



Sixth Form Prospectus





Dear Student

I am delighted that you are considering Cockermonth School Sixth Form and I hope that you find this prospectus informative. Full details of the curriculum, the Admissions process and the Sixth Form Code of Conduct are available in the separate annexe.



Cockermonth School has established a highly successful and vibrant 6th form, with 70% of our Year 11 students choosing to continue their studies here. We also attract a good number of external students who join us from other schools every year.

We believe our Sixth Form to be a special place and I am immensely proud of the students who are mature, creative and above all, considerate of one another. We encourage independence and responsibility, yet our sixth form students remain very much part of the main school. They have their own distinct area which includes common rooms, study area, supervised work areas and a Sixth Form canteen.

We achieve excellent examination results, consistently achieving above national standards, with most students going on to university including to Oxford and Cambridge.

Over the coming months, you will have some important decisions to make. It is vital that you get the right advice and you should therefore not only take advantage of our careers and guidance sessions and our Open Evening, but also talk to the Connexions service.

We very much hope you decide to join our Sixth Form where you will be made very welcome. I look forward to seeing you.

Geoff Walker
Headteacher

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Students personal development and well being are outstanding.

OFSTED 2009

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The extra responsibility in the sixth form has prepared me for the 'real world'

Sixth Form Student





Life in the Sixth Form

Work-related Learning

From the beginning of their time in Sixth Form, students are encouraged to participate in a variety of activities which promote awareness of the world of work, including Young Enterprise, the Engineering Education scheme, a week of work experience in the summer and a Wednesday afternoon which is used by many to undertake a work experience placement. We run frequent optional sessions run by professionals talking about their field of work.

Community Participation

There are numerous opportunities for our students to take an active part in their community at a local, national and international level. We have several buddying schemes and a Year 7 and 8 Form attachment programme. Many students volunteer in the Learning Support Department, supporting a variety of students. Sixth Formers are encouraged to join the Sixth Form Committee and run the School Council and various clubs in school. We work closely with V-involved who provide local volunteering opportunities for our students at the beginning of Year 12. Sixth Formers have set up and now run a school Amnesty group and they organise charity fundraising events in school. Many offer their time volunteering in local primary schools and retirement homes as well as local charity shops.

Personal Development

Most of our students take part in extra-curricular activities to enhance their personal development. Many sixth formers play regular sport at school, local, county and national level, including football, rugby, hockey, golf, swimming, athletics and orienteering. They also take part in the annual school production, play a leadership role in our annual Rock Challenge competition, work in local theatre and operatic productions, teach and participate in dance classes locally and contribute actively to the musical life of the school. They have been instrumental in the setting up of and now running of the school radio station and edit and write for the school magazine. Sixth formers are actively encouraged to take their wider personal development very seriously and are encouraged to see the broad benefits that being active beyond the school curriculum can bring.

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Sixth Form teachers inspire confidence through their expert subject knowledge.

OFSTED 2009

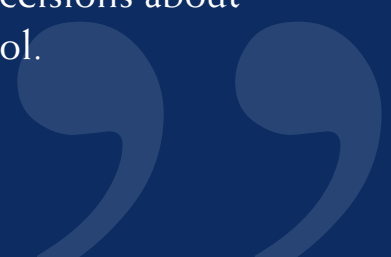
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The Sixth Form staff are really supportive and have helped a lot with my decisions about life after school.

Sixth Form Student



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Travel abroad

There are opportunities to travel and study abroad. There is an annual French exchange to our twin town of Marvejols. There is a biennial Sixth Form ski trip and an annual trip to CERN to visit the Hadron Collider to study with scientists working on the project. There are also other subject specific trips; this year Geography students travelled to Vesuvius to study the active volcano. Students are offered the opportunity to win a European Scholarship prize to compliment their studies. In recent years they have travelled to Paris, Berlin, Oslo, Rome, Athens, Stockholm, Venice and Prague. We run a World Challenge programme and in recent years sixth formers have travelled, hiked, climbed and taken part in community projects in Guatemala and Tanzania. Over forty students will travel to India in the summer of 2011. We have recently linked with a school in Ghana; volunteering at the school and on a Fairtrade project.

PHSEE

Each Sixth Form student is a member of a tutor group and works closely with his/her tutor during the 2/3 years in the Sixth Form. Students are encouraged to work co-operatively with others in their form, taking part in various team events and competitions. Form tutors support and guide students through the transition from Key Stage 4 to 5 through our PHSE programme which is delivered during one lesson a week and during tutor time each morning. This course helps students to develop the study skills necessary to be successful in the Sixth Form and to prepare them for higher level study beyond school; it provides a programme of Health Education in conjunction with local healthcare practitioners; it provides careers advice and guidance and support for university, apprenticeship and job applications in conjunction with the Connexions service; it provides a framework for close academic monitoring and support for students.

Forum

This takes place one lesson a week and complements PHSE and the General Studies curriculum. We welcome into school a wide variety of outside speakers who run a series of whole year group and small interest group sessions on many topics, such as Personal Safety, Driving Standards and road safety, local, national and international politics, human rights, blood and organ Donation, various careers and professions.

Beyond School

The time in the sixth form at Cockermonth School helps prepare students for a number of different possible future directions. The majority of our year 13 students leave us and progress onto a higher education course, either with or without a gap year. However, a significant number take up places in colleges, join apprenticeships, or enter professional/ industrial training with providers such as GEN II.

During the time in the sixth form we provide a variety of opportunities to sample and prepare for life in employment, training or further education.

For those wanting to go to University we provide comprehensive UCAS preparation including university visits, guest speakers and detailed guidance on course choices and university applications. We also ensure that students applying to specialist courses such as Oxbridge, Medicine and Teaching are given the support they need. The proof of the success of our systems is that in 2010, 102 year 13 students progressed into higher education with 84 securing a place at their first choice university.





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Cockermouth School

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