



BIG ENOUGH TO

THRIVE

SMALL ENOUGH TO CARE



PARRS WOOD
SIXTH FORM
COLLEGE

Big enough to thrive, small enough to care

PROSPECTUS

WELCOME TO PWSFC

I am delighted that you're considering joining our college for the next phase of your education. You will be joining a thriving, highly successful and diverse student body where our core values of community, creativity and achievement resonate as deeply within our college as they do in our main school.

We are **immensely proud** of all our students, past and present, for their range of achievements and love nothing more than hearing about them when they return to see us year after year. From the numerous fundraising activities organised by our sixth formers, their support of our younger students, to their achievements both academically and socially, they are a credit to everyone in our sixth form college.

We are aware of the big changes that face students when starting post-16 education. As a result, every member of staff understands your 'starting point' and therefore can successfully support you through the difficult **transition from GCSE** to sixth form study.

We also understand that at the age of 16, not everyone knows what they want to do with their future and therefore what subjects to study further. We provide **high quality advice and guidance** to prospective students at our open day, interview evenings, enrolment days and during their time with us in the sixth form to ensure they gain the highest graded qualifications to achieve their aspirations.

Conscious that academic achievement is only part of your story, we have a **diverse personal development and enrichment programme** for you to gain alternative skills and experiences outside of your timetabled study, from taking the EPQ to yoga! This, alongside numerous social events such as quizzes and our mini-sport's day, maintain our cohesive and friendly community.

So, all that's left to say is the best of luck for your exams, and we hope you'll choose to be part of our great college in September!



PARRS WOOD SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

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ANDY LANGFORD
DIRECTOR OF PWSFC



COMMUNITY



CREATIVITY



ACHIEVEMENT

WHAT OUR STUDENTS SAY

Calum

Destinations: **Oxford University**

A levels: **A* A* A* A***



Going from High School to College was a large step up in terms of complexity of subjects, work load and independence in study, however this transition was very comfortable for me due to the caring environment of Parrs Wood, great sense of community, and the familiarity that I already had with my teachers, creating the perfect atmosphere for me to thrive.

My love of learning led me to doing four A levels and although challenging to manage the work required, ultimately proved very rewarding and really helped me develop time management skills and independence over my own studying. My passion has always been maths and the support and encouragement of both my subject teachers and Dr Kunawicz was pivotal in my decision to apply to Oxford and further my learning of maths, in addition to residential trips to both Oxford and Cambridge.

Regular sessions with Dr Kunawicz really helped me in ensuring that I was prepared for the arduous process of applying to Oxford, where both a mock interview and multiple extra curricular seminars were organised along with a lot of guidance on writing my personal statement. Equally Parrs Wood was extremely accommodating in terms of my interviews, providing an ipad, camera and microphone to allow me to conduct my interviews at college.

The college also provided lots of extra curricular activities both to do with and away from subjects, specifically the PE department being very generous, allowing us to host Basketball matches, form a Volleyball team, volunteer at Sports day and both play and coach Badminton. Due to all of this, I thoroughly enjoyed my time at Parrs Wood Sixth Form and will be forever grateful for my experience and how I have developed over the last two years.

Delphi

Destinations: **Leeds Beckett University Sport & Exercise Science**

A levels: **A A C**



I found staying in Parrs Wood Sixth Form after attending the high school to provide the perfect balance between familiarity while also feeling very different to high school. The college gave me enough freedom to take responsibility of my study and day to day life while also providing me with the support that I needed.

Small class sizes meant that I was able to get more help and personalised learning in lessons as well as the teachers also being willing to provide extra help outside of lessons. During the exam season I was provided with the extra support I needed which helped to alleviate a lot of the stress and allow me to perform to my full potential.

D'vonte

Destinations: **Manchester Metropolitan University English & Multimedia Journalism**

A levels: **B C C**

Going to Parrswood Sixth Form has been the most challenging and rewarding 2 years of my life.

I'm proud that I stayed at this sixth form; I formed a strong connection with my subject teachers, enabling me to have a deep grasp and understanding of all my subjects.

The skills I have developed as a writer while remaining here have been invaluable and I credit the success of my future writing journey to this sixth form.



Mohammed

Destinations: **Lancaster University Accounting and Finance**

A levels: **B B B C**

Attending Parrs Wood College allowed me to choose subjects I enjoy and decide on a career path when I was indecisive.

I needed additional help outside of class, and in the familial atmosphere of the college, my teachers recognised this and provided me with extra support in their own time.

The careers staff and my teachers helped me find work experience, improve my interview techniques and arranged admissions talks/career insights which helped me with my UCAS application. Overall, Parrs Wood provided me with a solid basis for university and, hopefully, a future business career.

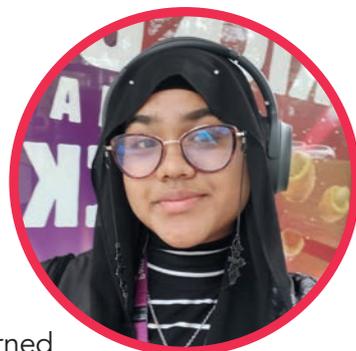


Michelle

Destinations: **Liverpool University Chemistry**

A levels: **B B B**

High school to Sixth form was quite a big transition. I came from Dean Trust Ardwick and I didn't know the staff or a lot of the people so for me it was a completely brand-new environment. One I went to on a whim initially, but it turned out to be the best two years I had! Though my teachers were new to me they all made the effort to get to know me, they were able to challenge and support me through my choices pushing me to be better daily. Having smaller classes meant I got to know my peers better and receive more 1-1 support. Throughout my time in Sixth form I got quite involved in open days, open evenings and many other talks, it's given me skills which I can use throughout my life.





A DAY IN THE LIFE...

Starting your day

“One of the best things about PWSFC is the incredible support you get from staff outside of lessons. I worked hard with my tutor to make sure my university application was the best it could be.”

Most days kick off in your tutor groups, where you will get to spend time working out what your next steps are and prepare for life beyond college. Tutors are all specialists in supporting you to make the right decisions, regardless of what your future holds.

Lessons

“We’re lucky that our teachers are specialists, which means that we’re learning from the best. Most also teach GCSE level so they know exactly where to start.”

Your learning experience will be different to secondary school. At PWSFC you’ll benefit from having far less students than you’re used to in your class, so you’ll get more 1-1 time with your teachers.

“This is a fantastic time to really get to grips with the subjects that you love. What I’ve found amazing is the depth that we go into in subjects now. I really feel like I’m getting an amazing grasp of what we’re covering.”

TIMETABLE:

8:40

Meeting
with tutor

9:00

Maths

10:00

Supervised
study period

11:00

Break

11:20

Chemistry



“ There’s such a buzz around the Sixth Form block. Everyone wants to be there and we’re all working towards achieving our own goals. It’s a great blend of hard work and good fun. ”

Extended Learning (homework!)

Extended learning is a key part of your learning experience and is used to consolidate and further develop learning that takes place during lessons.

“ The assignments we’re set show how much more independent we are in our learning. It’s a lot more challenging, but far more interesting too.”

Independent Study Periods

Part of joining the college is about joining a more adult learning environment and taking more responsibility for your own learning. Independent Study Periods are part of that because it’s a time for you to manage your learning as you see fit.

Personal Development

Our offer is unrivalled. Being such a big college we can adapt the activities depending on your needs. This is increasingly important with the ever-fluctuating job market.

“ I have really benefitted from being part of the leadership development programme. I’ve been able to experience different roles including mentoring younger students in the high school. This has really helped me to pack out my personal statement.”

12:20

Biology

13:20

Lunch

14:05

Geography

15:05

End of
college day

15:15

After college academic
support session

FUTURE CHOICES

Future Choices supports every student to see the wide range of opportunities that are available, helping them to make their individual choices that will lead to a successful career.

What will you do when you finish sixth form?

- Go to university
- Start an Apprenticeship or School Leaver Scheme
- Go on a gap year

The choices available are a lot more diverse than simply going to university, there are possibilities of sponsored degrees and Higher Apprenticeships, and increasingly employers are seeking to employ students after their A level/ BTEC studies.

At Parrs Wood Sixth Form College we aim to show you the choices, support you in making your decision and then help you to make the best application possible.

Academic Enrichment

There are presentations from universities and apprenticeship providers, input from our recent alumni and individual one-to-one appointments with a specialist careers advisor.

We also offer a programme of visits, conferences and alumni-led workshops for students thinking about applying to Oxford, Cambridge, Medical and Dental school and other highly competitive courses.

Employability skills

Employers are increasingly looking for students who can demonstrate that they have tried to broaden their skillset, which is why work experience and enrichment is built into your study programme.

These give you the opportunity to develop transferable skills e.g. teamworking, communication and leadership, which will support your application for university or an apprenticeship. about applying to Oxford, Cambridge, Medical and Dental school and other highly competitive courses.



PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT & ENRICHMENT

Activities will make up a huge part of your sixth form experience because life at Parrs Wood goes considerably beyond the classroom. In an ever increasingly competitive market, it's important that you have more than just good grades to help you stand out.

Our comprehensive programme will give you the opportunity to further your skills and interests, while also showing universities and future employers that you have the characteristics that they're looking for. Here's a flavour of what we have going on.

Creative

A level 3 qualification, you will work alongside your adviser to plan your work, keeping a record of your work and creating your own Arts Award portfolio. You can pick your own style of portfolio this could be a diary, video, website blog or something different altogether.

Academic

Extended Project Qualification

The EPQ is an opportunity to develop thinking in a topic area of your choice by carrying out a detailed project. You can develop an extended piece of writing, analysis and evaluation of the chosen topic through the use of previous data and primary research.

Sports Leadership

Basketball and fitness leadership course

These are practical courses which will provide the opportunity for you to improve your practical skills and coaching skills. The course not only teaches you how to plan, deliver and evaluate sports sessions and tournaments, but also encompasses the development of many transferable life skills which are valued by universities.

Life Skills

DofE gives you the chance to develop skills for work and life. The scheme comprises of 4 main sections; Skills, Expedition, Volunteering and Physical. It is an almost universally recognised graded award, with a bronze, silver and gold certification.

Leadership

Subject and literacy mentoring

Do you think you would enjoy helping young people who are struggling at school? If the answer is 'yes' then one of our mentoring programmes is for you. You will develop the skills required to help younger students at Parrs Wood improve their literacy or numeracy, or a specific subject.

Work Experience

Work experience is when students spend time in an adult working environment carrying out tasks and duties more or less as an employee, but with the emphasis on learning about the world of work. Students are encouraged to organise their own placement to ensure it is the most relevant and useful experience.

A TEAM APPROACH

Your wellbeing and long-term development are crucial. Just because you're leaving school to join our college, that doesn't mean you'll be doing it alone. We make sure you have a whole team to help you throughout your time

Year 12 Tutor

Someone you will see every day to discuss your progress and organise any further support needed.

Year 13 Tutor

You will have a tutor who is a subject specialist for one of your A level subjects. You will meet them two times a week (plus a weekly assembly) during which you will cover mostly subject-specific tasks. Due to the personalised nature of Future Choices you will also have one-to-one appointments throughout the year to support the preparation of your UCAS or Apprenticeship applications.

Head of Learning

You will have the same Head of Learning throughout your two years with us. They will oversee your pastoral support, ensuring that you have everything in place to thrive in your chosen pathway.

Director of the College

Another staff member who will support in overseeing your pastoral and academic achievement, ensuring you make the expected level of progress in everything you do and that you are happy whilst doing it.

Learning Mentor

Our dedicated Learning Mentor supports all of our students with anything from study skills to organisation, or perhaps just to have a chat. You can request a meeting with our Learning Mentor whenever you want.

Future Choices Advisor

College is the stepping stone to your future. You'll have a lot of decisions to make and our Future Choices Advisor is always on hand to make sure that you have all the information you need.

Competitive and Challenging Courses Advisor

If you are considering applying for Oxbridge, Medicine or Dentistry you will meet with our CCC Advisor regularly as well as being supported with securing necessary work experience, preparation for entrance exams and interviews. There are coordinated trips to Oxford and Cambridge, and putting you in touch with our Alumni who have also experienced the same application process successfully is a fantastic bonus!

College Administrator

The College Mum. Enough said.

Independent Study Coordinator

Our dedicated study room and staff are there to support your independent learning and provide resources for you to further develop your subject knowledge and explore future opportunities beyond college. All students will have weekly timetabled sessions but can attend additional sessions should they wish to use the facilities.

Pastoral Coordinator

Working alongside your tutor and Head of Learning, they will coordinate intervention and support you throughout your College years.

WHAT CAN I STUDY AT PARRS WOOD?

Ancient History
Art & Design
Biology
BTEC National Applied Science
BTEC Business
BTEC Health & Social Care
BTEC National IT (AAQ)
BTEC Sport
(Development,
Coaching and Fitness)
Business Studies
Chemistry
Computer Science
Core Mathematics
Criminology
Drama
Economics
English Language

English Literature
ESports
Geography
Government & Politics
History (Modern)
Languages:
French, German, Spanish
Law
Mathematics
Mathematics - Further
Media Studies
Music
Music Technology
Physical Education
Physics
Psychology
Religious Studies
Sociology

To find out more you can visit our website:
www.pwsfc.org.uk

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