

SIXTH FORM

AT BEECHWOOD
SACRED HEART SCHOOL



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BEECHWOOD SIXTH FORM

Excellent results

Wide variety of destinations

Extensive choice of subjects

Outstanding academic and pastoral support

UCAS focused provision for every student



making the
right choice for
YOUR FUTURE

At Beechwood School we understand that some pupils begin their sixth form journey with a clear idea of the path they would like to take and we are here to support them ...

... others may need a little more guidance, and focusing on key strengths and opportunities is something we pride ourselves on.



- Choosing your A-Level subjects can be one of the hardest decisions you will have to make. These decisions will have a direct impact on your future and may even dictate where and what you study at university.

Beechwood gives you the small classes and dedicated subject staff that you would expect to maximise your academic potential but there is so much more to life in Beechwood's sixth form.

Your tutors will be there for advice and guidance in all matters but especially when it comes to university preparation. You will be treated as adults, making decisions on dress code and use of study periods. You may seek additional responsibility in the form of prefect or school representative, but most importantly ...

Beechwood sixth form allows you to become the person you want to be.

- All pupils will have the opportunity to visit a UCAS led Higher Education Fair and the chance to talk to university representatives. The day includes presentations from keynote speakers and guaranteed attendance from all the top universities.

Towards the end of Year 12, we invite a specialist company in to workshop Personal Statement writing. The Personal Statement is a vital part of every pupil's application form as it highlights their achievements and ambitions. The sixth form team works closely with the pupils as experience has shown us that an excellent Personal Statement is the key to achieving good offers from universities.

Whether you are looking to apply to Russell Group Universities, apprenticeships, specialist colleges in music, performing arts, fashion, architecture or biochemistry, we offer bespoke advice and assistance to support each student's individual ambitions.



"It's a small and inclusive sixth form, you feel like you have a place no matter what."

FLORENCE

WHY CHOOSE BEECHWOOD?

Small class sizes

- Small class sizes at Beechwood mean every pupil is known and valued. In our small groups, we can support and teach you more effectively.

Careers advice

- Every student needs help and advice when selecting courses and writing their application to Higher Education. Beechwood sixth form tutors are highly experienced and together with the Head and Deputy Head of the Sixth Form and careers professionals, they will help you with course selection, application forms, interviews and any other matters pertaining to university admission.

Personal development

- Your tutor and Head of Sixth Form will know you personally. They will guide you and monitor your work and progress throughout your last two years of school. With their help, your teachers' expertise and your commitment, you will be able to make the most of your time in Beechwood sixth form and look forward to a happy and successful future.

Confidence

- Being part of a small group means that you will have support and grow in confidence in important areas useful to you in later life, such as public speaking, organising people and in interpersonal skills; you will also have the chance to know people from different cultural backgrounds.

Leadership

- All our sixth formers are relied on to carry out duties; many become prefects or are elected into other senior roles. In our small sixth form you will have more chance to show leadership and take on responsibilities.

Beechwood values

- Beechwood sixth form is a supportive team in which everyone is valued for themselves. Sixth formers are seen as role models and ambassadors to younger pupils offering support and advice.

EXTENDED PROJECT QUALIFICATION

What is the EPQ?

- EPQ stands for extended project qualification. It is a level 3 qualification, and at Beechwood this is delivered as a standalone qualification. Students are required to plan, research and carry out a project of their own choosing, deliver a presentation to a non-specialist audience and provide evidence of all stages of project development and production for assessment.

A project product which consists solely of a research based written report should be approx. 5000 words e.g. report of a scientific investigation, exploration of a hypothesis, extended essay or academic report. Where the chosen product is an artefact there must also be a research based written report of approx. 1000 words. You may also like to include photos of each stage of development.

Why do an EPQ?

- The EPQ is worth 50% of an A-Level, gaining UCAS points, where an AS is worth 40% of an A-Level. It will help develop your research skills and therefore prepare you better for life at university or other further study. You may have a particular interest in an area that isn't satisfied with the A-Level options on offer, and the EPQ is a great opportunity to turn this interest into a qualification.

How will the EPQ be taught?

- The guidelines from AQA are that there are 30 taught hours and 90 independent hours to complete your research and project. You will receive a minimum of 30 taught hours over the year, teaching you the necessary skills such as IT skills, researching, using an academic library and writing references. You will also have 1:1 mentoring sessions fortnightly to help support your independent work and keep you on track to meet deadlines.

The EPQ course will run from the January of Year 12 until the December of Year 13.

"An EPQ is a great way to express your passion for something you love."

IMOGEN



"The EPQ has improved my independent learning and time-management which will be really useful for university."

NINA

CAREERS PROGRAMME

YEAR 12	AUTUMN TERM	SPRING TERM	SUMMER TERM
•	Advice on A-Level subject choices	Choosing universities and courses	Advice on HE courses, with grade predictions
•	Optional Morrisby testing for new students	Use of websites for course search	UCAS personal statement workshop
•	Introduction to careers resourses	Visit to HE conference	Registration on UCAS Apply
•	Introduction to UCAS procedures		Open Day visits
•	Optional careers clinics		Gap Year talk
•			Optional careers clinics

YEAR 13	AUTUMN TERM	SPRING TERM	SUMMER TERM
•	Completion of UCAS online applications	Student Finance information, including budgeting and student loans	Briefing on procedure following A-Level results
•	Interview training	Advice on making decisions about firm and insurance offers	Advice and help following A-Level results
•	Advice on UCAS procedure		
•	Preparation of CVs		
•	Optional careers clinics		

TRIPS

• At Beechwood, we are fortunate to be able to offer our students a wide variety of activities and trips. Sixth formers are invited to raise funds to participate in World Challenge which has taken them to the Galapagos and South America in previous years. Business Studies students enjoy an annual visit to New York or Canada, and many of our students regularly visit the theatre in London, Science Fairs across the country, galleries and music events, in addition to career and work experience opportunities.

“The range of support is excellent, whether from friends or teachers.” izzz

MUNGA

Model United Nations General Assembly

• Sixth formers are invited to attend the MUNGA held annually in Tunbridge Wells, which aims to replicate as nearly as possible a session of the United Nations' General Assembly. Typically three subjects of topical international importance are debated, and draft resolutions on each subject are tabled and amended. Students run the entire event on the day, acting as President, Secretary General, and as chairs of committees, as country delegates, as press reporters and as Secretariat.

Prior to the actual MUNGA, a briefing day is held, giving the student delegates an opportunity to learn more about the issues being discussed via presentations from expert speakers, to meet each other and begin to network, and to understand what will be involved on the day of the MUNGA.



COMMUNITY SERVICE & CHARITABLE VENTURES

• Beechwood students are encouraged to commit some of their time to community and charitable service within the wider community in Tunbridge Wells. This might be offering their services to a local food bank such as Nourish or assisting with ground work in the local parkland. We believe this provides our students with opportunities to strengthen their personal values and life principles in addition to helping others. In previous years, they have raised funds for local charities such as Hospice in the Weald and Kent Air Ambulance.

"Small classes mean one to one support is always available."

INGRID



PEER MENTOR PROGRAMME

• Beechwood offers a comprehensive peer mentor programme for sixth formers which allows them to offer support to younger pupils, and in particular, those Year 7s joining the Senior School. They are also encouraged to participate in subject specific mentoring and some actively lead revision classes for the lower school.

We are extremely proud of our community at school and sixth formers are an essential part of the programme bringing all elements of the school together.



Michael Awdry
HEAD OF SIXTH FORM

- After reading Illustration and Communication Media at UCA, Michael Awdry went on to complete his PGCE at de Montfort, Leicester with a specialisation in multi-cultural education.

He joined Beechwood School 25 years ago as an art teacher and quickly progressed to the position of Head of Art & Design. An outstanding practitioner, Mr Awdry was a Teaching Award Nominee in 2008 and 2012.

In 2008, Mr Awdry took on Head of Sixth Form, a position he has enjoyed for over a decade. He strives to provide students with the best guidance and comprehensive support throughout their A Levels and on to further education as well as offering key advice on UCAS and university decisions.



Lucy Tipp
ASSISTANT HEAD
OF SIXTH FORM

- After studying Psychology at the University of Winchester, Lucy Tipp joined Beechwood in 2016 and teaches both Psychology and Drama as well as coordinating our successful EPQ programme.

Mrs Tipp is passionate about helping students to achieve their best and reach their academic and personal goals. She firmly believes that joining the sixth form is an exciting and challenging time, and at Beechwood, we aim to give our students support, advice and opportunities to enable them to make the transition to further education or whichever career path they choose to follow.



Matteo Rizvi

- Matteo joined Beechwood in Year 7 and is studying History, Computer Science and Media Studies for A-Level in addition to an EPQ. He feels this more unusual combination of subjects complement each other well and appeal to his creative ambitions. He has taken full advantage of the internship programme that Beechwood offers, which he feels will stand him in good stead for accessing higher education. Matteo has ambitions to study at Warwick University and would like to read either Film Production or Computer Science.



Amy Puddick

- Amy is currently studying Chemistry, Mathematics and Art at Beechwood. She is hoping to study Chemistry at university as she feels this would offer her more options post degree. Amy felt that Beechwood offered her a greater variety and choice than some of the other sixth forms she looked at. Despite Art being a more unusual choice to sit with Maths and Chemistry, she feels it has allowed her to explore her more creative side and provide more balance. Amy feels that sixth form life has afforded her greater independence and freedom and this has helped her grow in confidence and prepare for a life beyond school and into further education.



Tara Krishna

- Tara joined Beechwood in Year 12 after moving to Tunbridge Wells with her family from the US. She chose to study Drama, Textiles and Psychology for A-Level, and would like to pursue a career in the fashion industry. She is especially interested in the course options at Central St Martins in London as they encompass marketing and business skills alongside fashion design as part of their degree courses.

Tara is a great advocate of fully embracing sixth form life, both academic and extracurricular, and is currently in rehearsals as the lead role in the Senior production.



Come and
discover for
yourself exactly
what makes
Beechwood
the right
choice for you.



Biology
Business Studies
Chemistry
Classical Civilization
Computer Science
Drama and Theatre Studies
English Literature
Fine Art
Food Science and Nutrition
Geography
History
Maths
Film Studies
Further Maths
French
German
Spanish
Music
Photography
Physics
Product Design
Psychology
Religious Studies
Textiles

English as an Additional Language
Extended Project Qualification
Enrichment Programme