application support for US and other international universities
- Support with apprenticeship applications.

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, Visual Arts, D&T, 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.ppc@priorparkschools.com or **telephone +44 (0)1225 835 353**

TIMELINE FOR APPLICATION

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

JANUARY/FEBRUARY/MARCH
Option blocks published.
Final choices made.*

NOVEMBER
Interviews and Scholarship exams begin.

SEPTEMBER
Sixth Form Induction day before the start of term.

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

Ralph Allen Drive, Bath BA2 5AH

Phone: +44 (0)1225 835 353

Email: office.ppc@priorparkschools.com
priorparkcollege.com

Information given in this document is believed to be correct at the time of printing (September 2024). 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.