



**COULSDON**  
SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

**YOUR  
FUTURE**  
**YOUR  
WAY**

# MAKING THE MOVE

**COULSDON**





## THE COLLEGE DAY

### Will I have to be at College all day?

The College day starts at 9.00am and finishes at 4.15pm (2.30pm on Fridays), with a morning and lunch break and all lessons are of course, compulsory. Students are at College most of the working week but like university, it is generally not a requirement to be on site if a student does not have lessons.

Students usually study across three or four blocks with each of these blocks having four hours of contact time per week. As you're expected to participate in a range of other courses, tutorials and activities, you'll be pretty busy!

### Will I have tutorial periods?

Every student is allocated a Personal Tutor. This will be somebody who will get to know you very well. There are dedicated tutorial periods each week which are used for disseminating information and undertaking tutorial activities. You will be expected to attend all your tutorial periods.

### Will I have a morning and afternoon registration?

There is a computer based registration system which means that you will be registered for every lesson you attend. You will not have a daily tutor period as your Tutor will see you at least once a week. Queries or issues you have can be raised with them at any time.

## SPORTS AND ACTIVITIES

### Can I do extra-curricular activities and sport at College?

Extra-curricular activities, including competing in College sports teams, are a very important part of College life. All students are encouraged to take part in an assortment of activities via the College Enrichment Programme.

The College competes against other schools and colleges in a wide range of sports, including Football, Basketball and Netball. You can also take part in a range of different recreational activities from debating, the College magazine, the College radio, Young Enterprise, to subject discussion and workshop sessions.

### Do I have to take part in a sport or activity?

No, all sports and activities are voluntary. We do however encourage you to get involved in some extra-curricular activities to help your university or job application stand out from the crowd.

## LESSONS AND SUBJECT CHOICE

### Can I do any combination of subject I wish?

It is possible to 'mix and match' pretty much any combination of subjects. This means that a student can do a variety of A Levels or mix coursework-oriented BTEC subjects with A Level subjects.

The 'mix and match' combinations are endless. This ensures your timetable is tailor-made for you, giving you the best possible chance of doing well. If you don't pass English Language or Maths GCSE at Grade 4 or above, you will also have these subjects on your timetable.

### How many A Levels can I take?

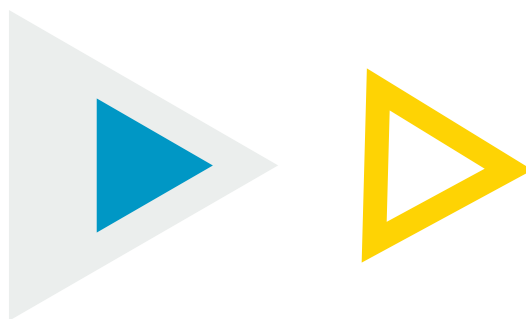
Now that A Levels are two year linear programmes, like most schools and colleges, we generally expect students to take the equivalent of a three subject programme. The most academically able students could do four subjects if we think they stand a good chance of doing well in them. Strong students can take Further Maths, in addition to Mathematics. Increasingly, students who are applying for the most competitive universities and jobs sign up for the Extended Project Qualification. This gives them the opportunity to research a specific area of interest in more detail.

### Do I have to attend all my lessons?

Attendance is compulsory at all lessons since good attendance has the biggest impact on ensuring your success. Registers are taken for each lesson and you will not be able to progress if you fall below the minimum attendance requirement. Parents will be notified of poor attendance. The College expects to receive valid and timely reasons for any absence.

### Is homework compulsory?

Yes. All students are given homework and the amount each teacher sets is closely monitored. If you do not complete homework to the best of your ability we will add extra classes to your timetable to ensure that the work is done. These extra classes will take place during free periods, and will be closely supervised.







## PASTORAL CARE

### **How will my progress be monitored and reported?**

Education post-16 is dominated by exams and coursework and you can expect to be formally assessed throughout your time at College. For this reason, it is vitally important that you're aware of how well you're doing and what you need to do to improve.

As well as having class and homework marked, you'll have regular key assessments and individual interviews with your teachers or tutor to set and monitor your individual learning plans.

In addition, you'll receive a formal interim report approximately every six weeks. These are given to you and your parents. For each subject, these show: attendance, punctuality and both a predicted and target grade. Effort grades are also given to help you see exactly what you need to do to improve.

If your interim report suggests you have a problem, or that you're not working hard enough, we will invite your parents in with you to discuss the best way to improve your performance.

### **Will my parents/guardians be involved in my education?**

We firmly believe in a strong relationship between you, your parents and the College. Parents/guardians and teachers should do what they can to help you achieve the highest possible grades, and help ensure you have a happy and enjoyable time at College.

Parents are invited to attend meetings connected with admissions and enrolment and are expected to attend parents evenings, just like at school. We send home letters of communications to inform parents/guardians of meetings and events such as Awards Evenings.

### **Will I have someone who is responsible for my academic programme and overall welfare?**

As well as your Personal Tutor, you will also have a Head of Year allocated to you. You should talk to either of these contacts whenever you need to. Your parents or guardians will also be able to contact them directly if they would like to chat about your progress.

## RESULTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

### **Will I get the best grades possible?**

The teachers at Coulsdon Sixth Form College are all specialists in delivering courses to 16 to 19 year olds and teach no other age group. This means they are fully qualified and prepared to ensure that you achieve the very best grades possible.

We closely monitor the success of each of our courses as well as the quality of teaching, learning and assessments. Where necessary, we support our teachers and managers to become outstanding. We believe that all students, who are trying their best should be entered for their exams.

We also measure 'value added'. Coulsdon Sixth Form College aims to ensure all students out-perform their nationally generated predicted grades. In practice this means that students whose GCSE scores suggest they will achieve a particular grade in a subject, invariably exceed this grade.

What's the secret of Coulsdon Sixth Form College's success? In a nutshell, it's the huge range of courses on offer and specialist teachers, which enables students to take subjects which match their interest, ability and future aspirations. When you combine this with exceptional support, the highest quality resources and facilities, and an atmosphere described by students as being 'like a university,' you have the perfect recipe!

## CAREERS AND HELP TO ACHIEVE MY AIMS

### **What help will I get with my university application?**

With nearly two out of three Coulsdon Sixth Form College students progressing to university each year, the College is able to employ its own team of dedicated Careers and University Advisors who can support students through the application process and help with important decisions along the way. A broad range of universities will have received applications from Coulsdon Sixth Form College students, including Oxbridge, top Russell Group universities and Medical schools.

### **Will I get advice on what I need to make my application for a job/university competitive?**

Planning for university, apprenticeship or employment is seen as crucial for each student and the College is able to give individual advice to help each student develop their chosen career path.

Many students will extend their study programme with a range of Extension Studies and activities which will help them improve their marketability by getting them to consider their academic and extra-curricular programmes.

## **What else is offered in College to help me decide on a career?**

A Progression event is offered at the end of the Lower Sixth during which time students learn about the value of work experience and attend courses or activities designed to help them improve their CV. Career events are staged throughout the year, including an Apprenticeship Fair and HE event for Lower Sixth students, which involves talks on a range of career opportunities and a careers fair attended by a selection of universities, employers and Gap Year organisations.

The Careers team also runs an 'Alternatives to Higher Education Event' involving local businesses coming in to talk about College Leaver Programmes and Apprenticeships.

The Guest Speaker Programme gives students the chance to get first-hand advice from professionals working in a range of careers, who come in to College to share their experiences. Recent talks have included insights into careers in Engineering, Medicine, Journalism, Law, as well as applying to Oxbridge and motivational talks from business people or apprenticeship providers.

## **THE COLLEGE COMMUNITY**

### **Do students have an opportunity to participate in the running of the College?**

The College has an active Students' Union (SU) which is represented at College Corporation meetings and consulted by College management on a regular basis. The SU serves as the main link between the College's senior management team and the student body. They are elected annually by fellow students, and there are a range of positions on the Students' Union (from President, to Equality & Diversity Officer and Events Officers) that encourage students to get involved in different aspects of College life.

### **What's the social life like?**

A nationally recognised organisation, the SU allows students to become involved in activities and events in and outside of the college throughout the academic year. The SU organises a range of social events, fundraising, student-led enrichment activities, along with the trips and visits programme, the annual Art exhibition, concerts and drama productions. Students are also expected to act as Student Ambassadors for open events at the College. Taking part in the above activities is a great way of meeting new people, learning some new skills and having fun.

## **Will I feel safe at College?**

Coulsdon Sixth Form College is a totally safe and extremely friendly environment. The College fosters a relationship based on trust and mutual respect for all, and takes pride in a clean and good quality environment with plenty of study and recreational areas on the site. Students benefit from high quality education in a supportive community.

## **STUDY AND SUPPORT**

### **Will I get help if I have any additional needs?**

The College has a Learning Support Centre which is designed to cater for the needs of all students. Even the very brightest students sometimes need help with organising their time, with basic grammar or study skills. Those who have a recognised need will get one-to-one support, including help in a classroom setting.

### **Is there a virtual learning environment?**

The College operates an interactive web based learning environment called Moodle. All courses have a wide range of resources which include lesson plans, interactive tests, quizzes, reading lists and homework tasks. The site can be accessed from any computer both on and off site. The system is akin to what a student will expect and experience if they move on to higher education.

### **Are there study facilities available for private study?**

The College strongly recommends that students make full use of the Independent Learning Centre (ILC), where staff are always on hand to assist. The ILC houses a suite of over 100 computers and a small group study area.

Free Wi-Fi is accessible across campus for students wishing to use their own personal devices.

### **Any questions?**

If you have any questions that have not been answered in this brochure, please don't hesitate to get in touch. You can either:

Email: [admissions@coulsdon.ac.uk](mailto:admissions@coulsdon.ac.uk) or  
Telephone: **01737 551176** (9am-4.30pm term time only)



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