



# Sixth Form



2014

# QE Sixth Form

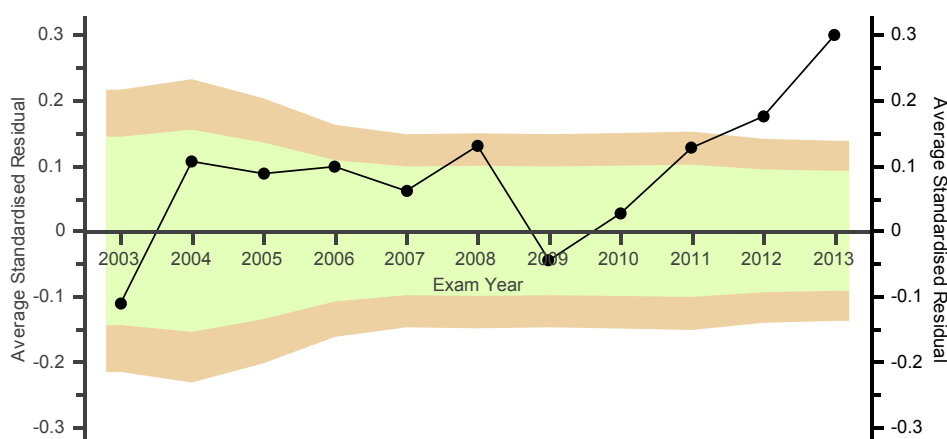
Queen Elizabeth's has had a thriving and successful Sixth Form since before it became an 11-18 comprehensive school in the late sixties. Located, as we are, in the market town of Crediton, the excellent rail and bus services mean students are easily able to reach us from Exeter and the towns in the wider area. We are also accessible to those who come from much further afield, as we are the only state boarding school in Devon. We have a number of students from Germany, Spain and Hong Kong in particular who regularly study here.

Our Sixth Form maintains the traditional strength of school Sixth Forms – being able to provide a very personal service for students who are in the main well known to us – with the excellent resources and facilities we are able to provide as an Academy.

We offer continuity for those students who decide to stay with us, and a fresh start within a supportive, caring and friendly environment for those who join us in the Sixth Form.

Our Sixth Form is not just about support, it is about real intellectual challenge in a stimulating and well resourced environment. We offer excellent teaching that has consistently allowed our students to make outstanding progress and gain access to the best universities. A higher percentage of our students gained places in Russell Group universities than at any other non-selective sixth form or further education college in Devon last year. Our value added, as measured by both ALIS and the DfE's Learning Achievement Tracker, is extremely high and has been consistently so for several years. So, whatever our students' starting points, they make really good academic progress with us.

*The black line shows the value added achieved by students at QE Sixth Form in comparison with all students nationally. Most students are in the green section. As you can see, our students do significantly better.*



College House is our Sixth Form centre. At its heart is the Library where Robert Logan, our full time librarian, looks after a huge stock of books and periodicals, as well as offering excellent advice and support. Students can borrow PC Laptops, iPads and Macbooks from here. Thanks to our wireless network, these can be used anywhere on site, especially in the College Café, which is open to Sixth Formers throughout the day for refreshments as an informal study area. There is also a study room equipped with PCs where Marguerite Bridgman is available to provide advice and guidance to students who need help with research and essay writing. There is also a Mac suite and further PC suite available in College House for Sixth Form students to use as and when they wish.

*"I have thoroughly enjoyed my time at Sixth Form so far and I'm really reluctant to leave!"*

A dedicated team of Sixth Form tutors and academic support staff is led by the Head of Sixth Form, Paula Smith and Assistant Head of Sixth, Justine Morton, all based in College House. Our Careers team is also based here to give the best possible advice and guidance.

We have thought hard about providing the best possible facilities we can to support Advanced level study throughout the curriculum. This year we have completely re-equipped Photography, provided Technology with a 3D printer and laser cutter, equipped Science with a new spectrometer, infra red camera and electro-phoresis kit and constructed a brand new Computing suite, equipped with PCs, laptops, tablets and Rasberry Pi's. This is in addition to the digital recording studio, radio station, media suite and Outdoor Education Academy we already have. We are determined that our students have the best equipment with which to pursue their Sixth Form studies and because our group sizes are relatively small, they won't have to fight to use it!



A key aspect of Sixth Form life at Queen Elizabeth's is the CAS@QE enrichment programme – Creativity, Action and Service at QE. All Sixth Formers get the opportunity to broaden their experiences and skills through activities outside the classroom, whether this is in the areas of sport, art, music, drama or voluntary service. Our students take part in an enormous range of activities, both within College and outside it. For example, some students visited Borneo this summer for their Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Expedition. The previous year, they went to Malawi. Another group won the Bar Mock Trial final last year at the Old Bailey, a competition which is open to all state schools in England. Others choose to work with senior citizens or disabled children. Others create music, or write, or act. All who take part have to leave their comfort zone and explore new experiences.



This programme, alongside the Extended Project Qualification, which we also offer to all, means that students can have the same range of experiences and equivalent qualifications as is offered in the International Baccalaureate. These additional elements help to make our students more attractive to University Admissions Tutors, which is why the vast majority of our students get their first choice of university place.

We are all about giving our young people the best possible start, not just by preparing them well for their studies at university, but for life and work beyond.



# Sixth Form Study Programmes

You can choose from either a Level 3 programme made up of A Level or BTECs, or the Level 2 Pre-A study programme. A full list of individual A Level and BTEC subjects is outlined below.

The Pre-A study programme is designed for students who have marginally missed the required 5 A\*-C GCSE qualifications needed to progress to A Levels and is built around GCSE retakes in the EBACC subjects. Details of the Pre-A study programme can be found on our website.

Most students taking Level 3 courses are expected to choose a combination of four subjects to study to AS-level in Year 12. They then take three of the four subjects through to full A-levels or equivalent in Year 13.

## A Levels

- Art
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Dance
- Design and Technology
- Drama and Theatre Studies
- Economics and Business
- English Language
- English Literature
- Film Studies
- Design and Technology – Food
- French
- Further Mathematics
- Geography
- German
- History
- Information Communication Technology
- Law
- Mathematics
- Music
- Philosophy and Ethics
- Photography
- Physical Education
- Physics
- Psychology
- Sociology
- Spanish

*A Level Art work  
by Tanith Gould*



## BTEC

- Applied Science National Level 3 Certificate
- Sport and Outdoor Education National Subsidiary Diploma
- ICT Practitioners National Subsidiary Diploma
- Music Performance National Subsidiary Diploma

Full details of all our courses can be found in the Sixth Form Courses Booklet available either in print or at: [www.queenelizabeths.devon.sch.uk](http://www.queenelizabeths.devon.sch.uk)

# The Aspire Programme

The Aspire Programme is designed to help those students who aim to get to a top university on the most challenging degree courses. It gives them the self-confidence, skills and guidance to help them achieve their highest potential. It provides:

- help and advice on university choices
- attendance at Oxbridge seminars and other similar events
- the opportunity to discuss and share ideas with other academic students
- sessions designed to build confidence in speaking and presentation in preparation for interviews
- guidance on completion of their UCAS application and their personal statement
- discussions and debates specific to individual subjects to improve analytical skills
- encouragement to participate in summer schools and residential courses offered by some universities

*“The Aspire Group sessions have strengthened the skills that we will need when applying to university”*

The Aspire Programme enables those students who achieved excellent GCSE grades to stretch themselves academically and to aim high in their university and career aspirations. These students meet on a regular basis to follow a programme of activities designed to challenge and inspire academic excellence and to really make them think deeply about the subjects they are studying.

“The Aspire Group sessions have strengthened the skills that we will need when applying to university (particularly for Oxbridge), such as wider reading and interview techniques. The teachers have been especially supportive whilst we were writing our personal statements, motivating us to apply early.”

# Support

One of the strengths of our Sixth Form is its tutorial system. On entering the Sixth Form, students are placed into a tutorial group in which they remain for the duration of their stay with us. This enables them to develop friendships with other students and have the continuity of regular contact with a member of staff who will provide support, guidance and challenge in both academic and personal matters.

*“Being at QE I feel included and respected as an adult as well as being a hard working determined student.”*

Students meet with their tutor regularly and are able to discuss issues concerning their progress and plans for their next steps, whether those are academic or employment related. We also have a structured programme for monitoring academic progress, involving regular feedback from subject staff and a series of interviews with tutors. This means the tutor gets to know their tutees really well and is able to take a close personal interest in each individual.





# Induction

In the Lower Sixth the year starts with a Learning Conference held at Exeter University to help set the scene and give students a real sense of what they are aiming to achieve. All students follow our taught Advanced Study Skills programme in order to help them make the sometimes difficult transition from GCSE to A level and much more self directed and independent study. We also operate a supervised study service where students can receive the help they need to ensure they develop excellent learning habits early, which is the key to academic progress at A Level.

# University entrance

We are especially proud of the track record of our students in their progression to university. Large numbers of students apply to top ranked universities and competitive courses such as medicine, veterinary medicine, law and teaching related degrees. We have large numbers of successful applicants to STEM courses, including physics, mathematics, computer science, engineering and biochemistry. Interview practice, often with an expert professional panel, support with writing personal statements and advice sessions from visiting universities and undergraduates are offered to all applicants.

A Higher Education Information Evening for parents and carers is held in the Summer term, so that all involved understand the university application process. Student Finance England visit the school each year to advise students on how to finance their education after the Sixth Form.



# CAS@QE Programme

A key aspect of Sixth Form life at Queen Elizabeth's is the CAS@QE enrichment programme – Creativity, Action and Service at QE. We think it is vital that students have the opportunity to broaden their experiences and skills through activities outside the classroom, whether this is in the areas of sport, art, music, drama or voluntary service. This is not only important for personal development, but helps greatly with admission to university.

Our students take part in an enormous range of activities, both within school and outside it and we encourage them to reflect on the Skills for Success they acquire throughout the CAS@QE programme.

Among the many activities currently running within the programme are:

- Age Concern Crediton
- Amnesty International Group
- APAUSE
- Arabic Language and Culture for Total Beginners
- Bar Mock Trial
- Chemistry Club
- Classroom Assistant
- Cooking Club
- Crediton Running Network
- Dance Technique Class
- Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award
- Events, Hospitality and Marketing Committee
- French Club
- Food Technology Assistant
- Future Teachers Programme
- GCSE Astronomy
- German Speaking Assistant
- Lead Learner Programme
- Leaders in Sport
- Music Groups
- Newspaper Editing
- Qmmunity Book Group
- Qmmunity Radio
- Reading Buddies
- Safer Driving
- Sandford Scout Group
- Set Design and Build
- Sixth Form Council
- Sixth Form Peer Mentor
- Sixth Form Reading Group
- Sixth Form Skittles League
- Ten Tors Challenge
- Start Your Own Club
- Starting a business
- Year 9 Art Group
- Young Leaders in Service
- Cooking Club
- Upstream

# What our students say

*Amber Reed, is studying A Level Economics and Business, Philosophy and Ethics and the ICT Practitioners BTEC*

“I joined QE September 2011 after being in the United States for 4 years and also doing a year at Exeter College. Being at QE I feel included and respected as an adult as well as being a hard working determined student. All my lectures here have been encouraging and supportive as well as giving me the challenge I need as an individual to achieve my best. I am part of the Sixth Form Council and also juggle Dance Technique, Skittles and being a classroom assistant in with my academic studies.

In the summer term I am going on the Barge Trip with some of the students from the lower and upper school as well as a few Sixth Formers. I have found QE gives me the independence I need and has given me the opportunity to make friends with some really amazing people that I hope to keep for years to come.”



*Jamie Charlton is studying A Levels in Biology, Geography, Physics and an Extended Project Qualification based on Chemistry.*

“I have thoroughly enjoyed my time at Sixth Form so far and I’m really reluctant to leave! QE has equipped me with many opportunities to develop myself as a person, be they from learning how to cook in CAS@QE, or following my passion in the Astronomy GCSE.

The help from subject teachers and Sixth Form Staff has been outstanding, and I have no doubt that QE has helped considerably; giving me skills that many universities are seeking. Soon it’s off to university for me, and I want to wish every QE student the best of success for the future.”

# How to apply

The application form is available from us at school, or online at:

<http://www.queenelizabeths.devon.sch.uk/SixthForm/QE6thFormApplication2013-14.pdf>

The deadline for Year 11 Applications is February 14th 2014. Interviews will take place in the second half of the spring term.

We welcome applications from students studying at other schools or colleges at any time. Just fill in an application form and come and see us. If you are unsure about entry requirements, they are listed in the Sixth Form Courses Booklet.



# Study Support

All Sixth Form students are assigned a personal tutor, our tutor team consists of representatives from each subject area. Tutors are assigned carefully and wherever possible personal tutors will teach tutees or represent their subject area of interest. All Sixth Form students have access to our school counsellor, school nurse and learning support whenever they need it. In addition, a referral system operates to quickly identify when students need academic support with their independent study from our Academic Support worker, Marguerite Bridgman.

# 16-19 Bursary Fund

The 16-19 Bursary Fund is available to assist students who would otherwise find it difficult to attend Sixth Form for financial reasons. The criteria are split into 3 levels:

1. Guaranteed Award
2. Discretionary Award
3. Priority Group 3

Further details on the scheme will be given to students when starting their first term in the Sixth Form. In order to make an award, we would need to ask for certain additional information from parents.

The intention is to assist as many learners as possible from the limited funds we have available. The Bursary can be used for payments and ‘in kind’ support including help towards transport costs and essential equipment related to courses of study. Student attendance is taken into consideration when the decision to award payment is made.

All students will be asked to pay a £25 deposit when they first join against the cost of text books and study guides. This will be returned when they leave, provided the books and guides are returned in good condition.





# Careers education and guidance

Students are offered careers guidance organised through the Careers South West service. One to one meetings can be booked with Careers South West staff and the Careers Area holds a vast amount of current information on careers and opportunities for future study and employment. All Year 12 students are encouraged to visit the annual UCAS Higher Education Convention in Exeter, which is attended by representatives of most universities and colleges across the UK .

## Pastoral Programme

There is a full pastoral programme running in the Sixth Form alongside our academic courses to help give students all the information they will need about the broader aspects of adult and university life. Activities include:

- Learning Skills Conference
- Learn2Live – Road Safety Presentation
- Year in Industry – Presentation
- Plymouth University – Student Life Presentation
- UCAS Convention
- Student Finance England – Presentation
- Careers South West Apprenticeships/Local Job Vacancies
- ASKEM Environmental Seminar
- Frontier – Gap Year Presentation
- NHS Blood Donation Presentation
- NHS Sexual Health Presentation

## Feedback to parents and carers

There are four assessment points throughout the year followed by evenings when parents can meet with any of their sons and daughters' teachers and tutors to discuss their progress in the Sixth Form. In addition to this, there is a Personal Mentor Day where parents can meet with personal tutors. We try very hard to keep communication fluid, flexible and regular.

# Part-time employment

We recognise the financial, social and educational benefits for young people in undertaking part-time employment. At the same time, we know from experience that it is difficult for students to offer their best in their studies if they have demanding commitments in employment outside school. We ask that students plan their relaxation and do not make excessive commitments to paid work. Students should also recognise that, in joining the Sixth Form, their studies should always come first. We would recommend that hours worked should not exceed 12 each week.

## Contact Details

Head of Sixth Form	Paula Smith
Assistant Head of Sixth	Justine Morton
Student Support Officer	Sue Evans
Sabbatical Officer	Rosie Cookson

All emails are [initial.surname@queenelizabeths.devon.sch.uk](mailto:initial.surname@queenelizabeths.devon.sch.uk)

Website: [www.queenelizabeths.devon.sch.uk](http://www.queenelizabeths.devon.sch.uk)

For initial enquiries or an application form please contact:  
[sixthformoffice@queenelizabeths.devon.sch.uk](mailto:sixthformoffice@queenelizabeths.devon.sch.uk)

Phone: 01363 778392

For Boarding enquiries please contact 01363 775264/5 or  
[boarding@queenelizabeths.devon.sch.uk](mailto:boarding@queenelizabeths.devon.sch.uk)

Version: Wednesday, 6 November 2013

Published by:



Academy Trust

A company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales No. 07562194

# Why choose QE?

## *Because we are...*

- *friendly and personal*
- *small enough to know you well and support you when things get difficult*
- *able to provide great teaching that has enabled more of our students to get into the top universities than any other non-selective provider in Devon*
- *able to provide over thirty subjects and the opportunity to catch up with those you have missed at GCSE*
- *able to offer the extras like the Extended Project Qualification and Creativity, Action, Service programmes that really help you compete for the uni place you want*
- *a networked learning centre where you can borrow and use laptops, Macbooks and iPads anywhere*
- *equipped with the latest technology and hardware - 3D printer, laser cutter, electrophoresis kits, infra red cameras, digital recording studio, photographic studio etc etc that you won't have to fight to use*
- *offering an excellent sports programme, including our Outdoor Education Academy*
- *offering Boarding accommodation for those who need it*

