



FORM

PROSPECTUS
2017/18

**HARLOW
COLLEGE**

Welcome to our 6th form at Harlow College

This prospectus is designed to give you an insight into what it is like studying A Levels at this institution, exploring what are your options for your study programme, what are the procedures for applying, and dispelling some myths about studying A Levels in a college compared to a secondary school.

As a College we pride ourselves on the progress our students make and on the career opportunities we provide.

Harlow College is in the top 1% of colleges for academic progress nationally. This means our students perform better from their starting points than students studying at 6th form or colleges elsewhere. We work hard to ensure our students get the best possible results and destinations.

- In 2015/16 57% of A-level grades achieved were A*-B
- Our students study in a dedicated sixth form centre with their own common room
- We have great enrichment opportunities, including the National Citizenship Service and study tours to Africa
- Our students are able to undertake work experience with a range of employers, for example, Stansted Airport, the Houses of Parliament and Princess Alexandra Hospital
- Our students progress to both top universities and to higher apprenticeships with international companies such as GSK

The 6th form is part of the Harlow College campus. We have Industry standard resources, including salons, restaurants, broadcast facilities, a theatre, recording and multimedia studios, Category C Biohazard Science labs, Healthcare mobility suite and a new purpose built £11million Harlow Advanced Manufacturing & Engineering Centre (HAMEC).



Studying A Levels at Harlow College

Learners usually chose three or four AS subjects in their first year, sitting exams for these at the end of the year and gaining AS standalone qualifications.

Learners then progress to the second year enrolling onto the A Level, usually taking three subjects although the most able learners are able to study four A Level subjects. If a learner has successfully completed four AS subjects, they have choice as to which three subjects they will study in the second year. At the end of the second year learners sit their A Level exams.

NEW for September 2017

A Levels can now be combined with some **BTEC** programmes. This enables learners to study a greater range of subjects to meet their interests or to study a subject for which learners may not meet the entry requirements to do the A level equivalent. BTEC subjects that are being offered alongside A Levels are:

Health & Social Care | IT | Science | Sport | Law

A Level Subjects that can be studied at Harlow College:

Art

Biology

Business

Chemistry

Computer Science

English Language

English Literature

French

Geography

Government & Politics

History

Maths & Further Maths

Media

Photography

Physics

Psychology

Sociology

Fact or Fiction

What is it like studying A Levels at Harlow College?

Learners will get better results if they study in a secondary sixth form compared to attending Harlow College Sixth Form. **False**

- When considering the starting point of each learner (their GCSE results) learners do significantly better at Harlow College Sixth Form compared to any of the state secondary sixth forms in the local area. This information is calculated as a student progress score or “value added” and can be found for any educational institution at this address:
<https://www.compare-school-performance.service.gov.uk/find-a-school-in-england>
- The score is generated by looking at how well learners do compared to the target grade they have for each A Level subject, which is generated by the government and is based on a learner’s GCSE results.
- If learners achieve their target grade, their progress score is 0.0 (they are no better, but no worse, than they should be based on their starting point). If they achieve results that are higher than their target grade, their progress score is positive and if they achieve lower than their target grade, their progress score is negative.
- A table of the progress scores for all the local sixth forms is included at the end of this document for local state sixth forms and colleges that offer A Levels.

Learners at Harlow College Sixth Form are left to “just get on with it” instead of having the level of support they would get in a secondary school sixth form. **False**

- Learners get between 5 and 6 hours of teacher contact time a week for each subject, divided between two sessions (one morning and one afternoon). By having two long lessons instead of multiple short sessions, there is less wasted time getting learners settled, taking the registers and learners packing up at the end of the session.
- These nice long lessons (approximately three hours in the morning, two to three hours in the afternoon) enable teachers to really delve into the subject, exploring the detail of the topics with the learners far beyond that which is possible if sessions were shorter. We call this deep learning.
- In addition to receiving more direct contact time than learners generally get on a timetable for a secondary school sixth form, the open door policy to the staffroom means that learners can often be found having one to one sessions with teachers to enhance their learning.

3 Studying at a college sixth form is far more relaxed than studying in a secondary school sixth form. **True in some ways, false in others:**

How we are different from a secondary school sixth form:

- Harlow College Sixth Form does not have a uniform policy. We would much rather focus on the things we believe impact on a learner's achievement, such as whether they are happy, on the right subject combination, and coping with the work load, rather than focusing on whether they have on the correct shoes or have done their tie up properly.
- At Harlow College, learners call their teachers by their first names. We see the relationship between learners and staff as a collaboration designed to support learners to get the highest grades possible rather than the traditional hierarchical system found in schools. We feel the development of strong relationships mean the learners are happier and, therefore, are more likely to be successful.
- We have an open door policy to the staffroom and to the Head of Sixth Form's office. Some secondary schools don't encourage (or even allow) learners to go into the staffroom. We actively encourage learners to seek out staff to discuss their studies and progress, and to talk about any concerns the learner may have, whether academic or personal. This comes back to the strong belief we have that happier learners are more likely to be successful in their studies.

How we are just like a secondary school sixth form:

- All sessions are compulsory. Illness is inevitable and cannot be helped; just like school, we would appreciate a phone call to explain the reason for the absence. However, unauthorised non-attendance will result in a phone call home, discussions with the learner and parents and possible additional consequences, such as the need for the learner to attend additional sessions.
- All homework needs to be completed. Failure to submit work or handing it in late will have consequences. The same goes for homework that is submitted that is far below the quality expected. Homework is essential if learners are to be successful on A Levels.
- We have Parent's Evenings in trimesters 1 and 2 for both AS and A2 year groups, during which parents and guardians can discuss learner progress with each of the subject teachers.
- Reports are sent home to parents charting learner progress and providing specific feedback from the subject teacher. These can be supplemented with additional reports (weekly, if necessary) where requested. Parents can also see tracking for subject programmes via the VLE.

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Learners studying at a college sixth form don't have the same progression opportunities as a learner studying in a secondary school sixth form. **False**

- We offer excellent guidance for learners from the very beginning of their AS programme to help them explore their progression opportunities. The majority of A Level learners progress to university, including to Oxbridge and other Russell group universities. Learners are supported to explore university options, including a trip to the London university fair, continuous updates on summer school and university taster day opportunities.
- We also explore alternative progression options with learners including: higher apprentices, which enable learners to gain a degree whilst training on the job (having a dedicated apprenticeship department at Harlow College gives us the knowledge and expertise to fully support learners interested in this progression pathway); alternative courses, such as HNCs and HNDs; employment.

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Learners studying at Harlow College Sixth Form won't have the same opportunities to do extra-curricular activities compared to being in a secondary sixth form. **False**

- As a college, we offer a range of extra-curricular enrichment activities, just like secondary school sixth forms. The key difference is that learners choose whether to do the majority of these activities rather than being made to do them.
- Learners have the opportunity to join The Ambassador Scheme, for which Ambassadors promote student voice activities and act as liaison between the Principalship, Heads of Academy, teaching team and fellow students. In addition, Ambassadors are involved in supporting the enrichment activities occurring across campus, represent the college at public events, such as Open Evenings and Taster Days, and act as Student Governor should they be elected. For this work, Ambassadors receive reward points based on the hours they commit to the role, which can then be exchanged for things such as Amazon or Ticketmaster vouchers.
- All sixth form learners at Harlow College are expected to do the National Citizen Service (NCS) in October half term as a means of growing in confidence in their own abilities, developing team building and employability skills, as well as demonstrating social awareness through the social action project.
- For those learners who have already completed NCS, they will be involved in the social action aspect of the course, enabling them to work on the community-based project along with their peers who are completing NCS.
- Harlow College Sixth Form learners have the opportunity to go on a trip to Ghana, which will enable them to experience this amazing country, get involved in teaching in local schools and be part of construction projects that benefit the rural community.



9 Reasons

to study A Levels at Harlow College

100%

PASS RATE FOR A LEVELS IN 2016;

57% A* - B grades;
highest Value Added of any state A Level provider in the area



COMMON ROOM

A Level learners have a common room which includes soft seating, bean bags, and a kettle for hot drinks. For use out of lesson time



FACILITY

All A Level subjects are taught on the one site, so no need to travel between centres for your lessons.

GSK

GLAXOSMITHKLINE

As well as gaining places at top universities, our learners have also acquired highly coveted places on the higher apprenticeship programme at GSK



AS EXAMS

Unlike many sixth forms, all Harlow College Sixth Form learners are enrolled into the AS exams, giving learners the choice as to what they do the following year



ENVIRONMENT

Study in an adult environment with no uniform restrictions

BTEC'S

You can now study BTEC subjects alongside your A Level subjects



iPAD

Every new student will receive an iPad to help them with their A Levels

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SUBJECTS

We have a varied choice of subjects (17 A Level and 5 BTEC subjects)

Endorsements

about our Sixth Form Centre

HARLOW COLLEGE A LEVEL LEARNER ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE

"As a current A2 student, ignore what others will tell you. The A Level facility is very professionally run and the society is very friendly, with organised and simple timetables. Would absolutely recommend the college to anybody. It can provide everything a sixth form can."



UNIVERSITY FEEDBACK

Our learners regularly receive fabulous feedback from universities, including the following, which came with an offer to study Law at Peterhouse Cambridge September 2017: "(The learner) came across as a very well-read individual, with mature opinions...impressively articulate, and was capable of viewing the bigger picture whilst maintaining an eye for detail."



QUOTES FROM THE LATEST OFSTED REPORT (2016)

Graded as Good overall for the college: "teachers demand high standards of their learners on A-level courses and challenge them to develop their critical analysis skills and produce work that is compelling and lucid. Consequently, the large majority of learners make very good progress when compared with their starting points."

"Learners enjoy a broad range of enrichment activities that develop their personal, social and work-related skills well. "



Number 1

Top Sixth Form in the area for value added

2015/16

Institution	Student Progress (Value Added Score*)
National Rate	0.00
HARLOW COLLEGE	0.23
Birchwood High School	0.00
The Bishop's Stortford High School	0.17
The Broxbourne School	0.20
The Chauncy School	0.02
Davenant Foundation School	-0.17
Goffs School	0.01
The Herts & Essex High School	0.12
The John Warner School	-0.34
King Edward VI Grammar School (KEGS)	-0.03
Lea Valley High School	0.15
Leventhorpe School	0.03
Long Road Sixth Form College	-0.09
Presdales School	-0.09
Richard Hale School	-0.11
Simon Balle School	0.10
Sir Charles Kao UTC	0.19
St Mark's West Essex School	-0.37
St Mary's Catholic School	0.09

*where zero is the expected progress score

WHAT DOES STUDENT PROGRESS MEAN?

Student Progress (Value Added) is the national measure of progress that students make from GCSE to A Level or equivalent, based on their GCSE results.



A Level learners celebrating their results that have helped them secure excellent destinations. 2015/16

HARLOW COLLEGE

To apply for A Levels please complete the application form on the Harlow College website.

01279 868100

admissions@harlow-college.ac.uk

www.harlow-college.ac.uk/sixthform