The Sandon School

sandon.essex.sch.uk

# Sixth Form Prospectus

AIMING HIGHER TOGETHER

# Aiming high

Thank you for your interest in joining The Sandon School Sixth Form, a vibrant and thriving community with a proud record of helping young people realise their potential and fulfil their aspirations.

For us, this is what it is all about. We believe passionately that education is transformational. The Sixth Form represents an incredibly exciting stage of that journey; a time to aim higher academically, develop greater independence and begin to shape the future that lies beyond school.

At Sandon, we want every student to leave us with excellent qualifications, but also with the character, confidence and adaptability to thrive in an ever-changing world. High expectations are matched by excellent teaching, energy, enthusiasm, individual support and opportunities that extend far beyond the classroom.

We are incredibly proud of the role our Sixth Form students play in making The Sandon School such a special place to be. We want our young people to be ambitious for themselves, to contribute to the community around them and to look towards their future with confidence.

Whether continuing your Sandon journey or joining us for the first time, I hope you will choose to join our Sixth Form community as we continue Aiming Higher Together.



**Mr Jon Pead**
Headteacher

# her together

Welcome to The Sandon School Sixth Form.
Life in the Sixth Form is very different from Year 11 - and that is exactly how it should be. With greater independence and freedom comes the opportunity to shape your own experience, pursue your interests and make the most of everything Sixth Form life has to offer.

At Sandon, those opportunities extend far beyond your chosen subjects. You might take on a leadership role as part of our Head Student Team, support younger students or curriculum areas across the school, learn a new skill such as sound engineering for shows or becoming a school librarian, or take advantage of opportunities to work with universities, employers and other organisations. We are always looking for new experiences to offer our students and encourage you to embrace them.

Sixth Form will challenge you academically, but it should also be an exciting and memorable two years in which you grow in confidence, discover new interests and prepare for what comes next.

If you are ready to embrace that challenge, make the most of your independence and get involved in the opportunities around you, we look forward to welcoming you to The Sandon School Sixth Form and Aiming Higher Together.



**Mr Tom Ashley**
Head of Sixth Form




# An expansive post-16 curriculum provision

With over 25 Level 3 qualifications, our broad and ambitious curriculum enables students to build a programme of study around their strengths, interests and aspirations. Each subject receives nine taught periods per fortnight, delivered by subject specialists, including experienced examiners, bringing expert knowledge directly into the classroom. With average class sizes of fewer than 12 students, teachers know their students exceptionally well, enabling personalised teaching, individual support and high-quality, effective feedback.

Students also benefit from three dedicated Sixth Form spaces: our Common Room, IT Study Suite and individual-booth Silent Study Area. Period 1 is protected study time in our Common Room, providing a calm and purposeful start to the day where students can organise themselves, complete independent work and establish strong study habits. Together, these spaces provide the right environment for focused study, collaboration and relaxation throughout the Sixth Form day.

To ensure students are well prepared for the academic challenge of Level 3 study and have the foundation knowledge and skills needed to succeed, we carefully consider both overall GCSE attainment and the prerequisite knowledge required for individual courses.

To enrol at The Sandon School Sixth Form, students must meet the following requirements:

**1) A minimum of Grade 4 in GCSE English and Mathematics**

**2) An Attainment 8 score of at least 40 points**
*More information on Attainment 8 can be found using the QR code below.*

**3) The individual entry requirements for each of their chosen courses**
*Subject-specific requirements are detailed below.*

# SIXTH FORM ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

SUBJECT SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS FOR ENTRY TO LEVEL 3 COURSES AT SANDON

| SUBJECT | ENTRY REQUIREMENTS |
|---|---|
| Art and Design: Fine Art | 5 in Art. You must have studied Art at KS4. |
| Art and Design: Photography | No previous experience is required. |
| Biology | 6-5 in Trilogy **OR** 6 in Biology & 5 in one other Science & a 5 in Maths. |
| Business Studies (single & double award) | 4 in English & 4 in Maths (single)<br>5 in English & 5 in Maths (double) |
| Chemistry | 6-5 in Trilogy **OR** 6 in Chemistry & 5 in one other Science & a 5 in Maths. |
| Computer Science | 5 in Computer Science & a 5 in Maths.<br>Must study Computer Science at KS4. |
| Criminology | 4 in English. |
| Design & Technology: Product Design (3D) | No previous experience is required. |
| Economics | 5 in English & a 5 in Maths. |
| English Literature | 5 in English Language. |
| Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) | 5 in English, Maths or Science. |
| French | 6 in French. You must have studied French at KS4. |
| Geography | 4 in Geography & a 4 in English.<br>You must have studied Geography at KS4. |
| History | 4 in History & a 4 in English.<br>You must have studied History at KS4. |

| SUBJECT | ENTRY REQUIREMENTS |
|---|---|
| Digital Media | No previous experience is required. |
| Law | 5 in English. |
| Mathematics | 7 in Mathematics. |
| Mathematics (Further) | 7 in Mathematics & you must be studying A Level Mathematics. |
| Media | 4 in English. |
| Music Performance | 4 in Music **OR** perform to a grade 4 standard with selected instrument/vocals. |
| Performing Arts (single & double award) | 4 in Dance, Drama or Music and/or pass an audition. |
| Philosophy | 5 in English. |
| Physical Education | 5 in a Science. Must be playing/competing/ performing in an activity to enrol. |
| Physics | 6-5 in Trilogy **OR** 6 in Physics & 5 in one other Science and a 5 in Maths. |
| Politics | 5 in English. |
| Psychology | 5 in English & a 5 in Maths. |
| Sociology | 5 in English. |
| Spanish | 6 in Spanish. You must have studied Spanish at KS4. |

To find out more about the curriculum, assessment and learning in individual subjects, or for an explanation of Attainment 8, please scan the QR code here

# Application Process

## SIXTH FORM APPLICATION JOURNEY

KEY STAGES IN YOUR APPLICATION TO SANDON SIXTH FORM

| OCTOBER | OCTOBER | NOVEMBER | FINAL DAY OF TERM DECEMBER | JANUARY | FEBRUARY | MARCH | AUGUST | FIRST DAY OF TERM SEPTEMBER |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING** | **APPLICATIONS OPEN** | **TASTER DAY (YEAR 11)** | **APPLICATIONS CLOSE** | **REVIEW OF APPLICATIONS** | **SIXTH FORM INTERVIEWS** | **CONDITIONAL OFFERS MADE** | **RESULTS AND CONFIRMATION** | **ENROLMENT DAY START OF TERM** |
| Find out more about Sandon Sixth Form, meet our staff and explore the courses and opportunities available. | Submit your Sixth Form application from this date. | Experience Sixth Form life with subject tasters and opportunities to explore your interests. | The final day of term in December is the last day to submit your Sixth Form application. | We will review all applications and consider your subject choices. | You will be invited to an interview to discuss your choices and future plans. | You will receive a conditional offer for your chosen courses (subject to meeting the entry requirements). | Following your GCSE results, we will confirm your place and finalise your subject choices. | Complete your enrolment and begin your Sixth Form journey at Sandon. |



# Careers, University & Apprenticeships

## Careers

Through our Futures Careers Programme, students receive dedicated support from our Careers Adviser and comprehensive guidance on post-18 pathways. External speakers from a wide range of careers and industries provide valuable insight, while our Electives Programme connects students with professionals and develops employability skills. Our aim is for every student to leave Sandon informed, ambitious and prepared for their next step.

## University Support

University can open doors to specialist study, new experiences and exciting career opportunities. We have a strong track record of supporting students to successfully progress to universities across the country. Through personalised guidance, open days and engagement with our alumni, we help students explore their options and find the right university and course for their ambitions.

## The UCAS Process

Whether your aspirations lie in studying at Oxford or Cambridge or securing a place on a highly specialist and competitive course, every university applicant receives dedicated UCAS support from the Head of Sixth Form, Heads of Year 12 and 13, tutors and subject specialists. From applications and personal statements to bursaries, interviews, accommodation and Results Day support through Clearing, our team is with students every step of the way.

## Apprenticeships

Apprenticeships offer an exciting route into high-quality careers while gaining professional qualifications and valuable workplace experience. Our Sixth Form team has a strong track record of supporting students to secure competitive apprenticeships across sectors including engineering, finance, technology, business and professional services. From finding opportunities to applications, assessments and interviews, we support students throughout the process.



# Leaders in ou

**Leadership in our Sixth Form is not reserved for a select few. We believe in the leadership potential of every one of our students and provide opportunities for them to take responsibility, contribute to our community and develop the confidence to lead others.**

## STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Our Head Student Team provides opportunities to take a prominent role in the life of the school, represent the student body and work alongside staff to shape our community. Leadership extends far beyond formal titles, however: we want students across the Sixth Form to have a voice, take responsibility and contribute ideas.

## MENTORING & INSPIRING

Sixth Form students are role models within our school. Students can mentor younger pupils, support learning within subject areas and form an important part of our reading strategy as reading partners for younger students. In doing so, they develop their own confidence, communication and interpersonal skills while making a genuine difference.

## TALENT LEADERSHIP

There is no single way to be a leader. Students contribute as sports leaders, dance leaders, leaders in music, performing arts, academic subjects, clubs, sustainability or even establish opportunities of their own. We encourage students to identify their strengths and interests and use them to enrich the experiences of others.




**Whether representing the student body, mentoring younger students, supporting a department, organising charitable events, taking on paid employment in the school or sharing a passion with others, we encourage students to find a role that reflects their strengths and aspirations.**

## ENTERPRISE

Sixth Form students can gain real workplace experience within our school, including paid work supporting our catering service at break and lunchtime. Students can also train as Assistant Librarians, developing communication, reliability and customer-service skills while taking genuine responsibility within our school community.

## COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

Leadership is also about giving something back. Students are encouraged to become involved in charitable, environmental and community initiatives, helping to shape the culture of the school and champion issues that matter to them. This kind of leadership experience benefits both our Sixth Form students and the wider community.

## SKILLS FOR YOUR FUTURE

Every leadership experience develops something valuable. Teamwork, communication, organisation, problem-solving, confidence are qualities valued by universities, apprenticeship providers and employers alike. Our aim is for students to leave Sandon not simply with excellent qualifications, but with experiences that demonstrate what they can contribute.



# Higher Education Destinations

| | |
|---|---|
| **Anglia Ruskin University** | Nursing (Adult)<br>Nursing (Child) |
| **Cardiff University** | Accounting and Finance<br>History |
| **Loughborough University** | Automotive Engineering<br>Graphic Design<br>Physics<br>Psychology |
| **Oxford Brookes University** | Photography |
| **The University of Edinburgh** | Fine Art |
| **The University of Brighton** | Contemporary History<br>Law<br>Sports Journalism |
| **The University of the Arts London** | Fashion Imaging<br>Fashion Journalism |
| **University of East Anglia** | Accounting and Finance<br>Artificial Intelligence<br>Business Management<br>Economics and Finance<br>Law with Criminology<br>Media Studies |
| **University of Essex** | History and Heritage<br>Physiotherapy |
| **University of Exeter** | Law |
| **University of Kent** | Biology<br>Psychology |
| **University of Leeds** | Marketing |
| **University of Manchester** | Economics<br>Zoology |
| **University of Nottingham** | Economics<br>Industrial Economics |
| **University of Reading** | Art and Psychology<br>Economics<br>Food Science<br>Sociology |
| **University of Southampton** | Law |
| **University of Surrey** | Biochemistry |
| **University of Sussex** | Computer Science |
| **University of York** | Law |

## SANDON BELONG

A PLACE WHERE EVERY STUDENT FEELS KNOWN AND VALUED.

Our Sixth Form experience exceptional pastoral care, positive relationships and a culture of high expectations, kindness and respect, empowering them to thrive both personally and socially. We ensure that every young person in our Sixth Form community is known, supported and valued for who they are.

## SANDON SUCCESS

A PLACE WHERE EVERY STUDENT ACHIEVES THEIR POTENTIAL.

Excellent classroom teaching from specialist practitioners and high academic expectations inspire our Sixth Form to achieve their potential and develop the knowledge and skills to succeed. Our committed staff and academic support strategies ensure that students receive the guidance and challenge they need to excel.

## SANDON BEYOND

A PLACE WHERE OPPORTUNITIES BROADEN HORIZONS.

Our super-curricular programme encourages students to explore new interests, develop character and discover hidden passions. Through our LMEs, a wealth of enriching visits, volunteering opportunities and a wide-ranging careers strategy, learners are inspired to go beyond expectations, and broaden their horizons.

# Excellence Pathways

We are extremely proud of the quality of teaching, support and outcomes students receive across all areas of our Sixth Form curriculum. Alongside our broad and ambitious academic offer, our Excellence Pathways provide an enhanced programme for students with particular career interests or aspirations. Combining strong outcomes, exposure to professionals and industry, super-curricular opportunities and personalised guidance, they provide an outstanding platform from which students can pursue highly competitive future destinations. **Your ambition does not need to fit into neatly into a pathway**. Every Sixth Form student receives the same high expectations, expert guidance and rich opportunity, whatever their chosen field.

### Art, Fashion & Creative Industries

ARCHITECTURE - DESIGN - FASHION - FINE ART - GRAPHIC DESIGN - MEDIA - PERFORMANCE - PHOTOGRAPHY

### Business, Economics & Finance

ACCOUNTING - ACTUARIAL SCIENCE - BANKING - BUSINESS - ECONOMICS - ENTREPRENUERSHIP - FINANCE - INVESTMENT

### Law, Politics & Society

CRIMINOLOGY - INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS - JOURNALISM - LAW - POLITICS - PUBLIC SERVICES - PSYCHOLOGY

### STEM & Health Sciences

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE - COMPUTING - ENGINEERING - MATHEMATICS - MEDICINE - NURSING - SCIENCES







# Pastoral Care & Wellbeing

Pastoral care is central to our Sixth Form. We invest in knowing our students well, recognising that these years can bring some of life's most complex challenges. From exams, anxiety and caring responsibilities to part-time work, learning to drive and preparing for independence, we provide the support, guidance and relationships that help every young person navigate this important stage with confidence.



## Dedicated Tutor Team

We believe the importance of strong pastoral relationships does not stop in the Sixth Form. Students see their tutor every morning, building relationships with someone who knows them. From resolving day-to-day issues to writing meaningful references based on genuine knowledge of each student, tutors provide a consistent point of guidance throughout Sixth Form. They also build strong relationships with families, ensuring school, student and home continue to work together.

## Pastoral Structure

Our Sixth Form structure includes a Head of Year 12, Head of Year 13 and Head of Sixth Form, supported by a dedicated colleague providing both student support and Sixth Form administration. Together with our tutor team, this provides students and families with a wealth of experience, guidance and practical support, ensuring there is always someone on-hand who knows where to turn when help is needed.

## Safeguarding

Safeguarding remains as important as ever in the Sixth Form. As our young people grow into young adults, we recognise that they still need guidance and support to help them make informed choices, navigate new challenges and keep themselves safe. We take this responsibility extremely seriously. Safeguarding sits at the heart of all that we do, with our experienced pastoral and safeguarding teams working closely with students and families to promote wellbeing, respect, positive relationships and a strong culture of care.

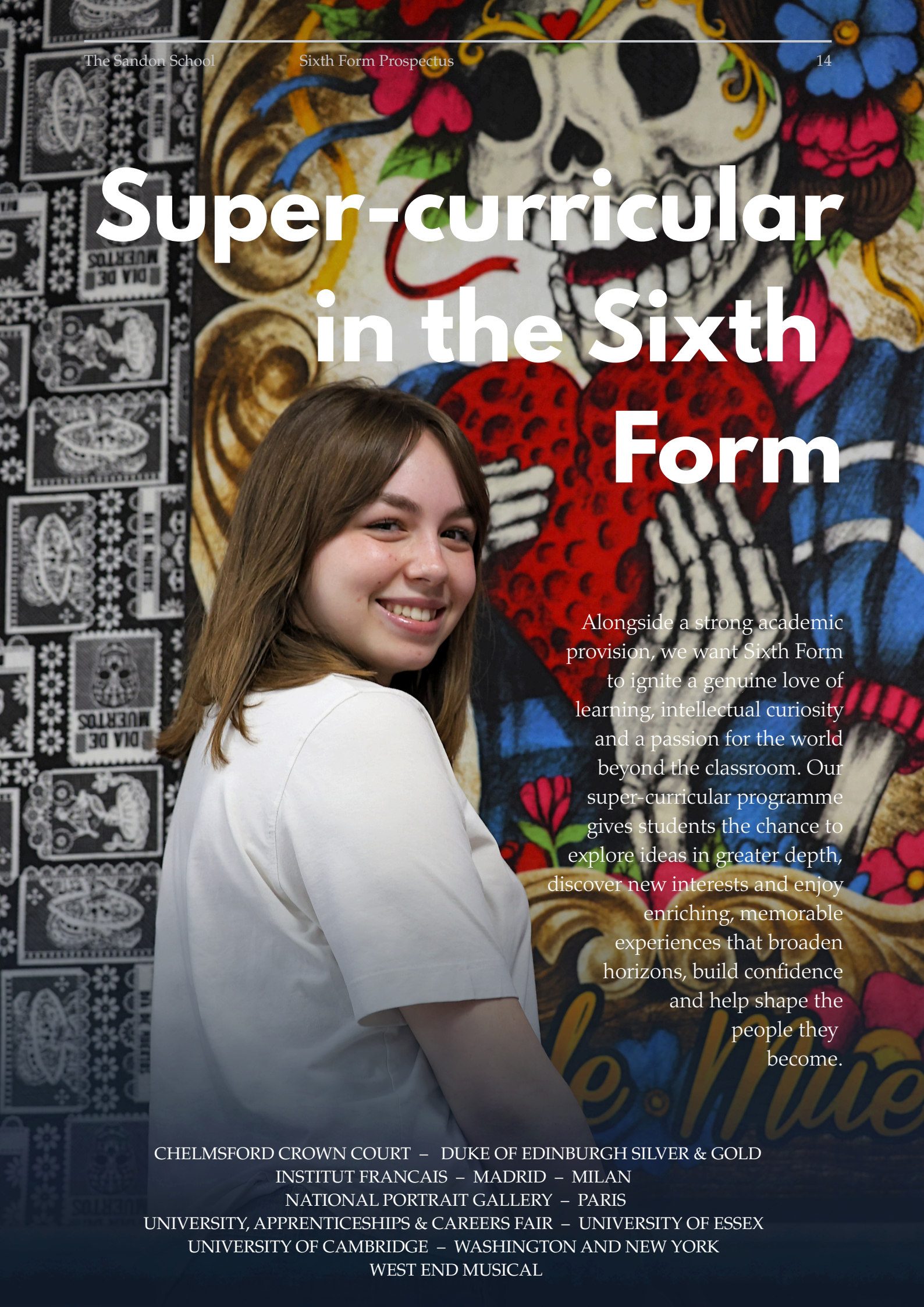
## Exam Season

As examinations approach, our support intensifies. Students have access to dedicated, individual silent study booths, alongside a programme of subject intervention and masterclasses, revision techniques and memory optimisation sessions. We recognise that the journey will not always be without stumbling blocks, and that examination pressure can bring anxiety. Our academic and pastoral teams work together to help students manage these challenges, build confidence and perform at their best when it matters most.

## Wellbeing

Student wellbeing is a key priority at The Sandon School. We recognise that young people achieve their best when they feel happy, supported and connected. Through our dedicated pastoral team, wellbeing programmes, mentoring opportunities and access to specialist support where needed, we help students build resilience, confidence and positive mental health. We aim to create a caring community where every student is encouraged to reach their full potential.

# Super-curricular in the Sixth Form



Alongside a strong academic provision, we want Sixth Form to ignite a genuine love of learning, intellectual curiosity and a passion for the world beyond the classroom. Our super-curricular programme gives students the chance to explore ideas in greater depth, discover new interests and enjoy enriching, memorable experiences that broaden horizons, build confidence and help shape the people they become.

CHELMSFORD CROWN COURT – DUKE OF EDINBURGH SILVER & GOLD
INSTITUT FRANCAIS – MADRID – MILAN
NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY – PARIS
UNIVERSITY, APPRENTICESHIPS & CAREERS FAIR – UNIVERSITY OF ESSEX
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE – WASHINGTON AND NEW YORK
WEST END MUSICAL

# The views of our students...



The Sandon Sixth Form feels like a family. Every year, students join us from other schools, and within days they are part of friendship groups, involved in activities, and feeling at home.



The subject knowledge of the staff is fantastic. They are able to talk to me so clearly about exam technique and the way to develop my written responses. I feel so confident about fulfilling my potential here.



From the very beginning, there were so many opportunities to get involved, challenge myself academically, make new friends, and become such an important part of the school community.



I explored other options and attended open evenings elsewhere. However, the more I thought about it, the more I realised that Sandon already offered something incredibly valuable: teachers who cared, understood how I learned, and genuinely wanted me to succeed. It was a place where I felt supported, and challenged to be my best.

Staying at The Sandon Sixth Form was one of the best decisions I ever made. I've developed confidence, leadership and teamwork skills that will benefit me long after I leave school.



For further enquiries please
contact our team at
**enquiries@sandon.essex.sch.uk**