



Sixth Form Prospectus

'I have come that you might have life and have it to the full'
John 10v10



Twyford
CofE
High School



A life-changing next step...

Welcome to Twyford Church of England High School which prides itself on being a disciplined school where people matter. We believe that every individual has the capacity to make a good contribution to the world if they engage intelligently and recognise their God-given gifts. Our mission will be to create an intellectually vigorous community in which all of our students give their best at all times and work purposefully and joyfully towards their goal. We call this the 10:10 ethic and aim to live by it day by day.

Welcome to the Twyford CofE Academies Trust family...

Developing Twyford Church of England High School to be the outstanding school it is today has been a great joy. Twyford Church of England Academies Trust schools all share the Twyford school motto: 'I have come that you might have life, and have it to the full' (John 10v10) and we aim to live by the values and disciplines of the 10:10 ethic day by day. Twyford CE High School is the flagship for this ethic - aiming to give students every opportunity to live their own lives to the full academically, emotionally and spiritually within a stimulating Christian setting.

Twyford CofE Academies Trust schools are upbeat and purposeful places where students learn to be proud of their gifts and develop into individuals. We believe

strongly in community. Our aims at Twyford CofE High School are to be an intelligently engaged community which:

- Values the gifts of all its members
- Strives for excellence
- Looks outward to the world

Our family values are Christian ones. We believe in a world which is lovingly and purposefully made and we believe that all people have God-given gifts to use wisely and well. At the school, we aim to create a positive ethic of appreciation for all that the world offers, and gratitude for our human capacity to do and be good. We also aim to get our students to recognise their own needs and areas for improvement and to

be both realistic and resolute in addressing these. Most of all we hope that the school gives ample opportunity for students to engage fully and to stretch themselves academically, personally and spiritually. We will work to ensure that this ethic embraces all of our students, whatever their faith or background.

Dame Alice Hudson
Executive Headteacher





“Pupils’ achievements are outstanding throughout the school. Pupils of all backgrounds and abilities make excellent progress in their studies. Attainment is high in GCSE and A-level examinations.”

Ofsted 2012



Educating to inspire...



In light of an increasingly pressured university market, we have taken care to ensure we offer a full curriculum offer at Level

3 (A Level) to help students discern the routes which will best take them forward after leaving school. Some of the subjects will be entirely new to you, others may offer progression from your current GCSEs. For the most able, we have devised combinations of courses pitched at pre-university level – to ensure our students succeed in what is now a very competitive Higher Education market. We also have an established and highly successful programme of Oxbridge preparation (Twyford Additional Programme) for identified students. Twyford has an established reputation for secure delivery and excellent results which have placed it in the top 10% of institutions nationally.

This is a particularly exciting time to move into the Sixth Form at Twyford. The Sixth Form community is a large and thriving one and student outcomes have never been better. Facilities are excellent – from the Sixth Form Study Centre, Learning Resource Centre and campus style Café to high spec Music rooms and professional quality Performance Centre. However, most of all the Sixth Form community is lively, engaged and

aspirational. The wider life of the school has a wealth of opportunities – both for stimulation and for developing leadership. No surprise then that 90% of Twyford’s Sixth Formers go on to university, many of them to Russell Group universities or Medical school and a number to Oxford or Cambridge.

Equally unsurprisingly our Sixth Form is over-subscribed as is the main body of the school, however on average 120 students join the Sixth Form each year from other schools and this enriches the mix of the Sixth Form community for all the students. Whether you have been at the school previously or not, movement into the Sixth Form is stepping into a new phase of education, an opportunity to develop as an independent and motivated learner, a chance to make new friends and most of all a chance to show us – by what you are prepared to take on – who you really are and what you want to be. Application for a place in our Sixth Form is a positive act. Your choice should be based upon a real desire to benefit from the courses offered and the wealth of wider opportunities. You must also feel drawn to a school with a strong Christian ethos which emphasises responsibilities as much as rights and places emphasis on contribution to the lives of the younger students and wider social concern. This prospectus can

only give you a flavour of what life in the Sixth Form at Twyford could mean for you. It is important not to make an instinctive decision but to consider all of the options available to you. Do take the opportunity to talk to the subject staff. We all want you to choose a combination of courses which is right for you and guarantees your future success. Our part in the process will be to give all applicants, whose projected grades meet our entrance criteria, a 1:1 information advice and guidance meeting to ensure that your choices match your current academic profile and interests. If we are able to offer you a place, the process of assimilation into the Sixth Form starts even before you sit your GCSEs and picks up again straight afterwards so that by September you are already part of the Twyford community.

Karen Barrie
Associate Head Teacher

***Whatever you decide...
be determined to succeed
in your ambitions for the
future!***

Sixth Form expectations...

Twyford aims to make the very most of its students. We do this by providing an education that is challenging, supportive and fulfilling. We want students to get the most out of their time with us, not only in the formal curriculum, but also outside of the classroom.

As a Sixth Former, you have more freedom than you had in the lower school. However, you are expected to have developed greater self-discipline and a desire to achieve your best possible results. Therefore we have certain expectations of you that reflect that you are a young adult, that you are part of the Sixth Form and that you are part of the wider school community.

You are expected to attend every day – unauthorised absences are totally unacceptable, just as they would be for staff. You must attend every morning registration, as this is where our pastoral programme is delivered. If you are absent you must explain by a note; an email or phone call from parents to the Sixth Form Office on the day of absence is also beneficial. By ensuring that you are in all your lessons, you put yourself in the strongest possible place to achieve your best outcomes.

You are expected to be punctual - you cannot be at your best if you are rushing to be on time. It is, of course, discourteous and unacceptable to be late and teachers may not admit you to a lesson if you are more than 5 minutes late.

Morning tutor time and assemblies are a vital part of the Sixth Form experience, so you must be in the right place by 8.25am for an 8.30am start.

You must use your time usefully - you will find that you have 'study' periods where you have no teaching in the Sixth Form. You will have the use of the Sixth Form Study Centre, including 50 PCs, for supervised silent study, or you can work in groups in the Cafe. Learning to manage your time well and to take responsibility for your study programme will be a major factor in determining how successful you are in your exams, as well as preparing you for the even greater independence you'll get at university or in the workplace.

You must be presentable - Sixth Formers are part of the wider school community. You are role models for young students, and whilst there is no uniform, we do expect you to dress in a manner appropriate for a workplace or school environment. There are certain events where you will be expected to be ambassadors for the school e.g. Awards evenings, School Open Evenings; on these occasions you should wear smart dress.



“If I had to sum up my time at Twyford, I would say it was a mix of fantastic teaching, amazing friendships, community spirit and great opportunities. Loved it!”

Former student

Twyford Additional Programme

Fully stretching our most gifted and talented students.



The Twyford Additional Programme is an initiative designed to cater for the increasing numbers of very high achieving students who need to be stretched further in order to have access to Oxford or Cambridge or other top universities, or who are aiming for Medicine, Dentistry or Veterinary Science. We have up to 50 students on the course, and they are selected on the basis of their achievements at GCSE (TAP students normally have all GCSE subjects at the top grades) and in the induction task.

The programme aims to develop the skills and experiences that top universities are looking for in interviews, as well as to stretch academic achievements. It aims to combine the extra skills and extended learning of the International Baccalaureate with the academic rigour and specialisation of A levels. The programme involves teaching that develops thinking, presentation and interview skills. Students will be expected to broaden their CVs by their involvement in work experience, and community service. They will take a course in Philosophy as well as have the opportunity to complete an Extended Project Qualification.

Extended Project Qualification

This is a qualification based on carrying out an independent research project in the subject

you are interested in studying at university. It will enhance your ability to demonstrate your interest in a subject at a university interview and give you the level of sophisticated knowledge in your subject that will help stretch you towards an A* grade at A Level. You will find a supervisor from within the school who will offer guidance to help you complete the course. The bulk of the research will be carried out after the Year 12 Q4 assessments and your finished project (which is normally a 5,000 word essay) will be submitted to your supervisor for marking later in Year 13, ahead of university interviews.

Philosophy

The aim of this course is to develop reflective thinking in relation to contemporary issues and specific subject areas. You will improve your skills in research, presentation, thinking and reasoning, and make connections between different areas of your knowledge. In addition, outside speakers (such as leading academics) will visit Twyford to lead debates and lectures

Progressing to University

Our aim is to produce young people with the high A level grades and impressive personal qualities needed to gain places and be successful at the best universities or colleges. The large majority of our Sixth Formers progress to university

or Art College. Students are given every encouragement to apply and are given support at each stage of the application process. In the Spring Term of Year 12, students are encouraged to sign up for university taster days and all students visit the UCAS Convention in London.

In the Summer Term there is an 'Applying to University' information evening for parents and students, and students register with UCAS and are guided through the early stages of the application process. They need to make decisions about the subject they want to study and the types of university they will apply to over the summer, with reference to the grades they achieve at the end of Year 12.

The students are fully supported by their form tutor and the Sixth Form team in completing their applications, by mid-September for applicants to Oxbridge and to medicine and related courses, and by late October for all other applicants. The support continues through the Spring Term of Year 13 when students have to make decisions about which offers to accept and, with guidance, about arranging financial support.

Staff will also be on hand during A level results day in mid-August to support students who have not met their required grades and need help with reapplying for university through the clearing system.



The Academic Challenge

A levels are a big step up from GCSEs. Successful students quickly learn to adapt to new styles of learning.

Choosing the right subjects

The decision about which subjects to study at A level is perhaps the most important one you have to make before entering the Sixth Form. Remember that each subject you choose will have a lesson every day, so it's important to choose subjects you genuinely enjoy and the ones in which you are most likely to achieve success. But choose subjects which go together – for example Maths is very important if your main interest is Science or Economics. English is very useful if you're keen on History or Modern Languages.

Taking the time to get this right is essential, and research in Year 11 is key to ensuring that you make the best decision for you. By looking at potential university courses and jobs you will be able to see which subjects will help get you on the right pathway.

Making a smooth transition into the Sixth Form

If you are offered a place in our Sixth Form you will be invited to an Induction Day in early July. You will be given an Induction Booklet with specific advice from each subject about preparing for their courses in September, including an induction task to complete before your first lesson. Tackle it in as much depth as possible. Don't underestimate the intellectual challenge that A level courses represent. If you can do the tasks well and find them interesting then you can feel more confident that you have chosen the right subject.

Taking responsibility for your learning.

To study successfully at A Level it is not enough simply to turn up to all your lessons, make all the necessary notes and complete all

the homework set (although this is an essential start!). You will need to immerse yourself in your subject and find ways to deepen your understanding.

The requirements will vary from subject to subject and your teachers will guide you with this. It may be wider background reading, or more examples being worked through, or carrying out specific in-depth research. You will also need to prepare fully for all school assessments to check whether you have any gaps in your knowledge or understanding.

A Level study in your specialist subjects can be immensely interesting and rewarding, but you cannot expect to gain high grades unless you take an active role in furthering your understanding of the sophisticated issues that will be involved.

Extra Curricular Activities

There are many opportunities for students to get involved in extra-curricular activities...

Sixth Form life can be challenging but it is a very sociable and enjoyable period of your life, so be sure to make the most of it. Getting involved in extra-curricular activities will help develop you as a person, as well as providing a wealth of material for your CV. We expect all of our sixth form students to get involved, and there are a wide range of opportunities to do so. You can attend a lecture from a leading academic, deliver a talk at the Bank of England, discuss poetry and prose at the English Club, or share cutting edge scientific research – the options are boundless.

The Duke of Edinburgh Awards can be taken at Gold or Silver level irrespective of whether you have previously been involved on the scheme. The school is an approved centre for delivering these awards, through which you can take part in expeditions to the Scottish Highlands or Snowdonia, as well as receiving accreditation for community service and skills you are developing in sport, the arts, music or other areas.

We offer a range of residential trips to exciting destinations, for example with Modern Foreign Languages, Geography, Biology, Photography and Art. These enable students to not only access their subjects in a different setting, but also using different techniques and skills.

You can get involved in the school's rich musical life or learn the basics of a new language – these are our two specialisms as a school and both offer a range of potential options. You can participate in sport at a school or inter-form level, or in the drama production or a wide range of other activities. Our student leaders also run a programme of social events, culminating in our Year 13 Leavers Ball at the Kensington Hilton.



Community Service and Student Leadership

At Twyford we try to develop students who are well-rounded as well as academically successful. One key aspect of this is community service. This can take many different forms, and helps to enrich the school and wider community. We expect all of our Sixth Formers to commit to one type of community service every term.

Within school there are many opportunities to help subject teachers and Heads of Year. Sixth Formers help in a large number of classes across departments. Students find this improves their own subject knowledge whilst providing a valuable service to teachers and younger pupils.

There are other opportunities within the school, such as being a form mentor for younger years or helping in the library or the Learning and Inclusion department. Equally we encourage students to co-ordinate and participate in extra curricular activities during

lunchtimes and after school: these include sports clubs, debating, music, dance groups and film clubs.

The Sixth Formers plan and run the House Enterprise days every year which in the past have included talent shows, a teachers quiz and the opportunity to sponge their favourite (or not!) teacher. This provides a lot of fun and the chance to raise thousands of pounds for charity.

If they have any free time after all of this, students can get involved within the local community. Students are currently helping the elderly at St. Mary's Lunch club in Acton and the homeless at the Ealing Soup Kitchen.

In 2015/16, Sixth Form students helped to raise over £5,000 for charities such as Shelter, Dementia UK and the Prince's Trust.

Student Leaders

We rely on our Sixth Formers to co-ordinate many aspects of school life. The House System is central to the life of the school, and Year 12 students (progressing from our own Year 11 or coming in from other schools) are selected to be House, Sports, Enterprise, MFL, Creative Arts, Chaplaincy and Music Captains.

These House Captains run a network of Form Mentors, Year 12 students who support lower school tutor groups. They also lead House Assemblies once a term to audiences of over 100 pupils. These positions are excellent stepping stones to student leader roles in Year 13. As well as the Head Girl, Head Boy and their deputies, we have student leaders for Music, Modern Languages, Sport and Chaplaincy. These roles are ideal opportunities for students to develop both themselves and the wider Twyford community.



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