



# Chestnut Grove Academy

SIXTH FORM



## DEVELOPING INDEPENDENT LEARNERS

*‘Consistently high-quality teaching ensures that students make outstanding progress.’*

Ofsted January 2019



*“From seeing my peers perform their own music to getting offers from prestigious universities, I have never failed to find inspiration and support at Chestnut Grove Sixth Form.”*

Stella (Year 13)



## Welcome from the Head of Sixth Form



At the heart of the Chestnut Grove Academy ‘Creative Learning Community’ lies a thriving, high performing sixth form with a rich tradition of excellence. The sixth form’s moral purpose is to develop within each student a life-long love of learning, fostering their intellectual curiosity and developing their independence. We achieve this by providing exceptional teaching and learning opportunities both within and beyond the classroom, and by offering outstanding careers education, information and guidance (CEIAG) at all levels. We consider each student as a two or three year project to help them into the university, apprenticeship or career of their choice, with each student known personally by their tutor and by the sixth form leadership.

Impressive entry rates into the top universities, including Oxbridge, evidences the wealth of experience and expertise the sixth form leadership and tutor team has to enable students to satisfy possible career aspirations and to reach their potential. However, it is acknowledged that university is not the only pathway and students seeking traineeships, apprenticeships and employment opportunities of all kinds receive bespoke and highly personalised guidance, in line with the Gatsby benchmarks, from our team and from our independent careers adviser.

Our inclusive ethos encourages all students to participate, and to organise the participation of others. Sixth form students contribute to the vibrancy of the sixth form, the whole school and the wider local community via the enrichment, enhancement and extra-curricular provision, which has been purposely designed to add breadth to the student experience and to challenge students to think critically and to problem solve.

A strong Induction programme supports the transition from Key Stage 4 into Key Stage 5 and enables all students to access appropriate courses to unlock their unique potential, allowing them to thrive, progress and achieve. Students leave us as mature young adults, equipped with the essential skill set necessary to embrace a world of opportunities.

Chestnut Grove Academy year 11 students are urged to apply so that they may benefit from a continuity of experience, maintaining the close connection already established with the Academy’s teachers and other professionals who know them as individuals and who understand their needs. This allows them to provide the challenge and support so vital for academic development.

Each year the sixth form welcomes students who have chosen to join us from other schools and colleges, and external applicants are assured of a smooth transition, allowing them to quickly feel part of the Chestnut Grove community.

I look forward to working in partnership with all our students, and their families, over the next two years, to secure improved future life chances, economic wellbeing and accelerated progress for all.

**Jonathan Taylor**  
Assistant Headteacher/Head of Sixth Form

# HIGH EXPECTATIONS

Within the sixth form students are expected to display a high level of conduct at all times. Politeness and courtesy cost nothing and are signs of well-adjusted, mature and responsible young adults. Good manners are expected across the Academy, especially from sixth formers as the elder statesmen and stateswomen of the Academy and the people to whom the students in the wider school community look to for direction in terms of behaviour.

On entry into the sixth form each student will sign the 'Sixth Form Student Contract' outlining our expectations of each student and what, in return, each student can expect from us. Of crucial significance is exemplary levels of attendance and punctuality, with 98% attendance or better considered 'good'. Anything less and students are significantly reducing their chances of fulfilling their potential and of meeting their challenging Academy targets, based upon each student's prior attainment at GCSE. Put simply, we want to add value to each student on our roll but cannot do this if a student refuses to engage in their own learning.

Similarly, we want all students to contribute to the community and we believe that students cannot do this in anything other than a partial and fragmented way if they are allowed to merely attend their lessons and then return home. Sixth formers at Chestnut Grove Academy must arrive on time for registration each day and must remain on site for the duration of that day. They may leave the site at break and lunch, but must return on time. This is appropriate and reasonable given their age and their increased maturity. Students within the sixth form don't have 'free' periods. Rather they have 'study' periods, during which time they must secure their learning, consolidate their subject knowledge and develop their understanding. Appropriate use of study periods ensure students stay on top of homework deadlines, and to this end students are expected to use the supervised Sixth Form Study area to work in.

## A Growth Mindset

Of paramount importance is an understanding from the outset that post 16 study is as much a 'personal' challenge as it is an 'academic' challenge. Resilience, perseverance, tenacity, determination, engagement, participation, motivation and above all commitment are all required to experience success, irrespective of course, age or ability.

Successful sixth formers embrace the fact that learning is not a perfect upwards trajectory and acknowledge that there will be bumps in the road. They will be prepared to push themselves beyond their comfort zone and in so doing, will realise that they are even better than they thought. Once they can be made to understand this, then they should never be prepared to accept anything less from themselves and they will have the confidence to know that, if they really put their minds to it, they have it within themselves to achieve their goals.

Chestnut Grove Academy is committed to providing a high quality programme of careers education for all students in Years 7-13. We hold an annual careers fair and students complete work experience placements in both Year 10 and Year 12. To facilitate our students' entry into the top universities, we develop their intellectual curiosity and provide outstanding guidance through the UCAS application process. We are here to help your child every step of the way on their journey to independence.



# STRUCTURED INDUCTION PROGRAMME

A carefully structured induction programme provides clarity of purpose and ensures that each student feels positive about their course choices. The Induction programme allows students to attend 'taster' lessons which outline course units to be covered, modes of assessment, unit weighting, typical teaching time and independent study expectations. Suggested reading lists are also handed out.

As success at post 16 is often dependent on attracting the right students to the right course, entry requirements are discussed at length, at Induction and at enrolment, to guarantee each student possesses the requisite numeracy skills, literacy skills, knowledge and ability to analyse, synthesise and evaluate to allow them to access the course. It would be morally wrong for the sixth form leadership to allow students to proceed onto courses without any prospect of the student being able to pass the course. Therefore, consideration of course accessibility, based on prior attainment and/or predicted grades, ensures that students are recruited and placed onto courses with integrity.

Additionally, all students joining the sixth form are placed on a six-week 'Probationary Passport' to monitor their transition from Key Stage 4 into Key Stage 5, which provides an excellent opportunity to praise and reward effort and industry from the start. In mid-October, a Parent-Tutor Evening reviews the Probationary Passport, with parents and carers in attendance, to inform families of their child's progress towards maturity and their establishment of the necessary routines of study in these crucial initial weeks of term.

## The Induction process at a glance

- Sixth Form Open Evening held in mid-October of Year 11
- Applications deadline mid-December
- Sixth Form interviews held in January/February
- Offer letters sent out in March/April
- Sixth Form Induction Programme held in late June
- External applicant enrolment held late August
- Internal applicant enrolment held first week of Autumn term, in early September
- All Year 12 students placed on 'Probationary Passport' for the initial six weeks following enrolment
- Year 12 Sixth Form Parent-Tutor Evening to sign-off the Probationary Passport in mid-October, before the half-term

*"As a new student to the school, the structured induction programme allowed me to confirm my subject choices and meet new friends. It gave me the confidence to engage in discussions and showed me the huge amount of extra-curricular opportunities available to sixth formers. Most importantly, it made me realise why I wanted to join this sixth form."*

Cailum (Year 12)

# PASTORAL CARE AND STUDENT WELFARE

The same level of pastoral care continues in the sixth form as for the main school. Each student is placed within a year 12 tutor group and the tutor remains the first port of call for both students and parents, as in years 7 to 11. Sixth form tutors offer academic mentoring to tutees and help students devise effective revision plans in the lead up to their Pre-Public Exams (PPEs) in mid-November and mid-March, and again before their public examinations in the summer.

Tutor groups are purposely mixed-ability and cross-course so that students following different pathways mix with each other and can learn from each other. This helps to establish a cohesive sixth form community to which all students contribute and belong. A year 12 team building trip to High Ashurst, in Surrey, follows successful completion of the sixth form Probationary Passport. This further develops student cohesion and confidence.

Sixth form students have access to a wide range of services to support their academic, personal and social development during their sixth form experience. Sixth formers follow a specific 'Health' curriculum designed to encourage them to make positive and well informed decisions about their lifestyle choices. Wellbeing advisers from the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) deliver two discreet presentations to students on the themes of 'Skills and Attitudes for Success in the Sixth Form' and 'Memory and Revision Skills for Exam Success'. An Achievement Evening is also held in the spring term to inform parents and carers about what they can do to support their child at home to reduce anxiety and stress in the final months before the public examinations.

A school nurse, Education Welfare Officer (EWO) and an independent careers adviser are employed by the Academy, and counsellors are available for those who need to speak to someone. The sixth form also has its own specific Learning Support Assistant (LSA) to work with students from disadvantaged backgrounds who are in receipt of our student bursary and who would benefit from improved organisation to meet coursework deadlines. There is also 'The Well Centre' located in nearby Streatham, for 13-20 year olds, offering a safe and confidential space to see a youth worker, counsellor or doctor, by appointment.

Parents are kept informed of their child's academic progress with six weekly (half-termly) Progress Reports uploaded onto 'My Child at School' (MCAS). There are also two parents' evenings across the school year, a Parent-Tutor Evening in mid-October where parents can discuss their child's transition into year 12, and the 'official' Parents' Evening where subject specialists are in attendance to discuss progress in each student's respective courses.

Additionally, sixth formers themselves offer peer mentoring and cross-age tutoring to students in the younger years. Literacy and Numeracy Ambassadors support students in their skills acquisition and paired readers help accelerate reading ages of students in year 7. Sixth formers also work with students in Key Stage 4, having undergone the GCSE process themselves, thereby making sixth formers uniquely positioned to advise on 'what works well' and 'even better if'



# SIXTH FORM ENRICHMENT AND ENHANCEMENT

At Chestnut Grove Academy we believe that the 'process' of becoming a sixth former is so much more than the mere accumulation of examination certificates, though important, and that some things are worth learning for their own intrinsic value. Resilience, tenacity and fortitude take time to develop within each student and the process needs to start immediately on entry into the sixth form.

A thriving sixth form should have a palpable intellectual 'buzz', where students not only participate but organise the participation of others and at Chestnut Grove there really is something for everyone. The aim is to hone those 'arguifying' skills, to foster independence, to develop genuine intellectual curiosity and to increase cultural capital. For this very reason space is provided on the curriculum (Wednesday period 5) to allow students to explore their interests in greater depth, to address their skills deficit and to contribute. Extra-curricular activities enrich each sixth former's experiences and enhance their essential skills set, allowing them to elaborate upon this in their UCAS personal statement or simply maintain a healthy mind and body in the gym. Competitive sport is also facilitated in this time, as are university open day visits.

## Extra-curricular clubs and societies on offer, include:

- Sixth Form Society
- Debating Club
- Culture Vultures
- Chess Club
- Theatre Trips Club
- Women's Group
- Sixth Form Café
- Higher Education Organisers
- Literacy Ambassadors
- Numeracy Ambassadors
- Peer Mentoring
- Cross-Age Tutoring
- Science Club
- Cookery Club
- Gardening Club
- Arts & Crafts Club
- Video Gaming Club
- Ecology Club
- Music Review Society
- Maths Problem Challenge
- Duke of Edinburgh (DoE)

- Sixth Form Football
- Sixth Form Magazine
- Sixth Form Newsletter
- Consented Youth Magazine
- Democracy Wall
- Prize Essay Competition
- Book Club
- Reading for Pleasure
- Coding Club
- Creative Writing Club
- Anime Club
- Film & Media Club
- Foreign Film Club
- Photography Club
- LGBT Group
- Ornithology Club
- Board Games Club
- International Languages Club
- Sixth Form Girls Football
- Science Problem Challenge
- Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)



**A RICH TRADITION OF ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE  
EMBEDDED WITHIN A CREATIVE LEARNING COMMUNITY**

# STUDENT LEADERSHIP AND STUDENT VOICE

The Academy's elected Head Students come from the sixth form community and represent the Student Voice, meeting weekly with the Headteacher. The Sixth Form Student Leadership Team consists of both these two students, and their Deputies, and they maintain a regular dialogue with the sixth form leadership. The Sixth Form Council meets fortnightly to represent the views of their peers, to plan the year 13 graduation and prom party, and to fundraise for charity events like the Macmillan Coffee Morning.

## YEAR 12 WORK EXPERIENCE

All year 12 students following Level 3 courses complete a compulsory two week work experience placement. Students value experiencing a real working environment and gain both skills and confidence from the process. Students feel better prepared for the world of work and sharpen their employability skills. These include:

- Application of IT
- Application of Numeracy
- Communication and Literacy
- Problem Solving
- Business & Customer Awareness
- Team Working
- Self-Management

*'Students currently choose from a wide range of academic and vocational courses that support their future career aspirations and prepare them exceptionally well for their next steps.'*

*'The school's work to ensure that students have the opportunity for work-based learning is very effective.'*

Ofsted January 2019

Besides these employability skills, work experience also encourages each student's 'soft skills' development. They can demonstrate that they are able to work effectively as part of a team, can time manage effectively, possess organisational skills, can take the initiative, are flexible, adaptable and approachable, and are willing to embrace new experiences and can follow instructions.

Students go on to study a wide range of subjects from Aeronautical Engineering to Zoology, and from Architecture to Politics, Philosophy & Economics (PPE). Many students choose to remain in London and apply to prestigious University of London colleges such as UCL, LSE, KCL, QMUL and SOAS. Students also apply for Art Foundation courses and have most recently been successful in receiving offers from Kingston Art School and Central Saint Martin's (UAL).

*'Students behave impeccably. They feel safe and well supported.'*

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*"Being a member of the Sixth Form Student Leadership Team has allowed me to build my confidence and develop my public speaking skills. I have learnt the importance of being positive, open-minded and determined. I am proud to be a role model for the younger years."*

Elizabete (Year 13)

# PROGRESSION TO UNIVERSITY

There is a two year rolling programme of support for students applying to university, with significant aftercare for those who need it. Entry rates into the most competitive institutions (Oxbridge/Russell Group), and onto the most competitive courses (Medicine, Dentistry & Veterinary Science), are high.

## Personalised UCAS support:

- UCAS Parents' Evening in year 12 with a focus on applying to top universities
- Student Finance England talks for students and parents
- Attendance to UCAS exhibitions and events
- University visits to QMUL, Royal Holloway, University of Sussex and St Mary's
- Oxbridge colleges visits
- Support from PiXL6 Higher Education lead practitioner
- Individual support with writing personal statements
- Interview preparation and practise with external companies, employers, governors
- Suggested super-curricular reading lists and materials
- Support with TSAs, BMAT, UKCAT, LNAT, HAT, PAT, ELAT and essay work submission
- Help with portfolio creation and organisation
- Encouragement to undertake MOOCs to show intellectual curiosity and engagement with undergraduate level work
- Help with UCAS Extra and Adjustment
- Experienced team of tutors who act as UCAS reference writers
- Comprehensive support on Results Day and for those entering Clearing
- Membership of the Chestnut Grove Alumni for future networking possibilities

*'The majority of students take academic A-level courses. Students' progress in these subjects has been consistently above average.'*

*'A high proportion of students receive offers from the top Russell Group universities.'*

Ofsted January 2019

*"We cannot fault the personal support our son received throughout the UCAS process. Matti has received expert guidance and for this I would like to personally thank the Head of Sixth Form."*

Parent of student studying Music at Manchester

# APPLYING FOR APPRENTICESHIPS

Making informed decisions is vital. At Chestnut Grove we support students who wish to consider alternative routes and pathways. Students receive up to date CEIAG, particularly in relation to apprenticeships.

Advice and guidance about apprenticeships focus on the following aspects:

- What are apprenticeships? (the main components)
- Levels of apprenticeships (Levels 2 to 7)
- The facts about degree apprenticeships
- Some of the possibilities and why students should get exploring
- How much does an apprentice earn?
- Which employers offer apprenticeships?
- The quality of apprenticeships and approved standards
- How do you find an apprenticeship? (where to begin)
- Vacancy listings
- The application process
- Who are apprenticeships right for, and what are employers looking for?
- What happens after an application?



Students are also able to book appointments with our independent careers adviser and parents are encouraged to attend this meeting as well so that home and school are working in partnership to the mutual advantage of all.

*'Students benefit from effective careers advice and guidance.'*

Ofsted January 2019



*“DoE is great because it covers so many aspects. It pushes you to contribute to the community and challenges you with the expeditions. If I hadn’t undertaken my DoE I wouldn’t have taught karate at my local leisure centre or taught PE to years 8 and 9 in school. On expedition, I learnt orienteering and map-reading whilst mixing with others and going to new places. It really develops your character and takes you beyond your limits.”*

Arthur (Year 13)



## SUBMITTING YOUR APPLICATION

Please do read this prospectus and the Sixth Form Course Guide carefully. The Application Form can be found in the sleeve of this prospectus, and online. Completed application forms should be returned to ‘Sixth Form Admissions’ at the school address or emailed to [sixthform@chestnutgrove.wandsworth.sch.uk](mailto:sixthform@chestnutgrove.wandsworth.sch.uk)

When the application form is received by the Academy, applicants will be contacted to arrange an interview to discuss the suitability of your subject choices. References will always be checked and interviews held before any conditional offers are made. Final decisions will be confirmed at enrolment, following GCSE results publication in August.

For additional information or queries, please do contact the Sixth Form Administrator on **020 8772 2558** (direct line).





# Chestnut Grove Academy

SIXTH FORM

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*“A heartfelt thank you to the sixth form staff. Your support along the way meant a lot to us as a family, in knowing that we could rely on the school for anything within your reach. We realise that our son’s achievement is a team effort involving all the sixth form teachers in pushing your students forward, to reach the highest possible grades, and securing the best available opportunities for them.”*

Parent of student reading Medicine at Nova Medical School, Lisbon

Admissions: [admissions@chestnutgrove.wandsworth.sch.uk](mailto:admissions@chestnutgrove.wandsworth.sch.uk)  
Sixth Form: [sixthform@chestnutgrove.wandsworth.sch.uk](mailto:sixthform@chestnutgrove.wandsworth.sch.uk)  
Wandle Teaching School Alliance: <http://www.wandletsa.com>



*‘The quality of teaching, learning and assessment in the sixth form is outstanding.’*

Ofsted January 2019

